NJ Department of Human Services | Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing | www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/home/index.html

THE COMMUNICATOR

SPRING 2018

Phil Murphy, *Governor* Sheila Oliver, *Lt. Governor* Carole Johnson, *Acting Commissioner* Ira Hock, *Acting Director*

Governor Murphy Appoints New Commissioner to the New Jersey Department of Human Services

Governor Phil Murphy with Acting Commissioner Carole Johnson.

Carole Johnson was appointed to be Commissioner of the Department of Human Services by Governor Phil Murphy. She previously served in the Obama White House as senior health policy advisor and member of the Domestic Policy Council health team. There, she worked to increase health insurance coverage for millions of Americans, improve services and choices for individuals with disabilities, expand supports for older Americans, increase coverage of mental health and substance use disorder treatment, and improve health and economic security for all Americans. The Commissioner-designate also has served on Capitol Hill working for the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging and for members of the U.S. Senate Finance Committee and U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee. In addition, she managed health care workforce policy issues for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration. Johnson previously was policy director for the Alliance of Community Health Plans, an association of nonprofit health plans; program officer with the Pew Charitable Trusts Health and Human Services Program; health policy researcher at the George Washington University; and, senior government relations manager with the American Heart Association.

Alexander Departs Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

David Alexander retired as director of the division after serving in that capacity for 11 years. Prior to this position he was employed by the Lake Drive Program, the Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf, and the NJ State Department of Education. After 33 years of public service we would like to take this opportunity to thank David for administering such crucial programs for people with hearing loss. A long-time advocate for the deaf and hard of hearing, we wish him a very healthy and happy retirement.

DDHH Acting Director Named

DHS Acting Commissioner Carole Johnson appointed **Ira Hock** as Acting Director of the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. He will serve in this capacity during the transitional period. Mr. Hock has been with the division since 1990. Prior to that he served in the DHS Office of the Commissioner's Quality Assurance Unit from 1982-1990. His career began in 1979 as a social worker in the Division of Youth and Family services investigating child abuse complaints.

Season of Service Initiative

On Friday, December 15, Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing staff participated in the Division of Aging Services' (DoAS) event for the Department of Human Services' Season of Service initiative.

The "Intergenerational Head Start Christmas Party" was sponsored by the Toms River Township Office of Senior Services at the Toms River Senior Center in Ocean County.

About 100 seniors were served lunch while children from the county's

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Season...continued

Head Start program (three and four-year-olds) joined in the festivities. Every child received a toy from the seniors which was given out by Santa Claus.

DDHH Director David Alexander demonstrated holiday phrases in sign language as DDHH staff Jaci Brown led a round of Jingle Bells in sign language.

DDHH Holds Quarterly Meeting

On Friday, January 26 the NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing held its quarterly advisory council meeting at the East Brunswick Public Library. Council members, who are appointed by the governor, conduct this public meeting to discuss issues relevant to people with hearing loss. It is communications accessible with sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, and realtime captioning. Pamela Aasen, Program Director, Statewide Parent Advocacy Network, Inc. gave a presentation about a grant they received from the NJ Department of Health to provide services for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program. Contact Ms. Aasen at 732-956-4917 concerning their mentoring program. The next meeting is scheduled for April 27 at the East Brunswick Public Library.

New Jersey Hearing Aid Project

Free refurbished hearing aids for eligible low-income seniors are available through an innovative initiative by the New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH), Montclair State University, and Sertoma/Hearing Charities of America. Eligibility is limited to those individuals who are at least 65 years of age, are New Jersey residents, and have an income not exceeding 250% of the federal poverty level - $27,189 if single or less than $33,334 if married.

The project involves collecting used hearing aids, reconditioning the devices and dispensing to eligible New Jersey residents. To donate a used hearing aid to the project, please send in a padded envelope, box or unlabeled prescription container to:

New Jersey Hearing Aid Project
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Montclair State University
1515 Broad Street, Bldg B
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

For more info, click ***HERE***.

NJ Deaf News New App

NJ Deaf News announces a new app which is now available as a free download at the Apple App Store and Google Play! Those of you who have the current version of the app will receive a software update of the new features in April 2018. The new app will include Google Calendar on the events page, allowing users to easily view details of the various advertised events. Only PDF files will be accepted to advertise your event. Flyers sent in all other formats will be rejected and not published. Be sure to send your PDF file 3-4 weeks in advance.

For additional information, contact Joseph Garth
jgarth@njdeafnews.com
www.njdeafnews.com
908-955-0018

Hearing Evaluation Council Seeks Members

The New Jersey Department of Health's Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program (***www.nj.gov/health/fhs/nbs/ehdi/)*** is seeking an individual to represent New Jersey's Deaf community as a member of the EHDI advisory board, known as "The Hearing Evaluation Council." As per New Jersey Public Law (N.J.S.A. C.26:2-103.8), the role of the Hearing Evaluation Council (HEC) is 'to provide ongoing advice to the New Jersey EHDI Program regarding implementation of New Jersey's newborn hearing screening law and regulations.'

HEC members are appointed by the New Jersey Commissioner of Health and hold office for a term of two years and until each member's successor is appointed. HEC meetings are held between one to four times a year either in-person or via webinar with individual meetings lasting two hours in duration. In addition to a member of the Deaf community, New Jersey State mandate requires that the HEC be comprised of: a child of Deaf adult(s); a pediatrician; a person who is hard of hearing; an otolaryngologist; an audiologist and citizens of New Jersey who are interested in the concerns and welfare of children with hearing loss.

