

Chris Christie, Governor Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor Jennifer Velez, Commissioner David Alexander, Director

Monthly **Communicator**

NJ Department of Human Services | Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

OCTOBER 2014 | www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/home/index.html

**Assistive Listening
Technology Loan
Program**

**Deaf
Senior Housing
Update**

**Walk4Hearing
Date Set
for October**

**Robert Carr
Nationally
Recognized by
The Kennedy
Center**



**NJ DDHH Hosts Successful
Emergency Management
Interpreter Training
in Morris Plains**





DIRECTOR'S CORNER

David C. Alexander, Ph.D., Director - NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

This past September was "National Preparedness Month." Sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) the purpose is to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to all types of emergencies, including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks. In support of this theme, DDHH developed a number of resources to enhance the emergency preparedness of people who are Deaf and hard of hearing.

The memories of Superstorm Sandy continue to be fresh in the minds of many New Jerseyans. Disasters can happen unexpectedly and it is important that people who are Deaf and hard of hearing be prepared. Police, firemen and first responders may not always be able to assist you immediately. Consequently it is important that you be able to care for your family until assistance arrives.

There are several things you can do. First, be informed of severe weather conditions or emergencies that may impact your community. This can be done by signing up with a wireless-text based alert system that sends messages to your phone. There are many such resources available in New Jersey. To assist our consumers in sorting out the many options available, DDHH developed a web page with a list of text-based alert systems in our state. This information, as well as other resources for the Deaf and hard of hearing, can be found at: www.nj.gov/humanservices/

ddhh/home/emergencyprep.html.

DDHH also developed a Public Service Announcement (PSA) for people with hearing loss. The PSA was developed with funding from the NJ State Police, DHS Office of Emergency Management and in collaboration with DHS' Office of Public Affairs. It provides important information that can keep you safe and help you after a natural disaster strikes.

The PSA incorporates a series of emergency management videos produced by the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission and the Illinois Office of Emergency Management. DDHH extends appreciation to the State of Illinois for permission to use these videos. They are fully accessible in ASL, captions and audio. The videos include critical information such as "Making a Plan", "Making Kit", "Sheltering in Place" and "Evacuations" that can save your life and protect your family during emergencies and disasters. Included in the PSA are slides with links to federal and state emergency preparedness resources. The PSA can be viewed at: www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLspiLS805Iy9F83xCQ70iUzyEie5z84z.

We hope you find this PSA helpful and informative.

David C. Alexander, Ph.D., Director
NJ Division of the Deaf and
Hard of Hearing



Monthly Communicator

October 2014 Vol. 35 No. 9



State of New Jersey
Department of Human Services
Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Director: David C. Alexander

Editor: Ira Hock

PO Box 074

Trenton, NJ 08625-0074

Phone: (609) 588-2648 / (800) 792-8339

Fax: (609) 588-2528

www.state.nj.us/human-services/ddhh

The Monthly Communicator is published by the New Jersey Department of Human Services' Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH), a state agency. DDHH provides information, referral, and advocacy to service recipients. Information or articles provided by others does not imply endorsement by DDHH or the State of New Jersey.

We Welcome Your Articles and Ads

The Monthly Communicator is published 11 times per year. Deadline for submissions for the November issue is October 1 and should be e-mailed to: monthlycommunicator@dhs.state.nj.us.

The deadline for the Monthly Communicator is the first of the month for the next month.

Kindly follow these guidelines for submissions:

- Should be less than two pages
- Plain font, such as NY Times #11 or similar
- Type flush left, no tabs
- No art imbedded within
- Send as Word attachment or an e-mail itself
- Art, logos, photos may be sent as attached JPG
- Submissions are not normally repeated
- Content should be of interest to readers, events should be accessible to people with hearing loss, no direct selling products, but educational info about new technology is acceptable
- Editor has discretion regarding editing, without final approval of submitter



Have you heard about the Assistive Listening Technology Loan Program?

By Traci Burton, Field Representative



Sometimes one is in need of an assistive listening system in order to actively and effectively participate in a meeting, training session or a live local theater performance. Many public places are characterized by background noise and poor acoustic design which negatively impacts the ability of people to hear. These conditions affect all individuals and makes effective listening nearly impossible for a person with any kind of hearing loss. Assistive listening technologies such as a "Personal FM System" or a "Wide Area FM System" may significantly improve listening conditions. Thirteen regional New Jersey libraries offer the Assistive Listening Technology Loan Program to residents of their counties and immediate surrounding areas. Any interested individual or agency/organization is able to borrow, free of charge, a Personal FM System or a Wide Area FM System.

