

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ESTABLISHMENT OF TDD DISTRIBUTION )  
PROGRAM FOR DEAF, HARD-OF-HEARING AND ) ADMINISTRATIVE  
SPEECH-IMPAIRED PERSONS IN KENTUCKY ) CASE NO. 352

O R D E R

On January 19, 1995, the Commission adopted the plan of the Kentucky Commission of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing ("KCDHH") for the implementation of a telecommunication device for the deaf ("TDD") distribution program. One element of the implementation program was the establishment of a TDD advisory board. The Commission approved this advisory board and merged the telecommunications relay service ("TRS") advisory board into the TDD advisory board and placed both boards under the oversight of the KCDHH. The Commission merged these boards because the work of the TRS board and the TDD distribution program board would be interconnected and a merger would streamline the process of receiving comments from the deaf, hard-of-hearing, and speech-impaired communities. This merged board would directly advise the KCDHH, which in turn would participate in any proceedings of the Public Service Commission related to these matters.

On February 8, 1995, KCDHH filed for rehearing regarding whether the boards should be merged and whether the TRS advisory

board should be placed under the oversight of the KCDHH. Given the KCDHH's objection to the merger of the boards and its oversight of the TRS advisory board, however, the Commission abolished the TRS advisory board unless the KCDHH agreed to its oversight.

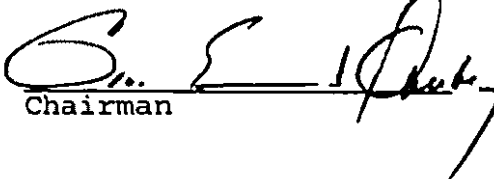
On March 27, 1995, the KCDHH filed a letter stating that it declined to merge the advisory boards, but it felt that the abolition of the TRS advisory board was inappropriate. Its letter urged the Commission to reconsider abolishing the TRS advisory board, stating that it is "critical to the deaf, hard-of-hearing, and speech-impaired consumers expertise and input" regarding the provision of TRS.

On April 17, 1995, the Commission received a letter from the TRS advisory board, urging the Commission to reconsider the abolition of the board, contending that the advisory board is necessary to ensure the quality of the TRS services.

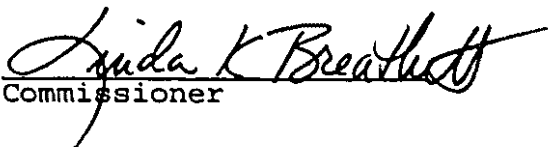
The Commission, being sufficiently advised, HEREBY ORDERS that the TRS advisory board be reinstated to function as a conduit for comments from the deaf, hard-of-hearing, and speech-impaired communities concerning the TRS. The role of the TRS advisory board will be reviewed at the expiration of the TRS contract.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 2nd day of June, 1995.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

  
Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice Chairman

  
Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director