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ODHH Connections

Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

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ODHH Reaching Out

In the past, the Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) has reached out to the Wisconsin public by sending out a monthly email with a link to the Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing's ODHHNet – a monthly electronic newsletter consisting of the resources and updates for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind community in Wisconsin.

ODHH staff is pleased to announce a new quarterly newsletter titled, "ODHH Connections." The purpose of ODHH Connections is to share the latest news about the projects and efforts of ODHH and its partners as they work together to raise awareness.

We hope the ODHH Connections will provide the Wisconsin community with a better understanding of who we are, the kind of work we do and the projects on which we are currently working.

Happy Reading!

ODHH Staff



Meeting a wide variety of needs for a wide variety of individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind.



A Successful Partnership



ODHH is proud of its partnership with the Wisconsin Association of the Deaf (WAD) in support of the "Be Prepared: Protect What Matters" disaster preparedness toolkit. The project is aimed at creating culturally and linguistically appropriate informational materials about disaster preparedness for people who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind. By educating and informing the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind community how to prepare for a disaster through community centered events, it is our hope that people will be safer and better able to respond in the event of a disaster. The toolkit includes reusable checklists to guide the packing of various preparedness kits. It also includes information specific to the unique needs of those who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind if faced with a disaster. For more information and to download the kit, go to www.wisdeaf.org.

Protecting and promoting the health and safety of the people of Wisconsin





**OFFICE OF THE
GOVERNOR**
SCOTT WALKER

**DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH SERVICES**
SECRETARY
KITTY RHOADES

**DIVISION OF LONG
TERM CARE
ADMINISTRATOR**
BRIAN SHOUP

**BUREAU OF AGING AND
DISABILITY RESOURCES**
DIRECTOR
CARRIE MOLKE

**OFFICE FOR THE DEAF
AND HARD OF HEARING**
DIRECTOR
DANIEL MILLIKIN

Director's Message



DAN MILLIKIN
Director of the Office for the
Deaf and Hard of Hearing
(ODHH)

Greetings, all. I recently joined the Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources (BADR) to assume the role as the Director for the Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH). For the past several months, I have been meeting with ODHH staff, BADR colleagues, directors and supervisors and other Department of Health Services (DHS) employees to learn more about their respective fields of work. I look forward to bridging ODHH's efforts with the Bureau's to ensure high quality services for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind people in Wisconsin.

I am currently working with BADR and ODHH staff to define ODHH's future direction. This will involve some levels of reorganization and reprioritization of the Office's objectives and goals to ensure adequate information, referral and systems to support Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind individuals through our expanded outreach efforts across Wisconsin.

The Office is composed of two functional units: the Individual and Systems Program and Policy Development Unit; and the Communication Access and Development Unit. The Individual and Systems Program and Policy Development Unit consists of four Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialists, a Deaf Disability Benefit Specialist and a Human Services Program Coordinator. The main objective of this unit is to provide information, referral services and technical assistance on Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind matters to individuals, service providers, agencies, families, businesses and organizations statewide. The Communication Access and Development Unit consists of a Social Services Supervisor, two sign language interpreters and a Telecommunications Assistance Program Coordinator. The main objective of this unit is to focus on equal communication access through a variety of the Office's initiatives and programs.

ODHH's Individual and Systems Program and Policy Development Unit currently has four full-time Deaf and Hard of Hearing Resource Specialists serving their regions. Nancy Harbison works in the Northeastern Region, Bette Mentz-Powell in the Southern Region, Shawnee Thomas in the Northwestern Region, and Caroline Ludka in the Southeastern Region. Caroline was hired recently in the position previously held by Carolyn Small, a former ODHH Deaf and Hard of Hearing specialist who served in the Western Region prior to her retirement last December. I have relocated the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialist position from Eau Claire to Waukesha to provide information and referral services for the Southeastern counties. The Deaf and Hard of Hearing specialists provide information and referral services on a variety of topics tailored to the needs of Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind residents in Wisconsin. They also

provide in-service trainings and presentations for public and private service providers and organizations that work with Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind people. The ODHH staff are committed to working with our clients, service providers and agencies that contact our regional offices for information, referral and systems support and guidance for providing services for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind individuals.