The Personal FM System is for use in small group settings with a range of up to 150 feet, while the Wide Area FM System is for use in larger spaces with a range of up to 500 feet. Both systems are portable and come with simple instructions. They readily connect to all types of hearing aids and cochlear implants, and also work with ear-buds or lightweight headsets.

These systems combine a transmitter placed near the desired sounds, which is wirelessly linked to a small receiver that you wear. This receiver, in turn, amplifies and delivers those sounds directly into any device in your ear(s). Each participating library has at least two Personal FM Systems and one Wide Area FM System available for loan.

If you'd like to borrow one of the FM systems, you may go to one of the participating loan libraries throughout New Jersey. To see a list of libraries, visit <http://www.state.nj.us/human-services/ddhh/alldloan/>.

To borrow any of the devices available, you also may go to your local library and ask for the equipment through the New Jersey Interlibrary Loan Service for Libraries. Loan period is limited subject to availability and individual library policy. Please contact the libraries directly to learn of their specific policies and procedures.

The Assistive Listening Technology Loan Program is funded by the NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

For more information, please contact:

Traci Burton, Field Representative DDHH

609-588-2648

traci.burton@dhs.state.nj.us



Housing News

Deaf Senior Housing Update



New Jersey Deaf Senior Housing (NJDSH) is on the way to having the dream of Deaf Senior Housing in NJ become a reality! On August 1, NJDSH met all day with staff members from Cardinal Capital Management (CCM). CCM has built two beautiful Deaf residences in Wisconsin and Arizona and now is focusing on NJ. The August 1 meeting was run by Zoe LeBeau, an expert in supportive housing development. Zoe went through the development process that will be needed to build this project. Dan Kroetz from CCM will be focusing on putting together the financing of about \$10 million dollars needed to build in NJ, the purchase of suitable land, working with NJ government agencies and the architects and developers actually who will build the project. Katie Voss, also from CCM, is an expert at property management. Katie is Deaf and will be in charge of getting a list together of people in NJ interested to move when the NJ Deaf housing is built. NJDSH anticipates a 50 unit, mixed income, building probably in Western Morris County. This location is based on the large population in North NJ, good

public transportation, availability of land, nearness to shopping, hospitals and lower costs in Western Morris County. NJDSH will focus on putting together the funding and finding the supportive social services that will be provided for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind and hard of hearing residents.

On July 31 a meeting was held with representatives from many Deaf and Deaf- Blind NJ organizations. Lila Taylor, President of NJDSH, welcomed all to this meeting, which presented the project to be built in NJ.

Jane Cyran, secretary NJDSH, presented a Power Point about how and why the future location of Western Morris County was chosen. This Power Point can be seen on www.njdsh.org.

A wish list for the building was put together at the meeting. Joey Garth, Treasurer of NWJAD, announced that this organization will donate \$10,000 towards items for the building such as a large screen TV. NJDSH continues to work diligently and run fund raisers that the NJ community will enjoy and also be able to show their support so that this dream





HLAA-NJ NEWS AND VIEWS

By Joel Strasser, APR, Fellow PRSA, Trustee, Public Information Officer,
Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey (HLAA-NJ)

October is Our Month to Walk4Hearing: Please Join Us October 19 at Mercer County Park, West Windsor, NJ



October is finally here, and we trust that you and many others throughout the state are planning to attend the **HLAA-NJ Garden State Walk4Hearing** on Sunday, October 19. The massive event, set for Mercer County Park will be staged on Hughes Drive in West Windsor, NJ, with registration and check-in to begin at 10 a.m., with the 5K (3.1 mile) walk set to step off at 11 a.m..

To register in advance for the Walk itself, go to www.walk4hearing.com, click on **Find A Walk** at the top of the page and then click on the **NJ Walk4Hearing** under **Fall Walks**. We'll have plenty of Walk Day activities for the kids, including the ever-popular bounce house, face painting, crafts, clown and sand art and much, much more. Of course, they'll be plenty of refreshments, including coffee, bagels, granola bars, hot dogs, chips and water. There will be lots of free parking, and as the **Walk4Hearing** is an HLAA-NJ event, full accessibility will be enhanced with a loop, captioning and interpreters.

