

MONTHLY COMMUNICATOR

January 2013

www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/home/index.html

Vol. 34 No. 1

Chris Christie, Governor

Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor

Jennifer Velez, Commissioner

David Alexander, Director

Monmouth County Library's Assistive Listening Technology Loan Program

By Traci Burton, DDHH Field Representative

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.



Personal FM System

The Monmouth County Library Headquarters, located at 125 Symmes Drive, Manalapan, NJ and the Eastern Branch, located at 1001 Route 35, Shrewsbury, NJ offer the Assistive Listening Technology Loan Program to residents of Monmouth County. 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 while the Wide Area FM System is for use in larger spaces. Between the two branches the Monmouth County Library has multiple Personal Systems and Wide Area Systems available for loan. Neckloops and headsets are also available for loan.

For more information about this loan program please contact the Monmouth County Library Headquarters at 732-431-7220 or the Eastern Branch at 732-683-



Wide Area FM System

8980. The Morris County Library in Whippany, NJ is also a participant in the Assistive Listening Technology Loan Program. Residents of Morris County can contact the library at 973-285-6979 to inquire about Morris County's loan program.

Additional libraries will be offering the Assistive Listening Technology Loan Program to their county's residents. Look forward to more announcements!

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



Happy New Year!

With all the destruction caused by Hurricane Sandy adversely affecting so many New Jerseyans we hope folks can quickly rebuild and get their lives back on track.

We hope that the new year offers more and better opportunities for growth and success.

The staff at DDHH and the *Monthly Communicator* wish you health, wealth and happiness in 2013.



Director's Corner

Wireless Devices and Those with Hearing Loss

CERT Members Needed

LaGuardia Community College Receives Grant



Director's Corner

By David Alexander, *Director, Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH)*

This past October 2012, elections were held by the New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advisory Council, for a new chairperson and vice chairperson. I would like to welcome Lauren Lercher as the new chair and Wayne Roorda as the new vice chair. Lauren and Wayne bring significant experiences that will be of value to the council. DDHH looks forward to working with the new leadership team as our division consults with the council, to validate our programs and to receive feedback on services needed to enhance the quality of life for people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Judy Ginsberg for her fine work chairing the council for the past several years. Her skills in facilitating and organizing meetings resulted in informative and smooth running council sessions.

I encourage the community to either attend our council meetings or ask one of the council's members to represent your views. A list of council members is located on the DDHH home page. The next meeting will occur at the Talking Book and Braille Center, 2300, Stuyvesant Ave., Trenton NJ on Friday, January 25 starting at 9:30 a.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David C. Alexander".

We Welcome Your Articles and Ads

The Monthly Communicator is published 11 times per year. Deadline for submissions for the February issue is January 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, no PDF
- 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 acceptable
- Editor has discretion regarding editing, without final approval of submitter

Monthly Communicator

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Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

The November 2012 MC issue carried two very good articles about educating the public as to what is needed by people with differing communication needs. Traci Burton's article about the DDHH's presentation with the Burlington County Municipal Court Administrators' Association regarding serving Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened persons in Municipal Courts (p.3) was very encouraging. The information dispensed to this association is very valuable, and will enable both them and us to effectively communicate in a courtroom or other environment. Making arrangements in advance with the court services' administrator is critical for a successful legal encounter. I suggest that such presentations in the future be covered by the local newspapers so as to inform the public. "Forewarned is forearmed."

The other excellent article by Catie Purrazzella, DDHH Service Coordinator about self-advocacy (p. 4) contains very important tips and pointers when we are in a medical environment such as hospitals and emergency rooms, as well as medical offices. The only tip I'd add to her list is that I think it's important for us to wear a medical ID bracelet which carries information that a person is Deaf needing ASL, or deaf w/hearing aid or cochlear implant. This will alert emergency staff that this patient who may be unconscious from injury

or comatose from illness or medications will not hear or respond to spoken questions. EMT's always look for a medical alert bracelet or neck chain for information pertaining to medical conditions, or need for medications, or in the case of cochlear implant, a warning for "no MRI". I'm profoundly deaf without my hearing equipment, and if I'm injured or ill, may not be able to respond to anyone who is speaking to me. I'm also a heart patient, and my ID bracelet makes note of cardiac medications I am taking. Do not assume that all of us will visit a medical environment fully mobile, alert and conscious enough to verbally inform the staff that we have a significant hearing loss. They can't see our deafness, but they can read an ID bracelet in case we can't tell them. Once again: "Forewarned is forearmed."

