

Monthly Communicator

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

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

Chris Christie, Governor

Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor

Elizabeth Connolly, Acting Commissioner

David Alexander, Director



Mother Nature cooperated to provide a beautiful day for the New Jersey Disability Pride Parade and Celebration which took place on Friday, October 7th in Trenton, NJ. The event began with a brief presentation at the State House and a parade which culminated with presentations by people with disabilities and a celebration a few blocks away. DDHH was among the many exhibitors at the event to share information about our services with those attending the celebration.

DDHH Staff Transfers to Gallaudet

DDHH Service Coordinator Catie Purrazzella who had been with the division for four years transferred effective November 1 for employment at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. While we are happy for her advancement, we are saddened to see her leave. Catie initiated a casework program in which she assisted individuals to negotiate the labyrinth of services in the community and gain access when they had difficulty. Anyone whom she came in contact with could readily see that she cared deeply about the consumers we serve. We extend our greatest wishes to Catie for her future endeavors.

DDHH Advisory Council Presents on Law Enforcement Interaction

On Friday, October 28 Joseph Geleta, Director of the DHS Office of Emergency Management gave a presentation to its members and community at the East Brunswick Public Library. He related that he is the former Executive Director of NJ211 Partnership, managed the operations of the State-wide 9-1-1, and served with the State Police for 30 years. He led a discussion about law enforcement interaction with people who are deaf and hard of hearing. Prior to this DDHH staff also met with representatives of the State Police. It was learned that before becoming a trooper there is an extensive training program, some of which addresses issues of importance to the deaf and hard of hearing and the police during interaction. The meetings concluded that this will be a beginning of a continued effort to improve communications and make adjustments as necessary. Both parties agreed that this will be an ongoing process.

‘Know Your Rights’ regional seminars

The NJ Office of the Attorney General, Division on Civil Rights and the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing are hosting ‘Know Your Rights’ regional seminars. Information on Federal and State laws that impact Deaf and Hard of Hearing individual will be shared during the seminars. Invited presenters will be representatives from NJ Division on Civil Rights, US Attorney’s Office District of NJ, NJ Hospital Association, NJ Board of Medical Examiners, Disability Rights of NJ, & NJ Department of Education.

December 5, 2016, @ 6-9 PM with registration at starting at 5:30 PM

The College of New Jersey
Education 113
2000 Pennington Road
Ewing, NJ 08628

December 12, 2016, @ 6-9 PM with registration at starting at 5:30 PM

New Jersey Institute of Technology
Room/Building to be announced
323 Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
Newark, NJ 07102

American Sign Language Interpreters and CART services will be provided. For Deaf-Blind interpreter requests, please contact Cathy Grehlinger at (800) 792-8339 ASAP to make your request.

Calendar of Events

DDHH

Advisory Council Meeting

Friday, January 27

9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Location and speaker TBA



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

Office Closed: November 8 - Election Day; November 11 - Veteran’s Day

November 24 - Thanksgiving

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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