If anyone has questions, feel free to call or write to either HLAA-NJ Walk Chairman Wayne

Roorda at bigbearnj@gmail.com, or call Suzanne D'Amico at 347-731-1883, or write to her at: sdamico@hearingloss.org

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA)

Walk4Hearing is the largest walk of its kind taking place in multiple cities across the country. Every spring and fall thousands of walkers - children and their families, young adults, young at heart and everyone in between - form teams and walk in their communities to increase public awareness about hearing loss, help eradicate the stigma associated with it and raise funds for programs and services.

Who are the people who walk?

- People with a passion for hearing loss issues get involved because either they have a hearing loss themselves or they want to show support for someone they know with hearing loss.
- Parents of children with hearing loss walk as families and meet other parents along the way and share experiences.
- Company teams walk to build workplace camaraderie.
- Alliance groups such as schools for children with hearing loss, hospitals, universities and other nonprofit hearing loss-

related organizations join the Walk4Hearing to raise money for their own projects.

- Hearing health care professionals walk because they support our cause.

Why do we walk?

- We walk because hearing loss is a major public health issue in the United States
- 48 million (20 percent) Americans have some form of hearing loss
- 26 million have noise-induced hearing loss that could be prevented
- 2 to 3 out of every 1,000 children are born deaf or with a hearing loss
- 60 percent of the people with hearing loss are either in the work force or in educational settings

Many people do not know where to find the information and support they need to adjust to living with hearing loss. When someone has a hearing loss it affects everyone they interact with - family, friends, co-workers, employers, neighbors - we all need to understand the impact of hearing loss and how to communicate with people with hearing loss.

How Can I Get Involved?

You can register to walk as an individual, start a team, or join a team at a Walk site near you. If you would like to donate to someone who is walking, please visit our website at: www.walk4hearing.com. There are other ways to get involved, such as by recruiting local sponsors, teaming up as an Alliance group, volunteering on Walk day or distributing posters and brochures to spread the word in your local community. If you are interested in getting involved, call or write to either Walk Chairman Wayne Roorda at bigbearnj@gmail.com, or call Suzanne D'Amico at 347-731-1883, or write to her at: sdamico@hearingloss.org.

HLAA-NJ Invites All to Annual Meeting and Mini- Fair November 15 at East Brunswick Library: SAVE THE DATE

HLAA-NJ's Annual open public meeting and Statewide Mini-Fair has again been scheduled for Sunday, November 15 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the East Brunswick Public Library, and all members of the general public are invited and encouraged to attend. Speakers at the annual meeting have been not announced yet, and as in the past, awards will be presented to worthy individuals, the business of the HLAA-NJ State Association will be conducted, officers and trustees will be up for election and/or re-election, and major exhibitors will be available to offer displays and one-on-one consultations.

Although the full list of exhibitors has not been announced yet, based on previous year's Mini-Fairs, we anticipate the list may include the New

Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the New Jersey Theatre Alliance, Sprint CapTel, CaptionCall, EmCom Looping Systems, an "Ask the Audiologist" table, an HLAA membership and information table and a Cochlear Implant Support Table. Refreshments will be served. As with all HLAA-NJ meetings and functions, full hearing accessibility will be provided including looping of the meeting room, as well as CART captioning with simultaneous transcription.

As this may be one of the most important free sessions of the year that you may be able to access and attend, we strongly recommend your attendance and participation, and that you mark next month's calendar for your attendance on November 15. More complete details will be announced in November's *Monthly Communicator*.

Most New Jersey Museums Are Not Hearing Accessible, Need to be Looped

With 20% of the United States population reporting various degrees of hearing loss, HLAA-NJ's Looping Project has made a modest beginning. At the Walk4Hearing KickOff in early September, petitions were circulated to ask the Liberty Science Center to install a loop system so that visitors can better understand and more fully access the museum's talking exhibits. It would also be used to assist live presenters so they can be better heard and understood by hearing-challenged visitors to the museum. To assist the HLAA-NJ Looping Project and add your name to needed petitions, contact Ann Marie Olson at sophisticatedha@msn.com.



HLAA-NJ Committee Chairs enjoy the festivities September 7 at the Walk4Hearing KickOff event at the Liberty Science Center museum in Jersey City. Shown are (l-r) Pat Dobbs, Ann Marie Picardo and Alice Glock.

HLAA-NJ STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Emerson Student Athlete's Efforts Lead to College Scholarship Award from Hearing Loss Association of NJ



Robert Maggiulli, who overcame moderate-to-severe hearing loss to graduate from Emerson Junior-Senior High School and earn admission to the freshman class at Stevens Institute of Technology has won a prestigious College Scholarship Award from the Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey. At the same time, he's also become a well-rounded athlete who's earned the title of 7th best high school wrestler in the State of New Jersey.