Carol Granaldi



Dear Inspector Seagull,

I know everyone has a computer, but I don't have one. Computers are too complicated for me. I have a hearing loss and would like to use Sprint WebCapTel, but I don't know how to use this technology if I don't have a computer.

Thanks,
Too Complicated For Me

Dear Too Complicated For Me,

If you are one of the millions who struggle to hear on the phone or like to watch television with captioning, Sprint WebCapTel is for you! By using Sprint WebCapTel, individuals with hearing loss can be sure of what their callers say—during every call. Captions appear virtually at the same time as the person speaks, allowing callers to enjoy the natural flow of an interactive telephone conversation.

For people who might not like technology, I'm excited to share information about Telikin! Telikin is a simple, easy-to-use family computer that includes programs for video chat, photo sharing, email and now Captioned Telephone calls. Using the sleek, touchscreen device that has a special icon for CapTel, users can access Sprint CapTel with just a tap!

Telikin comes with a keyboard and external mouse and is ready to go straight out of the box. Users only need to plug it in, turn it on, and start using it. Telikin is perfect for people who are intimidated by computers, yet want to stay updated on the latest technology such as Sprint WebCapTel. Telikin also allows users to use magnifiers for reduced vision, shop online, read the news, and stay in touch with family and friends.

To learn more about the Telikin, visit at www.telikin.com or call (800) 721-9616.

To learn more about Sprint CapTel services, visit www.sprintcaptel.com or call (888) 269-7477.

Thanks,

Inspector Seagull



Wireless Devices and Those with Hearing Loss

By Traci Burton, *Field Representative*



One of the more popular questions we receive at DDHH is which cell phones will work best for people with hearing loss. Because what is “best” will vary from person to person, it is important to first identify your want and need from your cellular device. Then you need to find a carrier with a plan that best satisfies your needs, and allows you to try various mobile device models. This can be an overwhelming and daunting task! This web site can help with this process and answer many frequently asked questions: www.accesswireless.org.

CTIA - The Wireless Association is an international nonprofit membership organization founded in 1984, representing all sectors of wireless communications. It coordinates the industry's voluntary efforts to bring consumers a wide variety of choices and information regarding their wireless service, and supports important industry initiatives such as Wireless AMBER Alerts, and the “When it comes to Wireless, Safety is Your Call” safe driving public service announcement campaign. CTIA - The Wireless Association also recognizes the needs of individuals with disabilities, including people who are Deaf and hard of hearing, and offers a lot valuable of information.

The web site www.accesswireless.org offers information on audio, visual and vibrating features, Bluetooth, neck loop, silhouette compatibility, closed captioning, TTY compatibility, and explains the “M” and “T” ratings we see on the boxes of some cellular

devices. There is even an extensive section on hearing aid compatibility (HAC). This section features five videos with captioning and text transcripts starting with an introduction to HAC, taking you through the steps of researching and purchasing a mobile device and concluding with testing your new phone. PDF versions of HAC brochures for consumers and audiologists/health care providers can be found in this section for download. The **Frequently Asked Questions**, also located in the HAC section, address concerns ranging from “What is a t-coil?” to “How do I know if my hearing aids will work with my wireless handset?”

There are devices that are capable of downloading applications, or “apps,” thus customizing the device to fit your needs. Apps exist that inform, entertain and meet a consumer's accessibility needs. Several apps pertain to wireless captioning and depending on your mobile device and operating system, here are a few from which you may benefit. Android users may like the Wireless CapTel app which enables the user to make and receive captioned calls on a mobile device. The app is free

and for more information please visit www.njcaptel.com. Hamilton CapTel for Smartphones offers a free app for iPhone, Android and Blackberry and more information can be found at www.hamiltoncaptel.com.

For the Android market ClearCaptions is another free app possibility and more information on this can be found at www.clearcaptions.com.

If you have difficulty finding a mobile phone that works best for you, consult your audiologist/health care provider and/or a wireless carrier representative about accessibility accessories and compatibility with assistive technology. Hearing aid wearers, whose aid has a t-coil, may find that using a neck loop or silhouette is the answer. Perhaps a hands free device with headphones will work for others. Some hearing aids also may connect via Bluetooth to your cell phone through a remote control/streamer. These accessories may make a non-HAC rated phone a viable option for one with a hearing loss. It's good to be open and willing to try multiple options.

Researching and buying cellular devices can be a challenge for anyone, especially if an individual has a hearing loss. CTIA - The Wireless Association exists to help weed through the various options and find what may work best for any individual.

