1990s: A New Place of Our Own

1990: A New Building
During the legislative session, Governor Norm Van Huler recommended to support funds for a new building for the Utah Community Center for the Deaf. The legislature approved the budget for the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation and the Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

1992: Officially Opened
Those who are deaf and hard of hearing had a place of their own that was safe and accessible. During the first years of operation, in the new facility, the center saw an increase of visitors and a high demand of its services and activities.

TTY: The Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TTY) is a telecommunications device for the deaf.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 mandated a nationwide system of telecommunications relay services to make the telephone network accessible to people who are deaf or hard of hearing or who have speech impairments.

1991: Groundbreaking Ceremony
A crowd of approximately 200 people was present at the groundbreaking ceremony of the new facility for the Utah Community Center for the Deaf in Taylorsville on June 10, 1991.

Gene Stewart
First Director of DSDBH
Stewart led the Division of Services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing from 1989-1996 and also led efforts to create a new building.

Rusty Wales
Second Director of DSDBH
Wales led the Division of Services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing from 1996-2001 and also led efforts to build a new wing on the center.

Additional Milestones:
1990: American with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law to prohibit discrimination of people with disabilities
1994: The Utah interpreter certification law passed setting the standard for high quality interpreters
1994: American Sign Language recognized as a foreign language and the Interpreter Training Program at Salt Lake Community College was established

Thanks to UAD for their continued advocacy through the years!

HARD OF HEARING History
1995: Marilyn Call attended a training at Gallaudet University about developing Hard of Hearing programs.
1996: Programs provided for Hard of Hearing individuals following Sam Trychin’s “Living with Hearing Loss” model.

In 1990, the Television Decoder Circuity Act of 1990 was passed. This law mandated that all televisions 13 inches or larger manufactured for sale in the United States contain caption decoders. Sixteen years later, the Federal Communications Commission ruled that all broadcast and cable television programs must include captioning with some exceptions.