HLAA-NJ President Linda Schaab said, "We are proud to honor Robert's achievements with our scholarship. Diagnosed with hearing loss at an early age, and aided by a pair of hearing aids, he went on to graduate from Emerson Junior-Senior High School with

grades worthy of admission to the National Honor Society. In addition, he maintained an active schedule on his school's freshman baseball, varsity cross country, track and field and wrestling teams (as well as serving as coach's aid for wrestling) and other extracurricular activities, including Student Council."

"It is difficult for people with normal hearing to realize how hard it is to do what Rob has succeeded in doing," Mrs. Schaab said. "Rob had to adjust to relying on his hearing aids, and other assistive listening devices and technology, to help augment sound and help him understand speech. But, nothing can make hearing loss go away, or give him what would be regarded as "normal" hearing. From the classroom to the wrestling mat and his other activities, Rob has faced a daily struggle to understand teachers, coaches and classmates and to overcome the stigma that is too often attached to serious hearing loss."

Mr. Maggiulli, who has just begun his freshman year at Stevens Institute of Technology, says that "When he stepped into a classroom for the first time, he

knew right away that he was in for a struggle. He was determined not to let his disability define who he was. Throughout his years of school and other activities, the struggles only multiplied. He adapted in his classroom, learning how to make sure he understood what was been taught, without hearing half of it. He adapted on the wrestling mat, learning even when he heard silence in the room. Through visual communication, determination and hard work, he learned. He crashed and burned, but always found a way to pick himself up.

"As a young man, I reached a point where I told myself that I was proud to say that I'm a well-rounded individual. Experiences were crucial to my development and I became an athlete, an academic, a person, a leader, a deaf person. Through all of the pain, I was at last proud of my deafness, for I understood it, and it had molded me into the person I am today. Today is the result of who I was, what I went through and what I became. My path was not easy, and for this reason I hope to enter the medical field for assistive devices, in efforts to make other people's journey easier."

Victoria Corso, his biology teacher, says, "Robert can best be described as a strong, intelligent and determined young man. He possesses a contagious smile and genuinely has a heart of gold. It was during AP Biology that Robert came into his own as an independent learner, thinker, and took true ownership over his education.

"Robert is involved in many sports and activities both in school and in his community. In spite of his busy schedule, he chose to accept the challenge of an AP science course. He mastered the art of scientific writing and impressed me with how precise and accurate he could communicate in his papers. He paid much attention to detail during laboratory exercises and collected data with accuracy. Robert put forth such effort during this class that I firmly believe that it impacted him to strive to be the best that he could be. I am very proud of him and who he has become. Robert will always be "that" student who leaves a lasting impression on his teachers. Robert has overcome many hurdles in his life and he continues to inspire and push others to never give up. I will forever remember Robert for

his strength and determination, and am confident that he will be successful in anything he puts his heart into.”

Robert Sweet, Rob’s guidance counselor, says that “throughout his high school career, Robbie has found great success in the classroom and in sports. His caring nature is evident by his involvement in numerous fundraisers, community service and tutoring. Citing him as a role model, Robbie is always putting others before himself. Academically, Robbie has received recognition throughout his four years in high school. He is currently a member of the National Honor Society and was named to the Principal’s Honor Roll every marking period – the highest academic distinction in our district. In sports, Robbie’s leadership skills and willingness to help others has earned him the title of Captain for Wrestling, Track & Field, and Cross Country. His hard work and dedication last year earned him a Coach’s Award, All-County and All-league recognition in each sport. Outside the classroom, Robbie is a true humanitarian. He has been highly active with the Key Club, Student Council and “Heroes and Cool Kids,” a very selective club where upper classmates mentor middle school students to make positive decisions in life, focusing on concerns with bullying, sportsmanship and drug prevention.”

Thomas Tuzzio, a family friend, says, “Over the years, I always enjoyed attending his sporting

events watching in amazement how talented he was in every game or match he played in, including baseball, football, soccer, track and his favorite, wrestling, mostly participating in all sports without his hearing aids. I never realized how hard it was for him to hear the instructions yet still manage to figure out what to do, and yet do it so well as he did. Now, as a young man, all of these qualities have grown with him, molding him into an outstanding citizen. He worked so hard at overcoming his struggles and the social isolation and frustration that must accompany hearing loss that now I’ve seen him develop into a happy, secure, intelligent, well-liked human being. He has gained such tremendous respect not only from me, but from his peers and coaches and teachers, especially having accomplished placing 7th in the state of New Jersey for wrestling both his junior and senior years.