Traci Burton, Field Representative can be reached at 609-984-7281 or at traci.burton@dhs.state.nj.us.

Hearing Loss Association of NJ - Ocean/Monmouth Counties Chapter

The New Hearing Loss Chapter

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2013

in the “Center for Healthy Living”

1:00 p.m.

198 Prospect St., Lakewood, NJ 08701

We have changed our meeting schedule to occur four times a year:

March 3, 2013

June 2, 2013

September 8, 2013

December 1, 2013

Join us for meeting people who can help you and/or your family in a rewarding way. By spending a few hours socializing with other hard of hearing individuals who share your problems and concerns, you can learn to cope with this situation. Speakers and programs will be scheduled to provide you with interesting, informative hours.

HLA-NJ News and Views

A Monthly Column from The Hearing Loss Association of NJ

By Peter Yerkes, *Trustee, HLA-NJ*



Wake-Up Call from Hurricane Sandy

While memory of Hurricane Sandy is still fresh, here are some lessons I learned. I hope they will help other people with hearing loss plan for the next super-storm. I don't pretend to be a climate expert, but it seems safe to say that we haven't seen the last of such disasters. For people with hearing loss, a mega-storm can lead to special problems.

Things I Wish I Had Done

I should have checked out generators - and bought one. I wasn't in New Jersey for the Halloween storm of 2011, so I didn't realize how awful it is to live without electricity for five days or more. But a lot of friends and neighbors made the investment and did I envy them. They aren't cheap. Prices range from \$250 for a small portable with limited use to \$15,000 or more. They can be cranky and difficult to operate.

But they can make a huge difference—especially for people like me, who rely on rechargeable batteries to lead anything like a normal life. This includes batteries for my cochlear implant, which allow me to hear, batteries for my smartphone, which keep me in touch with the outside world, and batteries for my laptop. I am eternally grateful to friends, neighbors, community groups and even retail stores where I could get an electricity fix. But I wasted huge amounts of

time, and scarce gas, trekking from one power source to another. And I hated imposing on friends, no matter how much they said they didn't mind.

Things I Am Very Glad I Had

A smart phone and a laptop with rechargeable batteries; I complain bitterly every month when the bills for service on my cell phone arrives, but during Sandy it was nothing less than an emergency communications center. It gave me access to the Internet for weather and disaster information, and it provided e-mail and texting so I could stay in touch with family and friends. It needed to be recharged once a day or so but in a pinch I could recharge it in my car. My laptop had limited usefulness, since I had no Internet connections. But, and this was a huge plus, my wife and I could pop in a DVD into the laptop, turn on the subtitles on the movie and end a day of bitter cold and darkness with much-needed escape into the world of *"Love Story"* or *"Inglourious Basterds."*

Community Counts

"Aid recipient" was a new role for me. I was amazed, and am eternally grateful for the network that quickly sprang up in my town and in other towns throughout the disaster area. Friends with electricity invited us for dinner and the night; a church opened its community room 24/7 to provide battery recharging stations, warmth and light, a steady supply of snacks, coffee and soft drinks, and three hot meals a day.

Local retailers who had accessible electrical outlets made them available to everyone. I was also delighted to see that FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is working well once again.



HLA-NJ Announces Awards and Names New Officers

As life returned to normal (for many people, at least), HLA-NJ held its Annual Meeting at the East Brunswick Public Library on November 17, where the agenda included elections, a mini-fair of vendors, and awards. Behind each award there is a story. The stories are inspiring, and show the breadth and diversity of HLA-NJ activities. One of those honored was John McEwen, executive director of the NJ Theatre Alliance, receiving the Leadership Award.

"John was instrumental in getting open captioning started at Paper Mill Playhouse back in 1996 - the first theater to provide this service - and has been an ardent advocate and supporter of captioning through the years - both in New Jersey and nationally (through the arts access conferences)," said HLA-NJ past president Arlene



Recharging batteries and laptops in the Garden State Plaza Mall, Paramus

Romoff, in announcing the award. "In addition, he's been supportive of assistive listening systems. John is the first person outside of HLA-NJ to be honored, and the first to be given a

Continued on page 6



CERT Members Needed

On Monday, October 29 at 8:05 p.m., Hurricane Sandy made landfall five miles south of Atlantic City with 80 m.p.h. wind. A full moon made high tides 20% higher than normal, and increased Sandy's storm surge to record numbers. The impact was huge in NJ and our Deaf CERT has only eight members and two interpreters who are already trained for this major disaster in South Jersey. We didn't have the time or resources to help up north. This is why I need you to join the CERT classes, which many cities or counties will provide for free sometime in February or March 2013. Once you are done with training, you can be a resource to your community during times of need.

