

Monthly Communicator

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

April 2016 | www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/home/index.html

Chris Christie, Governor

Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor

Elizabeth Connolly, Acting Commissioner

David Alexander, Director

Director's Corner by David C. Alexander, Ph.D., Director

DDHH Communication Access Service

New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH) operates a communication access services program. A large portion of this program focuses on advocacy. Individuals who have been denied access to doctors' offices or other entity, often contact DDHH for assistance. DDHH works in collaboration with the client to advocate for communication access services and to educate the entity of their legal responsibilities under the *Americans with Disabilities Act* and the *New Jersey Law Against Discrimination*. As a result of DDHH intervention, many consumers obtain the sign language interpreters or realtime captioning services they require. The following data table shows the number of request for referral services and the percentage of requests filled From July 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015.



Communication Access Services

Requests for sign language services	156
Sign language requests filled	98 %
Requests for captioning services	12
Captioning requests filled	92 %

NJ DDHH Provides Sensitivity Training to Police Departments

By Jason Weiland

The New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing continues to lead the way towards providing sensitivity training to state, county, and local government agencies. Recently, the Division has reached out to police departments in New Jersey to provide free, hands on training. Field Representative Jason Weiland worked with the Lindenwold Police Department to provide training to the department's 40 officers on two separate sessions. The municipal area encompasses a large Deaf and Hard of Hearing population. NJ DDHH continues to work with other police departments in the state and is currently arranging sessions with local law enforcement offices. If your agency, organization, police department, or fire department is interested in securing this unique free sensitivity training in working with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing please contact NJ DDHH at (609) 498-7006 or by email at Jason.weiland@dhs.state.nj.us.

Directory of Sign Language Interpreter Lists Updated

By Cathy Grehlinger

DDHH Director David Alexander disseminated a letter to interpreters on the division's directory of sign language interpreter lists advising that, going forward, only those who have Registry of Interpreters (RID) for the Deaf certification will be eligible to remain on the list. This policy impacts interpreters who were DDHH screened in the past, but never received the RID credential which is recognized throughout the country. If you would like to be added to the list, please contact the division at 609-588-2648 to begin the process to be added.

Social Security Disability and Work - What's New in 2016?

By Catie Purrazzella

You can create your own Social Security account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount which enables you to:

- Request a replacement Social Security card if you meet certain requirements
- Get your Social Security Statement to review
- Obtain estimates of your future retirement, disability, and survivors benefits
- View your earnings once a year to verify the amounts posted are correct; and
- See the estimated Social Security and Medicare taxes you've paid.

Disaster Declaration Issued for Parts of New Jersey

The federal government has approved Governor Chris Christie's request for a disaster declaration to help parts of New Jersey recover costs stemming from the blizzard that dumped nearly three feet of snow in January. Federal funding is available to state and local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged in several counties. For additional information click [here](#).



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



DDHH Advisory Council Meeting Friday, April 29, 2016

East Brunswick Public Library

9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Speakers:

**Jason Collins, MS NCSP, School Psychologist,
NJ Specialized Child Study Team**

Wendy Eufemia, Learning Disability Teacher Consultant

**Kara Rogers, State Consultant for Students who are
Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

**Topic: “Special Education Evaluation Services
for Students in NJ Who Have A Hearing Loss”**

www.ebpl.org/main/index.cfm

DDH Contact Number: (609) 588-2648

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

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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