“As he was getting ready for

college,” Tuzzio says, “he shared with me all the college offers he was receiving from such schools as Columbia, NYU, Stanford and Stevens Institute of Technology, which he is excited to attend and continue wrestling while majoring in biomedical engineering. Robbie is fortunate to have decided on one like Stevens, which will both cater to his needs and also meet such high standards that still make him comfortable.”

HLAA-NJ works to create awareness of hearing loss issues in the state of New Jersey. It is dedicated to developing a statewide network to address outreach, advocacy, legislative and equal access issues that impact people with hearing loss.

In fact, HLAA-NJ’s college scholarship program is partially funded by the group’s annual Walk4Hearing program, which will be held this year on October 19 at Mercer County Park in West Windsor.



Folks attending meeting of the Ocean/Monmouth Hearing Group September 7 at the Manalapan Library, (l-r), Joel Strasser, Elma Perry, Mary and Allen Keshik, Mr. and Mrs. Ron Schwarzbart, Jean Eisner missed the pic taking.

The meeting was hosted by Dom Bongiorno, who took the photo.



NJ DDHH Hosts Successful Emergency Management Interpreter Training in Morris Plains

By Jason Weiland, DDHH Field Representative

On September 6 and 7, the *New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NJ DDHH)*, the *New Jersey Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (NJRID)*, and the *New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM)* hosted the first New Jersey Emergency Management Interpreter Training, which was held at the Morris County Public Safety Training Academy in Morris Plains, NJ.

The two-day training was presented by Terri Schisler and Rick Pope, who are both nationally certified interpreters with a dedicated focus on Emergency Management. The training focused on Emergency Management 101 for Interpreters, Protocols for Public Relations, Deployment Readiness, and a Table-Top Exercise. With 27 Participants, there was a diverse audience that consisted of certified and non-certified interpreters, Deaf interpreters, and state government employees.

Throughout the four workshops, there were discussions about how sign language interpreters are deployed to a disaster site and what steps they should take before actually being deployed. The event was the first of its kind in the State of New Jersey and was undertaken after the Boston Marathon bombings prompted Massachusetts interpreters to host a Boston EMI training last year and as a result of the devastation unveiled by Tropical Storm Irene and Superstorm Sandy in previous years.

Funding was secured through the New Jersey Division of State Police under its Emergency Management Performance Grant Program. This much-needed training offered the opportunity for RID members to earn 1.2 CEUs under Professional Studies. This was first of two NJ EMI trainings offered through NJ DDHH. The second NJ EMI took place on September 27 and 28 with more than 40 registered at the time of this writing. NJ DDHH hopes to expand the NJ EMI program by offering similar future training.



In Recognition...

New Jersey Theatre Alliance's Robert Carr Nationally Recognized by The Kennedy Center for Work in Arts and Disabilities

Submitted by Ruth Zamoyta, NJTA Director of Development and Communications

West Orange, NJ - On August 6th, Robert "Bob" Carr, resident of Morris Plains and Director of Programs and Services/ADA Coordinator at the New Jersey Theatre Alliance, was awarded the 2014 LEAD Community Asset Award. The award was presented by the historic John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts at its 14th annual Kennedy Center Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability (LEAD) Conference in Chicago, IL. Carr was recognized for his consistent leadership in making theatres, arts organizations, and cultural organizations throughout New Jersey accessible to people with disabilities. Carr was one of three professionals nationwide who received this inaugural award. Professionals working at the intersection of arts and disabilities consider LEAD awards among the highest honors recognizing achievements in the field.



Bob Carr wins 2014 LEAD Community Asset Award from Kennedy Center

"For me, accessibility has always been about audience development," said Carr. "An example of this was when the Alliance arranged an American Sign Language interpreted performance for our annual state-wide Stages Festival. One school brought 14 Deaf children and their families to see a show, and they were thrilled to experience the joy of live theatre. To provide such a program to this underserved community and build a new audience was, and still is, truly rewarding."

Throughout his nine years at the New Jersey Theater Alliance, Carr has planned and implemented several accessibility initiatives through the Cultural Access Network Project (CAN), a cosponsored program of the Alliance and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Carr was recognized specifically by the Kennedy Center for his complete redesign of the method of collection,

distribution, and evaluation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) plan requirement for New Jersey State Council on the Arts grantees.

