**Presenters’ BIOs for Statewide Training on Serving Deaf & Hard of Hearing – Friday, November 16, 2018**

**Robert J. Cooper** is the Executive Director of Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH). Mr. Cooper oversees all KCDHH activities, including a program of regulation and certification of interpreters in Kansas and border communities, and collaboration with other state agencies and political subdivisions. In his role, he advocates for communication equality and serves as an advisory member on several committees and advisory councils within the State of Kansas. Mr. Cooper has over 25 years experience in advocacy for people with disabilities, particularly the deaf and hard of hearing.

SPECIFICS: BA degree in Government from Gallaudet University, Washington DC, 1993

 **In Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Disability-Related field since 1993:**

 1993-1994, Project Coordinator (MO Commission D/HH, Fulton MO)

 1994-1995, Program Services Director (The Whole Person, Kansas City MO)

 1995-1997, ASL Instructor (JCCC, Overland Park KS)

 1995-1997, Senior Consultant (SBO, Inc, Olathe KS/Blue Springs MO)

 1997-2000, Executive Director (MFBHS/Doorways, St. Paul MN)

 2001-2002, Executive Director/CEO (Deaf Services Center, Worthington OH)

 2003-2008, Licensed Banker (JPMorgan Chase Bank, Westerville OH)

 2008-2010, State Director (CSD of Ohio, Columbus OH)

 *Note: Statewide Coordinator for ODMH/ODADS for Deaf/HH MH/AOD services*

 2010-2012, Various Posts & Call Center Manager, BTOP Project Endeavor (CSD, Sioux Falls SD)

 *Notes: Communication Services for Deaf is a nationwide organization; BTOP is*

*Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, US Dept. of Commerce*

 2012-2014, Operations/Business Development (sComm, Raytown MO)

 2014-Present, Executive Director (KCDHH, Topeka KS)

 Robert is a deaf individual using American Sign Language

**Michele ‘Micki’ Keck** was born to a mixed deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing family (fourth deaf generation on her maternal side) in Kansas City, Missouri and attended Kansas School for the Deaf, Gallaudet University, and McDaniel College. After teaching American Sign Language and Deaf Studies in community colleges and deaf schools for more than 25 years, she currently is an Independent Living Advocate/Deaf Services at The Whole Person.

SPECIFICS: BS degree in American Sign Language Studies, Gallaudet University, 1991

 MS degree in Deaf Education, McDaniel College, Westminster MD, 1998

 **In Deaf field since 1991:** (not licensed)

1991-1994 taught interpreter students (JCCC, Overland Park KS)

1994-1996 taught 2nd Grade; and Deaf Studies to K-6 deaf students (St. Paul MN)

1996-2008 taught 4th Grade; and Deaf Studies to K-6 deaf students (KSD, Olathe KS)

2008-2011 taught interpreter students (Florissant Valley CC, St. Louis MO)

 2012-2018 as Independent Living Deaf Specialist (Mid-America Alliance for Access, Kansas City KS)

2018 - Present as Independent Living Advocate-Deaf Services (The Whole Person, Kansas City MO)

 Micki is a deaf individual using American Sign Language

**Cady Macfee** has been working with Hamilton Relay as the Kansas Outreach Coordinator since 2009. She travels across the state to educate people about Traditional Relay Services (TRS) and CapTel phones. One of the most rewarding part about her job is watching people become independent using relay service.

SPECIFICS: BA degree in Elementary Education, Bethany College, Lindsborg KS, 2004

 MA degree in Deaf Education, Gallaudet University, Washington DC, 2006

 **In Deaf and Hard of Hearing field since 2006:**

 2006-2009 taught in K-8 to Deaf/HH students (The Learning Center, Randolph MA)

 2009-Present as Kansas Outreach Coordinator (Hamilton Relay, Overland Park KS)

 Cady is a hard of hearing individual and wears a cochlear implant