

Monthly Communicator

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

May 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*

Community Outreach

One of the major initiatives of the DDHH is to engage in a multifaceted public education effort to enhance public awareness of hearing loss and to advocate on behalf of people who are deaf and hard of hearing. One of the strategies used to achieve this initiative is through community outreach events. The following is a brief summary of outreach events conducted by the division. During the third quarter of this year (January to March 2016) the division provided 42 outreach activities in the community. These included eight requests for sensitivity trainings and workshops. Law enforcement made several requests. The division also attended five events as exhibitors to inform the public of the division's services and programs. Staff served on 29 task forces and advisory meetings to represent people with hearing loss and to advocate for their communication access needs. Entities wishing to receive training or who wish to have DDHH attend their community event are encouraged to contact the division at 609-588-2648 for further information.

DDHH attends NAD Board Meeting

Director, David Alexander and DDHH staffer Catie Purrazzella, attended the **National Association of the Deaf** board meeting held at the New Jersey School for the Deaf in West Trenton, NJ. A good public turnout of the deaf community showed up to observe the board in action and to network with board members. The board discussed initiatives and plans for the **53 Biennial National Association of the Deaf Conference** to be held on July 5-7 in Phoenix, Arizona. Director Alexander welcomed the board to New Jersey and met with NAD CEO Howard Rosenblum to share information about DDHH. For further information about the conference, please see <http://phoenix.nad.org/>

DDHH Attends Greystone Hospital Wellness Fair

By Jason Weiland

The Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing recently attended the Wellness Fair held at Greystone Psychiatric Hospital located in Morris Plains. The event hosted by the facility included booths that represented a number of health and wellness programs related to addiction recovery, nutrition, vision loss, hearing loss, and fitness among others. GPHH's staff and residents attended the all day event and visited booths to gather information and speak with representatives from the various organizations and agencies. The annual event provides opportunities for residents to learn more about services and programs without leaving the grounds. The DDHH staff provided information related to services, programs, and technology for the Deaf and hard of hearing. If you are interested in having NJ DDHH at your event, you can contact Jason Weiland at Jason.weiland@dhs.state.nj.us. or call (609) 498-7006.

FYI!

| Upcoming Conferences on Hearing Loss

The **Hearing Loss Association of America** is holding its annual convention on Thursday, June 23 to Sunday, June 26, 2016 at the Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20009. For additional information go to <http://hearingloss.org/>.

The **53 Biennial National Association of the Deaf Conference** will be held on July 5-7 in Phoenix, Arizona. For further information go to: <http://phoenix.nad.org/>

| DDHH Technology Services

DDHH operates an **Equipment Distribution Program** whereby individuals with hearing loss in New Jersey may be eligible. Some of the devices that accommodate people with hearing loss include: Amplified Telephone, CapTel, Smoke Detector, Carbon Monoxide Detector, Baby Cry Alert System Artificial Larynx Device.

For additional information and application, please click [HERE](#).

The **New Jersey Hearing Aid Project** is continuing to serve low-income NJ residents over 65 with hearing loss. Each potential candidate may receive one refurbished aid.

For an application:

<http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/home/hearingaidproject.html>

There is an effort in New Jersey and around the globe to “loop” areas to accommodate people who are hard of hearing. A Hearing Loop is a type of assistive system that can be installed anywhere where there is a source of audio. This audio can then be picked up directly by any T-coil enabled hearing aid. No background noise, no echoes, just clear sound.

For additional information contact DDHH at 609-588-2648.

| Advisory Council Seeks Members

Lily Britton from DMHAS (Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services) announced that DMHAS has an Advisory Council that is seeking new members. Members should have a hearing loss or other disability or a family member that does, or a strong interest and concern about the council’s purpose. The purpose of the council is to advise DMHAS on issues relating to recovery for individuals also dealing with disabilities. The council meets quarterly at the Ewing Library. If interested contact Lily Britton at 609-984-3311 or lily.britton@dhs.state.nj.us.

Calendar of Events

DDHH
Advisory Council Meeting
Friday, July 29, 2016
9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Location and Speakers TBD



DDHH Regular Office Hours: Monday – Friday: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Office Closed: Monday, May 30 - Memorial Day

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