Because of Carr's initiative, New Jersey arts and cultural organizations are led through a comprehensive step-by-step online form which ensures all ADA requirements are fulfilled, and produces a standardized plan, making it easy for organizations to complete and evaluators to read.

Ina White, Community Outreach Coordinator with the Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities and CAN committee member, praised Carr's ADA plan redesign: "The redesign makes it easier for the Council on the Arts to hold organizations to a consistent standard, and helps the organizations know what they need to do in order to qualify for

a grant. It's not just about the law, but it's about the spirit of the law: opening doors for people with disabilities, so they can enjoy theatre. Bob has made it easier to achieve this. He has been the wind behind the members of CAN who are working toward this goal."

Don Ehman, Director of Artists' Services and ADA Coordinator for the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, stated, "Over the past nine years it's been my privilege to work with Bob and the Cultural Access Network Project. Bob's dedication to accessibility issues extends far beyond New Jersey's theatre community to include cultural organizations of all kinds throughout the state. He is a highly skilled and passionate service provider, and well-deserving of this national recognition."

New Jersey Theatre Alliance's



LaGuardia Community College is now an Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) Testing Site

The *Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment® (EIPA)* is a tool designed to evaluate the voice-to-sign and sign-to-voice interpreting skills of interpreters who work in the elementary and secondary school classroom setting.

The EIPA evaluates the ability to expressively interpret classroom content and discourse and the ability to receptively interpret student or teen sign language. It is not limited to any one sign language or system.

EIPA is used to evaluate interpreters who work with students and teenagers who use predominately *American Sign Language (ASL)*, *Manually-Coded English (MCE)* and *Pidgin Sign English (PSE)*.

****Testing slots are now available****

\$310 EIPA Testing Fee and \$75 LaGuardia Registration Fee

For more information visit www.laguardia.edu/aeip

To schedule an assessment call (718) 482-5313

or email aeip@lagcc.cuny.edu



Goalllllllllll!!!

Coach Delfim Fragueiro, far left, and team won first place on August 17 at a Latin Soccer Tournament at Pier 40, in NYC, which featured mostly hearing people - however, his was the only deaf team.

Robert Carr...continued

executive director, John McEwen stated, "I am thrilled that Bob received this well-deserved honor from the Kennedy Center. Bob consistently looks for pioneering ways to promote access services offered by our theatres and arts community, and he educates our cultural field on how to better serve people with disabilities. He is a true arts-access advocate and dedicated leader in the field."

McEwen received the first Leadership in Access Award from the Kennedy Center and the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation in 2000 for his pioneering efforts in the areas of accessibility, and for the establishment of the CAN Project.

"Accessibility is a priority of the Alliance," said Carr. "Not a lot of organizations have dedicated staff for accessibility, and we're fortunate to have

two staff members who share knowledge and resources with our member theatres and the field at large. New Jersey has a large number of arts-accessibility advocates. I'm proud to be involved with



a state that recognizes the importance of this community and is at the forefront of accessibility efforts."

Founded in 1981, the New Jersey Theatre Alliance is the first statewide organization for professional, not-for-profit theatre companies in the United States, and is a leader in developing model programs that foster collaboration, cooperation, and audience development. The Alliance provides member theatres and artist members with a wide range

of supportive services and programs, and assists member theatres and artist members in their growth and development, helping them reach their full potential. For arts patrons, the New Jersey Theatre Alliance provides a variety of services to enhance their theatre-going experience.

Funding for the New Jersey Theatre Alliance, a not-for-profit organization, is provided in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations including The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, Prudential Foundation, Bank of America, Horizon Foundation for New Jersey, and The New Jersey Cultural Trust.

Dear NJ Relay & CapTel



I like using text-based relay services like Sprint IP-Relay; that way, I get to dictate exactly what words are used and I can also have a transcript of the conversation. One thing that frustrates me, though, is the slowness of the conversation sometimes, even if I am on a high-speed Internet connection. This slowness can also be frustrating for the hearing caller. Is it possible to speed things up? If so, how?

Thanks,
Not a Tortoise

Dear Not a Tortoise,

It was just a few years ago that everyone used TTYs and the slowness was a part of the process. With quicker Internet and phone speeds, text-based conversations have become quicker. Still, at times, it can be frustrating.