Any Deaf individual with an interest in New Jersey's universal newborn hearing screening program (serving children from birth to age three years), who wishes to apply for this volunteer position should send a letter of interest along with either a resume or a description of relevant attributes and experiences to:

The New Jersey Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program
Early Identification and Monitoring Program
Special Child Health and Early Intervention Services
Division of Family Health Services
New Jersey Department of Health
PO Box 364
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0364
Attn: Nancy Schneider, M.A., CCC-A, FAAA

Letters of interest can also be emailed: ***EHDI@doh.nj.gov*** or faxed (609-633-7620) to the NJ EHDI program. The deadline for submission of letters of interest and supporting documents is April 19, 2018.

Allies in Caring Job Opening

Finance Specialist and Compliance Clerk

Allies In Caring, Inc. is an innovative, multicultural, non-profit organization dedicated to helping underserved individuals who have emotional and behavioral problems move toward recovery, health, and greater independence through counseling, education, and community support. It specializes in providing services to deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals, and immigrant families.

Responsible for achieving and overseeing compliance within regulations, and contractual requirements. Assist with the implementation of these requirements into internal operational processes, to ensure that hours billed are documented appropriately.

Education and Experience - Minimum two years of experience in Compliance, preferably Medicare related; Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience

Contact; 425 N. Third St.,
Hammonton, NJ 08037
Phone 609-561-8400, Fax 609-561-8477, VP 609-798-0426
www.alliesincaring.org

New Jersey Department of Human Services

DIRECTOR, Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

The Director, as the chief administrative officer, assumes a position of leadership in directing and managing the overall goals and program of the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH). DDHH serves New Jersey residents who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or have speech disorders. Services and programs are provided that foster independence and improve the quality of life for the individuals served. The DDHH provides information and referral services, provides technical assistance workshops related to hearing loss, and operates assistive technology device demonstration centers. In addition, the Division operates an Equipment Distribution Program and the New Jersey Hearing Aid Project, which provides reconditioned hearing aids to eligible applicants.

Job Description: This position reports to the Commissioner or other senior officials in the Department of Human Services and is responsible for supervising the Division's daily program management and administration as well as providing operation and policy direction. The Division Director advocates for New Jersey's deaf and hard of hearing citizens by promoting increased accessibility to programs, services and information routinely available to the State's population.

Qualifications: This position requires a Bachelor's degree supplemented by a Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling, Business Administration, Public Administration, Social Work, Education, Special Education or related field and a minimum eight (8) years of experience with programs for the deaf and hard of hearing, including five (5) years of supervisory experience in organization, administration, and fiscal management.

Note: A successful candidate is expected to have experience providing social/community, medical/health, rehabilitation/education, or vocational/occupational services with deaf and hard of hearing individuals. Competence in American Sign Language preferred as well as knowledge of Assistive Listening Devices.

Residency Law: The New Jersey First Act requires that public employees reside in New Jersey, unless exempted under the law or currently a NJ State government employee. If not a NJ resident, relocation must take place within one year after employment. Please refer to the New Jersey First Act.

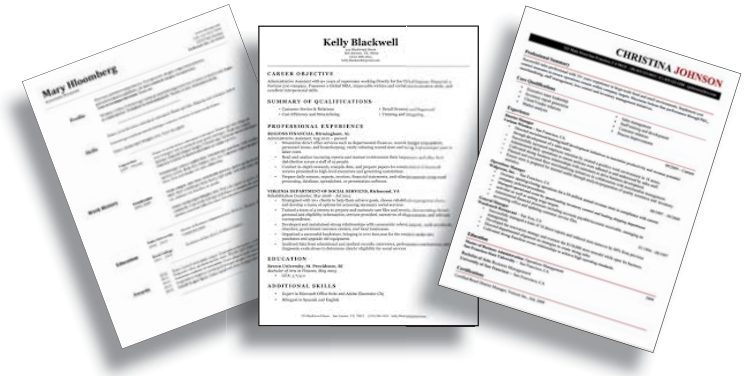
Salary is commensurate with education and experience.

Qualified applicants should send a resume and a contact list of three (3) professional references, by March 23, 2018 to the attention of:

Bonny E. Fraser
Assistant Commissioner
222 South Warren Street
PO Box 700
Trenton, NJ 08625

Resumes may be emailed to ***DHSResumes@dhs.state.nj.us***

* New Jersey Is An Equal Opportunity Employer *



DDHH Advisory Council Meeting

Friday, April 27 2018
9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
East Brunswick Public Library

Presenters: Eric Baum Esq., Andrew Rozynski Esq., and Sheryl Eisenberg Michalowski, MA will discuss "**Know your Rights and Empowerment**" - an overview of the important things to know about deaf and hard of hearing rights and to gain more knowledge regarding the areas of advocacy as well as appreciating the teachings of empowerment.

REMINDER: If you would like to be notified when our newsletter is posted on line at ***www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/newsletters/communicator/current/*** please send your email address to: ***monthlycommunicator@dhs.state.nj.us***. This will also enable the division to email DDHH news updates and other information about hearing loss.

DDHH Office Hours: Monday – Friday: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Office Closed: Good Friday - Friday, March 30
Memorial Day – Monday, May 28

CONTACT INFORMATION:

The NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
PO Box 074
Trenton NJ 08625
Ph: 609-588-2648 Fax: 609-588-2528

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