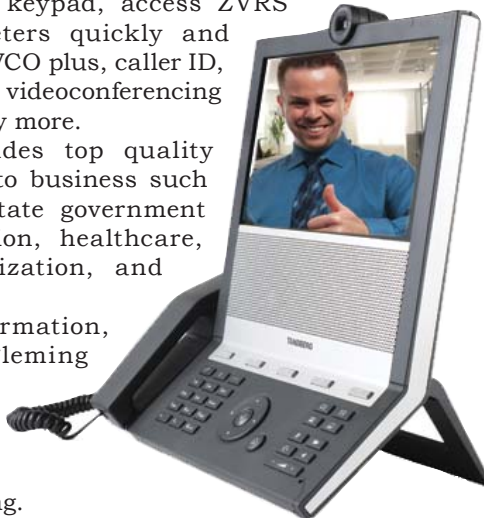
Please email me at abruaczski@gmail.com with "CERT" on subject. The interpreters will be provided for every class and everything is free. Material will also be provided.

Annmarie Buraczski
Deaf & Hard of Hearing Community
Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Certified CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)
New Jersey Association of the Deaf

Get Connected With Z, Our Proprietary Solution!

Anyone who wants a simple videophone with the most advanced features and solutions to meet their needs? ZVRS offers a top-of-the-line Z-20 videophone to Deaf and hard of hearing who want to enhance their video communication needs such as providing an address book, answering machine, and various ways to alert you to an incoming call. The Z-20 offers all-in-one design and space efficient videophone with many features such as unlimited address book to easily access to all of your contacts, private keypad, access ZVRS certified interpreters quickly and easily, videomail, VCO plus, caller ID, the most advanced videoconferencing systems, and many more. ZVRS also provides top quality Z-20 videophone to business such as federal and state government agencies, education, healthcare, non-profit organization, and your workplace.

For more information, contact Mark Fleming at zamfleming@gmail.com. If you wish to contact me by VP, please email Mark Fleming.



HLA-NJ *continued*



Leadership Award being given to John McEwen - with Linda Schaab, HLA-NJ president on the left, and Arlene Romoff, past president on the right.

monetary award of \$1,000."

"The \$1,000 award is being given with the proviso that it be used at John's discretion to further accessibility in the arts in New Jersey," Ms. Romoff said. "We hope, for instance, that he might find ways to provide more captioned performances through equipment purchases, better scheduling or other means."

"...HLA-NJ is grateful to exhibitors providing information and hands-on displays of new equipment of interest to people with hearing loss."

Other awards included the Founders Award, to Carol Granaldi and Wayne Roorda; the Service Award to Marvin Schaab and Ken Keuhlen, the Spirit of HLA-NJ Award to Paul Arabas and Sandy Spekman, and the Chapter Leaders Award to Marie Nordling and Rosemarie Kasper.

The mini-fair of vendors has become another highlight of the Annual Meeting, and HLA-NJ is grateful to exhibitors providing information and hands-on displays of new equipment of interest to people with hearing loss. Sponsors included the state Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the N.J. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, CapTel and CaptionCall (manufacturers of phones offering real-time captioning), EnCom looping systems, the New Jersey Theatre Alliance, and Ask the Audiologist.

Do you have questions of experiences related to hearing loss you would like to share? Please contact me at p.yerkes@comcast.net.

To learn more about HLA-NJ, please contact Arlene Romoff at info@hearingloss-nj.org. We also invite you to visit www.hearingloss-nj.org, or to attend one of our local chapter meetings in Bergen, Monmouth/Ocean or Middlesex County, and our newest Morris County chapter. Dates, places and times for chapter meetings are available from info@hearingloss-nj.org.

LaGuardia Community College's ASL-English Interpretation Program Only

Interpreting Program Recipient of \$1.25 Million Grant from U.S. Department of Education

LaGuardia Community College's American Sign Language (ASL) - English Interpretation Program (AEIP), in collaboration with SUNY Empire State College, was recently awarded \$1.25 million by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs. The grant, which will be distributed over a five-year period, was awarded to only 10 programs nationally in the category of those serving children with low incidence disabilities. LaGuardia's program, which competed against four-year institutions and graduate-level programs, ranked third in quality out of 50 proposals submitted and was the only interpreting program to receive an award.