The good news is that NJ Relay or Sprint Relay customers using the TTY or Internet to make relay calls can receive information quicker through one simple step: request the operator to not correct typos or expand their acronyms during your call. This tells the operator it is okay to keep typing even if there is a typing mistake and to not type the full words for common abbreviations such as ASAP, CC for closed captioning, or APT for apartment. Specific jargon (such as words commonly used in a specific industry) may even be used, although you may want to notify the operator in advance.

To enable this feature, go into your customer profile and click on "NO TYPING CORRECTION" and "NO ABBREVIATION" features. This is at www.njrelay.com/customer-profile. Thank you for using NJ Relay!

- NJ Relay & CapTel

New Jersey Relay Customer Profile

Emergency Numbers (Speed Dial for Emergency Calls Only):
Note: Limit 30 characters per name

	Name	Area Code & Phone Number
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

If you need to add more information, go to the Additional Information section on page 4.

Your Preferences:

Gender Preference ☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ No Preference

Answer Type ☐ TTY ☐ Voice ☐ Turbo Code ☐ ASCII 300 Baud ☐ ASCII 1200 Baud ☐ ASCII 2400 Baud ☐ Voice Carry Over ☐ Hearing Carry Over ☐ 2-Line VCO ☐ Speech-to-Speech ☐ Blind/Deaf TTY ☐ Blind/Deaf ASCII

Language ☐ English ☐ Spanish

Announce Relay ☐ No ☐ Yes
 Explain Relay ☐ No ☐ Yes
 Background Noises ☐ No ☐ Yes
 Tone of Voice ☐ No ☐ Yes
 Type Recordings ☐ No ☐ Yes

Long Hold Times ☐ No ☐ Yes
 Caller ID ☐ No ☐ Yes
 Type Slow ☐ No ☐ Yes
 Abbreviation ☒ No ☐ Yes
 Typing Correction ☒ No ☐ Yes

CapTel Update

Due to recent changes in the **Federal Communications Commission (FCC)** requirements for IP-based Captioned Telephone Service, a software update will be released over the coming weeks for all Internet-based CapTel phones models. We want to make you aware of this coming change.

Please note: this change **ONLY** applies to Internet-based CapTel models:



CapTel 800i



CapTel 840i



CapTel 880i



CapTel 2400i

The new software update allows the CAPTIONS feature to come on automatically for all incoming and outgoing calls. Since March 2013, the FCC required that Internet-based CapTel users must press the CAPTIONS button to turn the feature on before each call. Now, CapTel users will be able to simply pick up the handset and dial. The CAPTIONS button will stay on (no need to press it) and the user will get captions of the call.

This change greatly simplifies the dialing process for people who rely on captions for every call. We believe this will be a welcome change to your program recipients.

If users prefer to turn the CAPTIONS feature on/off themselves, they can set the Captions Default setting to "off" in the CapTel menu. Detailed instructions are available at the CapTel website:

http://www.captel.com/customer_service/kb/index.php/article/captions-automatically

Jobs Available

Employment Specialist for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

****American Sign Language Required****

Bridges to Employment, a division of Alternatives, Inc., is a comprehensive career service. Our team offers an array of employment related solutions to meet a variety of today's workforce needs. We are currently expanding our services and seeking Employment Specialists to work with individuals who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. This position is part time 20-25 hours and we are currently hiring in the following counties; Middlesex, Somerset, Ocean, Monmouth and/or Mercer Counties.

Job Requirements:

Must have experience working with individuals who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
Ability to communicate using American Sign Language and have strong receptive skills.
Must have excellent communication and organizational skills.
Must have own transportation and be willing to travel throughout Central NJ to meet with clients as needed (mileage reimbursement included).

Job Duties:

Provide training and assist with job development and placement activities for individuals served.
Ability to network and build relationships with community employers.
Provide on-site job coaching and maintain professional relationships with employers to ensure job retention.

Please email all resumes to hr@alternativesinc.org



Educational Interpreter and Substitute Interpreter

Egg Harbor Township Schools
Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08330
Grade level: Middle School
Full time position for 2014-2015 school year
Qualifications: Passed EIPA, Educational Interpreter standard certification from NJ Department of Education, or emergency certification with enrollment in required coursework
Apply at www.eht.k12.nj.us
Send resume and cover letter directly to Donna Freund
Supervisor of Special Education for grades 6-12
freunddd@eht.k12.nj.us

Two part time Educational Interpreter positions

(24 hours each week with a consistent schedule in mainstream classes) at
Union Street School f/t Deaf
Hackensack, Bergen County Special Services.
Must have EIPA certification.
Please contact Dr. Candi Mascia Reed,
201.343.6000 x6400, canree@bergen.org;
C: 908.963.4193.

