

THE COMMUNICATOR



SUMMER
2018

Phil Murphy, Governor

Sheila Oliver, Lt. Governor

Carole Johnson, Commissioner

Ira Hock, Acting Director

DDHH Opens Assistive Device Demonstration Center to Celebrate Better Hearing and Speech Month



The Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing on May 16 marked **Better Hearing and Speech Month** by opening the Assistive Device Demonstration Center at its office at 11A Quakerbridge Plaza in Hamilton. Members of the community and DHS Deputy Commissioner Elisa Neira attended and watched a live demonstration of the latest technology for people with hearing loss. The center displays devices such as a videophone, amplified and captioned phones, baby cry alerts, assistive listening devices and smoke detectors.

The public can contact the division at 609-588-2648 or Ddhh.Communications2@dhs.state.nj.us to schedule a visit. Consumers, providers and the community-at-large can experience a hands-on demonstration of the items available. Through the Division's Equipment Distribution Program some of this equipment is available for free to residents with lower incomes.

DHS Commissioner Johnson Addresses DDHH Advisory Council



▶ DHS Commissioner Carole Johnson gives welcoming remarks at the advisory council meeting on April 27. Commissioner Johnson also announced the dispense rate paid in the Hearing Aid Project will increase from \$150 to \$300 in an effort to attract more audiologists in the program.

On April 27, Andrew Rozynski Esq., and Sheryl Eisenberg Michalowski, MA, gave a presentation to the DDHH Advisory Council in the East Brunswick Public Library. The topic was **"Know Your Rights and Empowerment."** It was 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 and appreciating the teachings of empowerment.



US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Conduct Workshop



Kelly Ayala from USCIS is addressing those in attendance during the workshop.

On May 15, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services provided a workshop entitled **"Fundamentals of Immigration & Naturalization"** at the Talking Book and Braille Center in West Trenton. The Department of Human Services' Divisions of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Disability Services and Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired assisted in this outreach effort to educate professionals in the community so that they can better assist their consumers. Florence Moise-Stone, Supervisory Immigration Services Officer in the Newark Field Office, was the primary speaker who gave a very informative presentation.

Upcoming Staff Events

DDHH staff member **Baylie Sappir** will provide information and resources at a community health fair at **Iglesia El Faro** in Bergen County on Sunday, June 24. She will also display devices for people with hearing loss.

The **Jeff Spring 2018 Camden County Resource Fair** is held twice per year and staff will attend the next one scheduled for August 9. Information and technology will also be displayed at an exhibit table.

Expanding Our Reach

During the past few months DDHH staff member Baylie Sappir has been in the field broadening the division's presence, and disseminating information to various care providers and consumers. April started out at Reeds Roads Elementary School in Galloway Township for its resource fair. DDHH distributed information regarding hearing loss that would be helpful to young people who may be experiencing hearing loss and to staff and educators on how to best accommodate for this type of need.

The end of April was a day at the park, for the Dawn Center for Independent Living's family fun day and disability resource fair. The division gives resources and assists family members and caregivers who are around someone with hearing loss so they can support and better understand their needs.

The first weekend in May included attendance at the **Abilities Expo** in Edison and the Bergen County Care Fair in Hackensack. The Abilities Expo provided an opportunity to collaborate with the Division of Disability Services and to connect with others about DDHH programs and services offered. At the Bergen County Care Fair many consumers approached the exhibit table unaware of the resources that were offered through DDHH. These are great opportunities for the division to expand its reach and educate communities on the resources available for hearing loss.

On April 17, DDHH staff member Wayne Roorda attended the Jayme Brick Township Transition Fair at the Brick Township High School. The focus of this event was transitioning out of high school to college and or vocational training for high school seniors. It was well attended by parents and students.

The Jeff Spring 2018 Camden County Resource Fair was held at the Voorhees Town Center formerly known as Echelon Mall. A large number of vendors were present along with a very good turnout from the community at large.





Kat Dunams

Expanding...continued

Coordinator of DDHH Communication Access Services Cathy Grehlinger attended the N.J. Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf General meeting on May 12 at the Brick Public Library in Brick. The meeting was followed by a workshop entitled: **"Interpreting for Comedy/Improv,"** which was presented by Kat Dunams, an interpreter who works in comedy clubs. Kat shared her experiences and offered techniques to aid interpreters in their understanding of the schema and various ways to enhance their work and make it funny and appropriate for the audience for which they are interpreting.

Health Department Seeks Advisory Board Member

The New Jersey Department of Health's Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program 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 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 law 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, which serves children from birth to age three, 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:

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
or EHDI@doh.nj.gov or fax 609-633-7620
The deadline is June 21, 2018.



On April 2, Department of Human Services Commissioner Carole Johnson was sworn into office by Governor Phil Murphy.

Take a Walk

Staff from the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will participate in the **Hearing Loss Association-NJ's New Jersey Walk4Hearing** on Sunday, Oct. 14 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Mercer County Park on Hughes Drive in West Windsor.

For additional information please click **HERE**.



OCEAN COUNTY SENIOR SOCIAL

Come learn about the services available to senior citizens!

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ALL ARE WELCOME

EVENT INFORMATION

WHEN: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 1:00 PM – 7:00 PM

WHERE: Eagle Ridge Golf Club
2 Augusta Blvd., Lakewood, NJ 08701

EVENT PRESENTATIONS

1:30 – Ocean County Office of Senior Services
3:00 – Captioned Telephone
4:30 – NJ Division of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing
6:00 – AARP

- Free admission
- Complimentary refreshments
- Captioning service available

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Lori Timney, NJ Relay & CapTel Customer Relations Manager
(732) 440-8822 | Email: lori.timney@sprint.com

Have a Safe and
Fun Summer!

from the staff
at the
Division of the Deaf and
Hard of Hearing

DDHH Advisory Council Meeting

Friday, July 27, 2018

9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

East Brunswick Public Library

2 Jean Walling Civic Center, East Brunswick, NJ 08816

Topic: "Deaf Advocacy Project"

Presenter: Lisa Oshman, Deaf Advocacy Project Coordinator

Meetings are open to the public, communications accessible, and occur on the last Friday in
January, April, July, and October.

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

Office Closed: Independence Day - July 4

CONTACT INFORMATION:

The NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

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