AEIP is a rigorous academic program that prepares selected individuals who are fluent in ASL to become ASL-English interpreters, with a special focus on interpreting in educational settings. In its unique design, students earn a Bachelor's Degree in Educational Studies: ASL-English Interpretation through a partnership with SUNY Empire State College in which they take three 4- credit education courses, in addition to the LaGuardia's interpreting sequence. Or, if they already have a bachelor's degree, they can take the same interpreting and educational studies sequence for a Professional Certificate. Since program candidates must have an associate's degree to apply, LaGuardia also offers an Associate's Degree in Deaf Studies and ASL to help prepare them for entry into AEIP.

"LaGuardia's Program for Deaf Adults is one of the largest and most comprehensive post - secondary education and support programs for deaf and hard of hearing students in the country," said Gail O. Mellow, President of LaGuardia Community College. "Our deep commitment to serving the Deaf community and educating those who work with them as interpreters is evident in the range and quality of our programs. In awarding our ASL-English Interpretation Program this competitive grant, the U. S. Department of Education has entrusted LaGuardia not only with the training of interpreters, but with

the education of deaf students they will serve."

"In the past, deaf, hard of hearing and deaf blind children (K-12) often got the least qualified interpreters because



they couldn't advocate for themselves," said Rob Hills, AEIP Project Director. "Since many deaf students are now mainstreamed into regular classes, instead of learning from a teacher communicating directly in ASL, they are receiving an 'interpreted' education, which can have implications on their educational outcomes. In this case, the ASL - English interpreter must be highly qualified; this is of paramount importance. This grant funding is meant to address that issue, and our program has already made a very positive impact on improving interpreting services to area schools."

Several elected officials representing New York gave their support to the proposal. "Congratulations to LaGuardia Community College's American Sign Language-English Interpretation Program on being awarded a \$1.25 million grant from

the United States Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs," said U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer. "LaGuardia is the only interpreting program to be awarded in its category, and for reasons well deserved. LaGuardia's program continues to provide a great service for the Deaf community. LaGuardia's graduates are amongst the top American Sign Language-English interpreters in the country and this critical funding will ensure that these graduates continue to excel and provide the necessary support programs for deaf and hard of hearing students from all walks of life."

"I am proud to have supported LaGuardia Community College's successful proposal for \$1.25 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Education to train ASL-English interpreters," said Rep. Carolyn Maloney (*D-Manhattan, Queens*). "The program's rigorous curriculum demonstrates LaGuardia's consistent dedication to providing an excellent education to a diverse population. Children with special needs should never have to settle for inferior

services. Hearing-impaired students of New York City, who are too often underserved and overlooked in traditional educational settings, will greatly benefit from the exceptional interpreters trained at LaGuardia."

"I am thrilled LaGuardia Community College will receive these much-needed funds!" said Rep. Joe Crowley (*D-Queens, the Bronx*). "This program is dedicated to ensuring not only that we have enough qualified interpreters to meet the needs of children and youth who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf blind, but also that these interpreters are armed with the necessary skills and understanding to connect with New York City's large, diverse population of these children. It is critical that LaGuardia Community College have the resources it needs to further grow

Continued on page 8

Seeking Nominations for Outstanding Students and Educators in the Arts

VSA New Jersey (VSA/NJ), a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the creative power of people with disabilities, is accepting applications for the 2013 Arts Achievement Awards and Art Par Excellence statewide touring exhibit. VSA New Jersey is a member of the VSA Affiliate Network, a program of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

About the Art Achievement Awards

The annual VSA/NJ Arts Achievement Awards include the STUDENT ARTS EXCELLENCE AWARDS, presented to students with disabilities who are classified (mainstreamed, inclusion, self-contained classes or activities), 14 - 21 years old, not to exceed twelfth grade level, who show outstanding achievement in and commitment to an art form; and the EDUCATION IN THE ARTS AWARDS presented to outstanding educators and administrators for establishing high quality arts programs for classified students. The awards also recognize individuals who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to arts education for classified students. Award recipients become candidates for the distinguished NJ Governor's Awards in Arts Education. Application deadline is January 23, 2013.

About Art Par Excellence

In addition, VSA/NJ accepting applications for the twelfth Art Par Excellence statewide touring art exhibit featuring the two dimensional artwork by students through age 21 with disabilities. All schools in the state are invited to submit two works. Selected artists will have their work professionally displayed at prestigious locations throughout the state. The artists will be recognized at an opening reception with their families, teachers and school administrators as invited guests. Application deadline is January 31, 2013.