**"I look very much
forward to bridging
ODHH's efforts
with the Bureau to
ensure that we
provide high
quality services..."**

Director's Message Continued

Melani Kaplan is tasked with providing ODHH communications and technical coordination of ODHH's programs/projects. She is also involved with the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Steering Committee and the Disaster Preparedness Committee.

Jennifer Koehn is ODHH's Deaf Disability Benefit Specialist. Jennifer helps people who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Deaf-Blind to access disability benefits including Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medicare and Medicaid and other benefits to which they may be entitled. Jennifer is based in Delavan and she travels statewide to meet with her clients.

ODHH's Communication Access and Development Unit is led by Amber Mullett. This unit provides oversight and support for ODHH operations in regard to interpreting and communication access issues. Amber also provides program coordination and technical assistance for Wisconsin Interpreting and Transliterating Assessment (WITA) program that is carried out through ODHH. The WITA is a skill verification assessment designed to provide American Sign Language (ASL)/English interpreters in Wisconsin with an indication of proficiency in both receptive and expressive interpreting and transliterating skills. This is considered a stepping stone for the candidates' plan to attain national certification through the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID).

ODHH has two people with responsibilities related to Wisconsin's Service Fund. Amber Mullett is the new Service Fund Administrator and Bette Mentz-Powell serves as the Service Fund Coordinator. The Service Fund, made possible through Wisconsin Statutes and Wisconsin Administrative Code, provides financial assistance for communication access services for people who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Deaf-Blind in situations that are not covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

Meta Cucinotta, Office Operations Associate, oversees the Telecommunication Access Program Fund that is authorized in Wisconsin Statutes and Administrative Code. The Telecommunications Assistance Program (TAP) provides financial assistance for Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Deaf-Blind people living in a low-income household.



It is also my pleasure to announce that we hired Carly Bieri, the newest ODHH employee, as the staff sign language interpreter. Carly Bieri collaborates with Chantel Young, who is also a full-time interpreter for ODHH, to provide interpreting for ODHH staff members.

I am thankful for our ODHH staff members' work and outreach in their respective positions and regions. I am excited about working with ODHH staff in taking on new challenges and initiatives to provide high quality services for Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Deaf-Blind individuals and to steer ODHH in a promising direction.

– Dan Millikin



"I am excited about working with our ODHH staff in taking on new challenges and initiatives ..."

What's up with CADU?



AMBER MULLETT
Social Services Supervisor
Communication Access
and Development Unit
(CADU)

The Communication Access and Development Unit (CADU) is a new name associated with the Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH), however, the programs and functions within the Unit have been long standing. The CADU will serve as a clearinghouse for information and resources surrounding the unique communication access needs of Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind residents of Wisconsin. The CADU will not only provide consumers with information on various communication accommodations, but will provide service providers with information on best practices for ensuring equal access to communication.

The CADU has been working on several initiatives including a number of clarifications to Chapter DHS 77: Service Fund for People who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind or Hard of Hearing that will ensure financial stability and Administrative Rule compliance. Information on the Service Fund can be found on the ODHH website. Applications for the Telecommunications Assistance Program (TAP) per Chapter DHS 78 Telecommunication Assistance for Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing Persons are being accepted as funding for the program was allocated on July 1, 2014. For more information on the TAP program please see the article below from Meta Cucinotta, the TAP Coordinator. Other areas of focus for the CADU include the Wisconsin Interpreting and Transliterating Assessment (WITA), the development of best practices for communication access and Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) services for the State of Wisconsin, as well as many other exciting initiatives that are in the planning and development phases.

The CADU will work closely with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialists (Regional Coordinators) throughout the state on a variety of program areas to ensure that the services provided by the CADU will be accessible to Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Deaf-Blind persons regardless of location. Please continue to check out the ODHH website for more information from the CADU.



META CUCINOTTA
Office Operations
Assistant and TAP
Coordinator
Central Office

Telecommunication Assistance Program (TAP)

Need an alerting system for your telephone or videophone? Would you benefit from an amplified phone or a Tele-Type (TTY), but the equipment is too expensive? We can help you! You can apply for funding through the Telecommunication Equipment Purchase Program (TEPP) and for assistance with the \$100 co-payment through TAP.

