

Monthly Communicator

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

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

Chris Christie, Governor

Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor

Elizabeth Connolly, Acting Commissioner

David Alexander, Director



NJ Law Against Discrimination Seminar

The Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Office of the Attorney General, Division on Civil Rights held the first of four scheduled public seminars on September 27th at Stockton University to create awareness for the NJ Law Against Discrimination and the types of discrimination that the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community faces. Panel representatives, Philip Freeman, Assistant Director and Edward Haas, Legal Specialist, from the Division on Civil Rights, Trevor Melton, Education Specialist, from the New Jersey Department of Education, and David Alexander, Director, from the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing spoke with audience members on accommodation/communication access issues in K-12 education, places of public accommodations, medical care facilities, employment, etc.

‘Know Your Rights’ regional seminars

As mentioned in the previous article, 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.

November 2, 2016, 6 PM - 9 PM
with registration starting at 5:30 PM
Rutgers University-Camden
South ABC Conference Room
303 Cooper Street
Camden, NJ 08102

December 5, 2016, 6 PM - 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 PM - 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.

Text 911



On Wednesday, September 7, DDHH Director David Alexander (*shown at podium*) and other state representatives announced the new statewide *Text 911* accessibility during a press conference at Rutgers State University. The DDHH will continue to work cooperatively with law enforcement personnel regarding interacting with the Deaf and hard of hearing population in New Jersey. The New Jersey Office of Information Technology offered the following public guidelines:

How to text 911

- Open the message app on your phone or wireless device
- In the “To” field, type “911” with no punctuation
- In the message field, type the location (address and municipality) and a brief description of the problem (example: “1234 E Main Street Franklin Twp someone breaking in”).

When should you text 911

- If you have a speech or hearing impairment.
- If speaking may cause you harm, like in a break-in or domestic violence situation.
- Be sure to silence your phone so that the sound of a 911 reply does not give your hiding location away.

Induction Loop Resources

Background noise makes listening very difficult for people with hearing aids or cochlear implants. Audio loops, also called induction loops, can minimize the effect of background noise and help people hear more clearly as long as their hearing instruments are equipped with Telecoils (T-Coils). An audio loop is a wire that circles a room and is connected to a sound or PA system. The loop transmits the sound electromagnetically and the signal is then picked up by the telecoil in the hearing aid or cochlear implant. Induction Loops can be installed in such places as churches, theaters, doctors’ offices, pharmacies, township halls, bank teller windows, restaurants, libraries, schools, hotels, convention centers and hospitals et. al. For information on vendors and installers, contact the division at 609-588-2648.

NJ Relay’s Taste of Technology for DeafBlind

This event will occur on October 29, 2016 at Montclair State University in Montclair, NJ. The DeafBlind Community Access Network of New Jersey organization (DBCANNJ) will co-sponsor. This year’s theme is all about *Connecting to the World - Using DeafBlind Technology to Make It Happen*. Anindya “Bapin” Bhattacharyya from the Helen Keller Communicator National Center (HKNC) will be the keynote speaker. He is a world renowned expert on DeafBlind technology. Workshops include: *Useful Apps at Home or On the Go*, *Advocating for Facebook Accessibility for the Blind*, *Keeping Your Data Secure on Your Phone, Tablet and Computer*, and *Telecommunication Access for DeafBlind*. Vendor displays will be set up with hands-on demonstrations. Admission is free including lunch. ASL interpreting and CART (captioning) will be provided. Register today at www.njrelay.com/tot. Any questions, contact njrelayoutreach@sprint.com.

DDHH Equipment Distribution Program Change

DDHH will no longer offer internet based caption phones, only the analog 840 CapTel. Consumers may get an internet based phone at no cost from the resources listed below.

Caption Call

www.captioncall.com/ or at 1-877-557-2227

or

CapTel

www.sprintcaptel.com and 877-805-5845

Calendar of Events

DDHH

Advisory Council Meeting

Friday, October 28, 2016

9:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m.

East Brunswick Public Library

Speaker: Joseph Geleta, *Director of NJ Department of
Human Services' Office of Emergency Management*

Topic: *"Law Enforcement Interaction with the Deaf and
Hard of Hearing Community"*



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

Office Closed: Monday, Oct. 10 - Columbus Day

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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