

# Monthly Communicator

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

February 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

## DDHH Welcomes New Advisory Council Representatives

The following individuals will now represent their perspective agencies as follows:

- **Tanya M. Onsongo, M.A.** - NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services  
Program Planning & Development Specialist I/ Deaf Language Specialist, PO Box 398, Trenton NJ 08625  
Voice-609-292-3616, Fax-609-292-8347.  
Tanya is replacing Nancy Yarosh who retired from state service.
- **Jody Caseiro** - Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf  
Vice Principal of the Elementary and Middle School  
[jody.caseiro@mksd.org](mailto:jody.caseiro@mksd.org)
- **Joy Ronde** - New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services  
[joy.rende@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:joy.rende@doh.state.nj.us)

## Housing Discrimination

The division has been receiving questions about housing rights and discrimination. Click [here](#) to view 12 videos in sign language with open captions that include valuable information on this topic.

## Equipment Distribution Program

The **Equipment Distribution Program** provides telecommunications and home safety equipment at no cost to eligible people who are deaf and hard of hearing. Eligibility requirements are :

- Must be a New Jersey resident
- Must have a hearing loss
- Household income less than \$45,000

The following page shows a data table on the number of and types of equipment distributed from July 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015.

<b>Total Number of Applications Received</b>	<b>272</b>
Applications approved	<b>257</b>
Applications denied	<b>15</b>
<b>Equipment Distributed by Type</b>	
Strobe Smoke Alarms	<b>31</b>
Strobe Carbon Monoxide	<b>30</b>
Artificial Larynx Devices	<b>11</b>
Amplified Phone	<b>83</b>
TTY	<b>4</b>
Strobe Baby Cry Alert System	<b>13</b>
HCO/ VCO	<b>4</b>
Captel Phones	<b>81</b>
<b>Total Devices Distributed</b>	<b>257</b>

## **DDHH Seeks Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialist**

The New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has a vacancy for a Hard of Hearing Specialist. The position will be assigned to working with people who are hard of hearing and late deafened including senior citizens.

The candidate will strive to improve the quality of life for people with hearing loss in the home, workplace and community. Job functions include taking on a leadership role in operating programs offered by the Division including:

- NJ Reconditioned Hearing Aid Program
- Assistive Listening Device Loan Library
- Hearing Loss Awareness Training
- Assistive Communication Device Demonstration Centers

The candidate will conduct community outreach efforts to enhance public awareness of hearing loss including working with County Offices on Aging, over 55 communities and senior citizens. Must have a thorough knowledge of assistive technology devices and state-wide resources and services for people with hearing loss.

Click [\*here\*](#) for more information!

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



**DDHH Regular Office Hours: Monday – Friday: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM**  
**Office Closed: Monday, Feb. 15 - President's Day**

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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