Major funding for VSA New Jersey is provided in part by the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission; New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts; and additional foundations and donors.

For applications and registration information, please contact VSA New Jersey at 703 Jersey Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901, (732) 745-3885, 745-3913 TTY, or info@vsanjanj.org.

LaGuardia *continued*



Candace Broecker-Penn, BAEIP Instructor

and develop this unique program that is helping to make a difference in the lives and education of deaf, hard of hearing and deaf blind children in New York."

Since its inception in 1997, AEIP has graduated 142 interpreters. While the passing rate of the National Interpreting Certificate (NIC) Knowledge Exam is 500, LaGuardia students' average score is 640. And though it is not a New York State requirement, LaGuardia students must now take the Educational Interpreting Performance Assessment (EIPA) as an additional graduation requirement. There is also a 3-year service obligation for students who are recipients of the grant in which they work as educational interpreters within K-12 settings.

With the educational coursework provided by SUNY Empire State College, and LaGuardia's expertise in the area of ASL-English interpretation, AEIP graduates are well prepared to meet these requirements.

"This collaboration among, city, state and federal education organizations strengthens teaching and learning at the primary, secondary, and college levels," said Deborah Amory, Provost of SUNY Empire State College. "LaGuardia's AEIP is an outstanding program, and we are proud to partner with LaGuardia by providing the opportunity for AEIP students to complete their studies with a bachelor's degree and to serve the Deaf community with distinction."

"We are pleased to be participating AEIP to offer educational studies and bachelor's degree options," said Cynthia Ward, Dean of the SUNY Empire State College Metropolitan New York Region. "The inspirational mission to increase diversity among interpreters who work

in K-12 urban education aligns with our shared commitment to access and openness in education."

While retention is a challenge, students who are accepted into the program do not pay any tuition or national testing fees. "Ours is a demanding program, so making sure students meet requirements when they begin is essential for the graduation rate," said Mr. Hills. "Students must receive a B or better in each course to move on in program. Strategies for retention will include tutors and mentors, which are provided for with this new funding," he added.

What makes AEIP—which serves students from all over the tri-state area—distinctive is the fact that the student body is diverse in age, race and professional background, reflecting deaf students and the Deaf community at large in this area of the country.

"We're above the national average of diversity within interpreting programs," explained Mr. Hills. "This is important because the field of interpreting does not reflect the strong diversity of deaf students out there. One of the richest parts of our students' education is that they themselves come from all walks of life. Their collective experience better enables them to be more ready to serve a diverse, Deaf population."

Philip Wilson graduated from the program in June 2011 and is currently an educational interpreter in a program for deaf students in a Bronx public high school. He credits the education and training he received in AEIP with giving him the building blocks he needed to pass the NIC written exam, obtain his current position and have confidence interpreting in various settings. "It's a great program," he said. "Often I can tell LaGuardia interpreters when I meet them. There's a certain niche they fit into, as they seem to know the importance of prioritizing their connections to the Deaf community that gave them the language in the first place. I feel privileged to be a graduate of the program and among that few."



Community College



Cardinal Capital Management Discusses Housing

By Jane Cyran, Ph.D, *Secretary of NJ Deaf Senior Housing*

A Community Forum held on October 6 at the Montville Senior Center was sponsored by NJ Relay and DDHH. Aparna Lele, Sprint Relay, arranged the NJ Relay sponsorship, which provided delicious sandwiches and desserts for the attendees at the Forum. DDHH sponsored the interpreters for the forum. Many thanks to NJ Relay and DDHH! The forum was designed to provide an update on the progress of starting low income Deaf Senior Housing in NJ. Presentations were given by Aparna, Lila Taylor, Chair of the NJ Deaf Senior Citizens Committee, and Katie Voss and Erich Schwenker from Cardinal Capital Management (CCM). Lila welcomed all to the forum and announced that NJ Relay is the first partnership for NJD Senior Housing. She showed a video on CapTel and TTY.

Katie Voss is a CCM housing consultant on projects for the Deaf. Katie gave a presentation on how eligibility for low income housing is determined and how tax credits will be used for funding for the project. Katie also showed a video on Apache ASL Trails in Arizona with all of the specialized equipment that encourages better communication and safety for the Deaf residents. Specialized equipment includes the video system in the vestibule which lets residents see visitors and allow them entry, a loop system that goes directly to hearing aids, bathroom switches that call 911, kitchen switches to turn on the light on and off and fan simultaneously for range hoods, and also, a switch light for garbage disposals. Apache Trails also has interpreters and counselors

on site every day and a clinic with professionals who sign. All of these specialized services are designed to decrease language barriers and help in emergencies. Apache ASL Trails is open to all who qualify but a preference is given to Deaf, hard of hearing and Deaf-Blind.