The TAP assists people to purchase telephone related equipment. The TAP funds became available again on July 1, 2014. To see if you qualify for assistance through the TAP program, please go to www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/odhh/tap/index.htm.



Learn About Aging and Disability Resource Centers

What can an Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) do for people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing? The ADRCs, located in every county in Wisconsin, are great places to get information about aging and/or living with a disability. You can learn about many services and programs that may be able to help you. You can also get assistance from ADRC staff to apply for programs.



Have you ever wondered about housing options, nutrition programs, where to get transportation or long-term care? ADRCs can help!

I spent the spring and early summer traveling around the State with Amber Mullett. We provided four regional trainings related to the needs of people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing to ADRC staff in Wausau, Green Bay, Milwaukee, and DeForest. I also trained the Rock County ADRC staff and the Waukesha County ADRC Advisory Board. Amber and I shared information about different types of hearing loss, communication, Deaf Culture, interpreters, laws related to access for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people, technology and resources. The ADRC staff also learned about Video Remote Interpreting (VRI), Video Relay Services (VRS) and what happens to people's hearing as they become older.

The staff at the ADRCs around the state are excited about working with Deaf and Hard of Hearing people and explaining their services. Please feel free to contact the ADRC in your county for more information. You can check out their website at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/adrc.

Updates from Northwestern Wisconsin!



It is hard to believe it has been 2 years since I moved from Kansas to Wausau, Wisconsin, to work for ODHH as the Northern Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialist. I provide assistance to consumers in finding appropriate services and resources in receiving communication access to help alleviate barriers and increase their quality of life.

It has been my pleasure to meet with individuals and service providers in the region and learn the needs of these consumers. As Dan mentioned earlier, ODHH has reorganized the regions for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialists. That has changed my position title to a Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialist in the Northwestern Region. My primary work location is Wausau, but I travel to Eau Claire on a weekly basis to provide information and referral services for people who reside in, or near, Eau Claire.

During my tenure, I have served over 100 consumers and I expect that number to steadily increase as I continue to meet with individuals, service providers, and agencies. I maintain contact with consumers by consistently sharing the latest information pertaining to hearing loss. Through these efforts, I have seen an increase in consumer participation and requests for assistance related to communication access to break down language barriers.

In the past six months, I have noticed an increase in walk-in appointments by people asking for assistance or wanting ways to overcome communication barriers for a variety of services such as job searches, unemployment benefits, evictions, legal issues, social services, benefits, and finding qualified sign language interpreters. My primary goal is to increase awareness of the needs of people who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Deaf-Blind; and provide resources for individuals, service providers, agencies, and local communities.



BETTE MENTZ POWELL
Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Specialist,
Southern Region



SHAWNEE THOMAS
Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Specialist,
Northwestern Region

Northeastern Wisconsin Updates



NANCY HARBISON
Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Specialist,
Northeastern Region

I am the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialist for ODHH - Northeastern Region including the Fox Valley area. I am a native of Mensha, Wisconsin. My family members also reside in the Northeastern Region. I moved back to Wisconsin three years ago after living and working throughout the United States for 20 years. My office is in Appleton, but I provide information and referral services for Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Deaf-Blind people throughout the Northeastern Region.

During this past year, I have worked with the Aging and Disability Resource Centers of Brown, Outagamie, Washington, and Winnebago counties, Wisconsin Association of the Deaf, Door County Department of Human Services, Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation – Region 4 and 5 offices, Fox River Valley Deaf Association, and other agencies through my outreach efforts to provide information on ODHH’s information and referral services for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind populations. I have also provided presentations on the overview of the Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing’s programs, and employment issues of Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind populations. In addition, I have provided training sessions to assisted living facilities in Green Bay and Outagamie counties that work primarily with older adults on the best communication practices when serving people who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Deaf-Blind.

I work with Jennifer Koehn, the Deaf Disability Benefit Specialist, to coordinate and organize informational sessions on disability benefits for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind people in Wisconsin. We provide assistance to consumers to find appropriate services and resources related to communication access to help alleviate their problems and increase their quality of life.