New Jersey Deaf Senior Housing Picnic a Success

by Jane Cyran, Ph.D., Secretary, NJDSH, Inc.



The 4th annual fund raising picnic for New Jersey Deaf Senior Housing (NJDSH) was held on August 16, 2014 at Foster Fields historical farm in Morristown. All had a good time seeing friends, eating picnic food, 50/50 and touring the more than 150 year old farm and

mansion. This event was another successful fund raiser for the NJ Deaf Senior Housing.

Lila Taylor, President NJDSH, signed the Memorandum of Understanding with Cardinal Capital management. This document is the first formal step to the actual development process. It has been eight years of dedicated work by the NJDSH and NJAD.

NJAD President Michelle Cline, past President Sean Gerlis, Diverse Deaf Club President Kevin Munn, and Representatives from Deaf, Deaf-Blind and hard of hearing Organizations were at the picnic and witnessed the signing.

This is a wonderful step forward towards making our dream of Deaf Senior Housing a reality in New Jersey.

The picnic was a fun social event that raised money for the housing project that will be a welcome addition to the NJ Deaf, Deaf Blind and Hard of Hearing communities.

We hope that all will continue supporting NJDSH fundraisers and have a good time at these great events.

ASL-English Interpretation Program Deaf Interpreters: Past, Present and Future

Discover your potential as a deaf interpreter as you explore the origins of this practice and how it has evolved. Gain an overview of the foundational skills and knowledge required of Deaf interpreters, and examine the role of the Deaf community along with interpreters in the future growth of the field.*

Wednesdays

November 12 – December 10, 2014

*** No class on November 26, 2014**

Time: 5:45 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.

LaGuardia Community College

C Bldg. Room C-244

Course Code: A16INT921A

Registration Fee: \$139

Facilitated by

Christopher Tester, CDI, who:

- Works in private practice in New York City as an American and British Sign

Language interpreter, consultant, educator and trainer; works part time as an interpreter supervisor for Mill Neck Interpreter Service, NY

- Specializes in workshop and seminar facilitation on topics including disability rights and laws, deaf and hard-of-hearing awareness, and ASL and interpreting
- Volunteers consulting services to local coalitions that provide advocacy for the deaf and Hard-of-Hearing communities in New York City's legal system
- Has eight years' experience as a manager/trainer at Sorenson Communications and as a Special Projects Coordinator and Investigator at the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights
- Served as President of the New York City Metro chapter of the Registry

of Interpreters for the Deaf

- Currently pursuing a Master's degree through European Masters in Sign Language Interpreting at Heriot Watt University, Scotland; received his Professional Certificate from the ASL-English Interpretation Program at LaGuardia Community College

ASL-English Interpretation Program (AEIP), a RID CMP sponsor, offers 1.2 Continuing Education Units in the content area of Professional Studies and has an instructional level of Intermediate for this event.

Registration: Online or contact Vanessa Watson (718) 482-5313, email vwatson@lagcc.cuny.edu.

** Workshop presented in ASL- Sponsored by Mill Neck Interpreting Service*



**OCTOBER 18,
2014**
**KING PIN
BOWLING DEAF
AND HARD OF
HEARING EVENT!**

**RSVP ON OCTOBER 12, 2014
AT DeafHHyouth@gmail.com**

**DEAF &
HARD OF
HEARING
YOUTH
GROUP**

**\$4.75 per person
per game
\$3.50 for bowling
shoes**

**Please bring extra
money for food
and snacks**

TIME: 11am-3pm

**KING PIN
BOWLING**

**6622 Black Horse Pike
Egg Harbor TWS NJ,
08234**

**OCTOBER 18, 2014
11:00am- 3:00pm**

Monthly **Communicator**

October 2014 Vol. 35 No. 9

NJ Department of Human Services
Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
PO Box 074
Trenton, New Jersey 08625 - 0074

Calendar of Events 2014

Friday, Oct. 31, 2014

9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

DDHH Advisory Council Meeting

East Brunswick Public Library

**Presenter - Steven Murphy, Executive Director & Secretary
Sertoma/Hearing Charities of America**



DDHH Regular Office Hours: Monday – Friday; 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Office Closed: Monday, October 13 – Columbus Day