Although the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is disputing the preference, CCM has decided to move forward with the project in New Jersey. This is a very big decision for CCM and welcomed by the community. Erich Schwenker reviewed the costs associated with building this project and how to proceed with putting together all of the many details. The goal is to identify and purchase property and develop architectural plans by the end of 2013. Erich said CCM will start discussing the budget and work with the committee on the many decisions such as how many one and two bedroom units to build, community spaces, possibly commercial space, etc.

Although CCM has agreed to move forward in NJ, issues may still arise with HUD. Support for Deaf Senior

Housing in NJ is needed from all in the NJ Community. Letters supporting the NJ Deaf Senior Housing to HUD and NJ Congressmen and Senators from as many as possible clubs, individuals, organizations such as NJAD, and companies that support the community such as NJ Relay, hearing aid manufacturers are needed. Letters should be copied to the Arizona Department of Housing which has been very supportive of Apache ASL Trails throughout the disputes with HUD.

The next step towards the dream of a NJ Deaf Senior Housing is here but strong support from the NJ community is needed to keep this dream alive and get the building done.



POSITIONS AVAILABLE



JOB COACH/JOB DEVELOPER

Lexington Vocational Services Center, part of the largest organization serving the Deaf and hard of hearing communities in New Jersey and New York, places hundreds of Deaf workers in jobs throughout these areas, and provides a full range of training and on-the-job support for Deaf and hard of hearing individuals. With a special expertise in engaging companies to hire deaf workers, Lexington staff support deaf employees as they integrate into the workplace.

Lexington Vocational Services Center has immediate openings for Job Coaches/Developers in Hudson, Bergen, and Morris Counties. Applicants must have a vehicle and a valid NJ driver's license.

Essential functions of the job include:



- Meeting with Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing consumers on job sites
- Working with consumers and their employers in maintaining employment
- Working with the business community to develop employment opportunities

Essential job qualifications:

- American Sign Language fluency
- Holds a valid NJ driver's license, registered automobile, and a minimum of liability insurance coverage for said automobile
- Excellent writing skills for documenting activities

To apply, please contact:

Larry Feldman, Director

lfeldman@lexnyc.org (908) 451-9935

ADVISORY COMMITTEE SEEKS MEMBERS

The Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) is soliciting applications for individuals who are interested in joining the Advisory Committee to the Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Program for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Disabled. The purpose of the advisory committee is to make recommendations pertinent to substance use disorders for individuals who are Deaf, hard of hearing or disabled to the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services (DHS) through DMHAS.

Membership Positions Available:

Two (2) members of the community who identify themselves as either Deaf, hard of hearing or disabled.

One (1) member of the public with an interest in issues relating to alcohol and drug abuse.

Member Responsibilities:

Advise the Commissioner of DHS on the establishment, policies, and implementation of substance abuse programs for the population of individuals identified as Deaf, hard of hearing and/or disabled.

Engage in active participation on the Advisory Committee to the Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Program for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Disabled and meet the statute's purposes of including, but not being limited to, providing public awareness of, and developing advocacy efforts for Deaf, hard of hearing, and disabled persons who are in need of treatment services for alcoholism and drug abuse; developing best practices for all treatment modalities and specialized training programs for this population; and incorporating the services of community-based agencies to develop and implement this into substance abuse programs serving those who are Deaf, hard of hearing or disabled.

Analyze existing data and aid in gathering additional data and research to support data-driven decision-making through the advisory board process.

Utilize data to identify unmet needs or services in DHS for persons who are Deaf, hard of hearing and disabled that are within the scope of the statute and make recommendations to the Commissioner to meet the identified unmet need for services.

Provide oversight in the development and coordination of any Requests for Proposals in regard to this population and participate in the review process with DMHAS.

Abide by Conflict of Interest guidelines in all work as an active committee member.

