

# Monthly Communicator

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

March 2016 | [www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/home/index.html](http://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

### Information and Referral

*New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH)* is the largest centralized depository of information about hearing loss and deafness in the State of New Jersey. DDHH staff responds to a wide range of questions to consumers about hearing loss and deafness. There are a number of ways for consumers to contact the Division. These include contact by voice-phone, video-phone or email. You can reach our office by calling 609-588-2648 or by e-mail at [www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddhh/staff/email/](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddhh/staff/email/). DDHH also works as an office that refers individuals to other support agencies. The chart below has data collected from the past quarter showing the number of times DDHH was contacted for information and referral services:

	Phone Inquiries	391	
	Email/Web Inquires	120	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>511</b>	

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## Monmouth County Special Needs Registry

By Ira C. Hock

On Friday, February 19, I attended a conference presented by the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office on its new Special Needs Registry. It is a voluntary service open to all citizens with disabilities who reside, attend school or are employed in Monmouth County. The registry was created to help police officers and other emergency service personnel to better assist residents with special needs in the event of an emergency by providing those first responders with vital information regarding a registrant's disability, contact information, a physical description and current photograph of the registrant. A pilot program is soon to be launched in five towns while the system will go live in April 2016. People can access the information [here](#).

## Deaf Sensitivity Trainings with Deaf Advocacy Project

By Catie Purrazzella, Service Coordinator

In partnership with the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Womanspace, Inc., NJ Coalition to End Domestic Violence, and NJ Coalition Against Sexual Assault, the Deaf Advocacy Project (DAP) has planned



three regional deaf sensitivity trainings for domestic violence and sexual violence advocates. The trainings are intended to train advocates on how to improve their work with deaf victims and survivors who reach out to them for services. Training dates will be as follows:

- **March 29 (Rochelle Park)**
- **April 27 (Mays Landing)**
- **May 17 (Whiting).**

The New Jersey Association of Domestic Violence Professionals has approved these trainings for DVS continuing education credits. For advocates interested in attending training, please contact Cristina Williams at [cwilliams@njcedv.org](mailto:cwilliams@njcedv.org) or Pat Hart at [pmh@womanspace.org](mailto:pmh@womanspace.org).

Questions and/or comments can be shared with Catie Purrazzella at [Catherine.purrazzella@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:Catherine.purrazzella@dhs.state.nj.us) or (609) 503-4862 (V/VP).

## Communication Access at County Welfare Agencies

By Catie Purrazzella, *Service Coordinator*

County Welfare Agencies help families and individuals obtain Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), child care, energy assistance, emergency assistance, Medicaid, child support, transportation assistance, and Supplemental Security Income in order to help them become self sufficient. Many Deaf and hard of hearing individuals receive services from their county welfare agencies. Since some people use American Sign Language, communication issues arise with CWA staff.

To address these concerns, the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing met with the Director of the Division of Family Development, Natasha Johnson, to confer on how both divisions can work together to provide access to our mutual consumers.

Questions and/or comments can be shared with Catie Purrazzella at [Catherine.purrazzella@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:Catherine.purrazzella@dhs.state.nj.us) or (609) 503-4862 (V/VP).

### Access EEOC via Videophone

The *Equal Employment Opportunity Commission* has hired two deaf ASL customer support representatives to provide guidance with filing to explain EEOC's processes and to review everything you need to know to stand up for your rights. These representatives also can answer questions you may have. They can be reached via video phone at (844) 234-5122 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. — 6:30 p.m.

Click [here](#) to view a YouTube video explaining this new service.

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## **DDHH Advisory Council Meeting Friday, April 29, 2016**

**9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

**Speakers TBD**

**East Brunswick Public Library  
2 Jean Walling Civic Center Drive  
East Brunswick, New Jersey 08816**

***[www.ebpl.org/main/hours-directions.cfm](http://www.ebpl.org/main/hours-directions.cfm)***

**DDHH Regular Office Hours: Monday – Friday: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM**  
**Office Closed: Friday, March 25 - Good Friday**

**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**

***[monthlycommunicator@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:monthlycommunicator@dhs.state.nj.us)***

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