Meet Our Statewide Deaf Disability Benefit Specialist!



JENNIFER KOEHN
Statewide Deaf Disability
Benefits Specialist

My name is Jennifer Koehn. I am the statewide Deaf Disability Benefit Specialist (DBS) providing benefits counseling and advocacy related to Social Security benefits or private/public health insurance. During my first four years of working as a DBS, I spent most of my working time participating in the DBS program monthly training, providing 1:1 benefits counseling and advocacy to the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind community.

As I am entering my fifth year of working as a DBS, I am shifting my goals to focus on outreach work, such as providing workshops for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind community about Social Security benefits, Medicare and Medicaid. This past spring, I provided a two-hour presentation on information and resources related to Social Security benefits, Medicare and Medicaid in the Madison and Milwaukee areas. This experience was very successful as I recognized the desire the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind community has to learn more about their current and future Social Security benefits, Medicare, Medicaid and its programs and the resources available in the State of Wisconsin.

I realized that a two-hour presentation was not enough time to break down all topics and address the questions and discussions that were generated from the audience. For this reason, I am excited to be working with ODHH’s Regional Coordinators to set up longer workshops in several locations for this coming fall and winter.

Meet the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Steering Committee

People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing with mental health or Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) needs have historically been underserved. Roughly 2 percent of people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing who need support for a behavioral health issue receives appropriate care. For example:

- Many Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Deaf-Blind people have experienced some degree of trauma or emotional neglect as a result of their hearing loss. This can impact their emotional development. Children experiencing a lack of effective communication can develop long-term issues such as lack of self-value, depression and lack of trust in others. *
- Many different communication techniques and language preferences are used within the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind community. This complicates effective planning and capacity for effectively communicating with each person as there is no “one-size-fits-all” approach. *
- When a Deaf person presents for Mental Health (MH) or AODA services, his or her needs related to communication and a hearing limitation may receive primary attention while their MH/AODA problems go unaddressed. *



MELANI KAPLAN
Human Services Program
Coordinator
Central Office



The full spectrum of mental health and AODA services should be available from staff and service providers who are fluent in sign language, familiar with the diverse needs of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing populations, and know the complexity of ensuring ethical and confidential services. Facilities should be appropriately furnished with equipment such as visual alerting devices, video phones, captioning on televisions, and in a Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) where individuals have access to daily communications that others may take for granted.

The ODHH, in partnership with the Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DMHSAS), the Wisconsin Educational Services Program—Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WESP-DHH), Mental Health of America-Wisconsin, Rogers InHealth, the Wisconsin Association of the Deaf and other community stakeholders, has formed a committee to improve access to appropriate services in Wisconsin. The **Mental Health and Substance Abuse Steering Committee for advancing understanding, care and support for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind individuals in Wisconsin** is highly active. A few examples of the committee’s efforts include:

- A Procedures Manual – designed to educate service providers and staff on the needs facing this unique population and the considerations for accommodations within inpatient and outpatient treatment settings;
- The development of videos with personal stories of individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Deaf-Blind and in recovery from mental health or AODA issues;
- Information sessions for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind community about mental wellness, mental health issues, AODA issues and getting help;
- Reducing systems roadblocks to both deaf provider licensure and state capacity for provision of tele-health services; and
- A website sharing the committee’s efforts, the latest research in this field, videos, manuals and related information.

** From the 2012 Strategic Plan for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services for People who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or Deaf-Blind developed during the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Mental Health Summit in Pewaukee, Wisconsin, March 13, 2012.*





A warm welcome to the new members of the ODHH team!

Caroline Ludka: Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialist, Southeastern Region

My name is Caroline Ludka and I am the new Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialist for the Southeastern region of Wisconsin.



I'm originally from Iowa and attended Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR). I received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art and American Sign Language (ASL) Studies from the UALR, and obtained a Masters' Degree in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Arkansas – Fayetteville Research and Training Center. I interned as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor and Employment Specialist with the State of Maine – Division of Vocational Rehabilitation for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. I've lived in Wisconsin since 2005. Over the years I've been a teacher, a guest speaker, a mentor, and I continue to advocate for people with all types of hearing loss. I am a member of the Hearing Loss Association of America and serve as the local co-chair for the annual Milwaukee

Walk4hearing – an annual Hearing Loss Association of America Walkathon since 2010. I look forward to this new chapter of my life with ODHH as a Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialist for the Southeastern Region.