Individuals who may apply: Any individual who

identifies as Deaf, hard of hearing or disabled and/or who exhibits a public interest in issues relating to alcohol and drug abuse and also reflects outstanding advocacy and leadership skills is eligible to apply. The individual may also, but is not required to, meet the following:

- Be engaged in substance abuse recovery
- Be a knowledgeable professional such as an educator or researcher in the field of substance abuse
- Be an official from law enforcement, local government, social services, and other such areas impacted by substance use disorders and disabilities
- Be a representative of the community with expertise in the social, criminal, medical and other effects of substance abuse disorders



Procedure to Apply/Deadline: An application package consisting of the following items must be submitted to and received at DMHAS by 5:00 p.m. on January 28, 2013.

1. Application
2. Current resume
3. Copy of all professional licenses or certificates, if applicable

Link to download full announcement and application:

www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhs/info/notices/DHHD_Adv_Committee_App_nov28_2012.pdf

The Communicator Signboard

Deaf-Blind League of New Jersey

Monthly Meeting Dates for 2013

All meetings will be held at:
Joseph Kohn Rehabilitation Center
New Brunswick, New Jersey
(unless otherwise specified)

**February 16, March 16, April 20, May 18,
June 15 (BBQ at Dawn & Jack's House),
September 21, October 19,
November 16,
December 14 (Holiday Luncheon)**

North Jersey Community Center of the Deaf, Inc.
proudly presents

St. Valentine's BINGO Affair Saturday, February 9, 2013

from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

at Elmwood Park VFW Post 5084
6 Veterans Place, Elmwood Park, NJ 07407

**\$ 1,000 in cash given away based on 100
people attending**

First game will begin to play at 8 p.m. sharp!

**Cash prizes for best-looking valentine's clothes.
Contest starts at 7:45 p.m.**

♥ Refreshments on sale ♥

50/50 Drawings ♥ NJCCD Affair Banknite

Donations in advance for Member - \$12

Non-member - \$15

Student with ID - \$10

At door on Feb 9: Member - \$15

Non-member - \$18

Student with ID - \$12

Chairperson Susan Benenati,

Co-Chairperson Bev Golden and the committee

To order tickets in advance before February 3,
visit: www.njccdsite.org/val13.pdf

The New York Times

Travel Show

will be held at the
Jacob K. Javits Center, New York City
on January 19 and 20, 2013
CART will be provided for their presentations
on Saturday, January 19.

The Travel Show hours on Saturday are from
10 a.m to 6 p.m.

For more information, please go to: nyttravelshow.com
Submitted by Sandy Spekman: sspekman@gmail.com

**Bridge Players Theatre Company
Proudly Presents the New Jersey Premiere of**

Messiah on the Frigidaire by John Colbertson

**February 1, 2, * 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23 at 8:00pm
February 3 and 10 at 3:00pm**

**Bridge Players Theatre Company on stage at
Broad Street Methodist Church
36 E. Broad Street
Burlington, New Jersey**

**Ticket price of \$20 includes desserts and
beverages served during intermission.
Group rates available for groups of 15 or more
Dinner/Theatre package available for \$45**

**For tickets or more information, please call (856) 303-7620
or visit www.bridgeplayerstheatre.com**



** The performance on Friday, February 8th will be sign interpreted.
Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs) will be available February 8, 9 & 10.
Program by Audio will be available upon request for all performances.
Persons in need of special accommodations are requested to give two
weeks advance notification.*



**The Chapter's Voice for People with Hearing Loss
Information • Education • Support • Advocacy**

**Chapter Meeting
Saturday, January 12, 2013
10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.
Madison YMCA
111 Kings Road
Madison, NJ 07940**

**Captioning Provided by DDHH and
Assistive Listening Devices**

We are delighted to have **Morris Leo Greb, Esq.**
as our guest speaker. He is an experienced lawyer
representing people with a Hearing Loss. Plus he is local
- He lives in Rockaway, NJ. He was featured in October's
HLAA Magazine. Please join us to learn more about the
legal side of hearing loss.

Contact Information: Pat Dobbs - 973.479.8083
email: pat@HearingLossResourceCenter.com
blog: www.HearingLossResourceCenter.com

MONTHLY COMMUNICATOR



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

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FIRST-CLASS MAIL
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TRENTON, NJ
PERMIT No. 21

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Dated Material Please Rush

Calendar of Events 2013



Friday, January 25, 2013

9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**NJ Division of the
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advisory Council Meeting
NJ State Library Talking Book & Braille Center (TBBC)
2300 Stuyvesant Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08625-0501
www.njsltbbc.org
Info: 609-984-7281**

Happy New Year
from the staff at DDHH and the Monthly Communicator

DDHH Regular Office Hours: Monday – Friday; 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Office Closed: New Year's Day - Tuesday, January 1 Martin Luther King – Monday, January 14