Carly Bieri: Staff Sign Language Interpreter

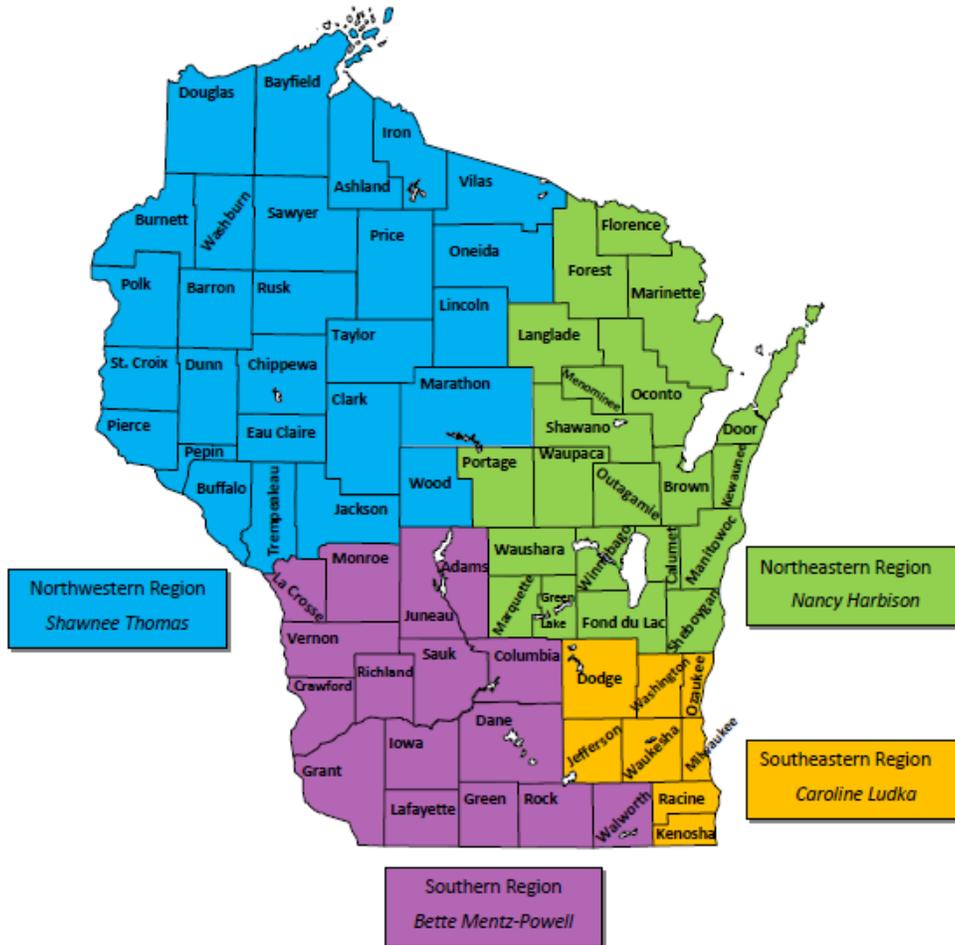
I would like to send you a warm 'Hello' and take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Carly Bieri and I recently joined the ODHH staff working within the Communication and Access



Development Unit (CADU) as the staff sign language interpreter. I am a native of Monona, Wisconsin, and hold my National Certification from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf and also my renewable license from the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services. I graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and hold my Bachelor of Science degree with majors in both Sign Language Interpretation and ASL Studies. I have been working as a professional interpreter for the past eight years bringing a wealth of experiences to ODHH.

Upon graduation from the Interpreter Training Program in Milwaukee, I moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota, and started my interpreting career working in Video Relay Service. During my time in Minneapolis I also worked for a non-profit organization focusing on global deaf awareness. Three years ago I moved back to Madison, Wisconsin, and began interpreting in an educational setting. All of this demonstrates my experience working with diverse Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind individuals of all ages and backgrounds. I have provided countless hours of professional mentoring to aspiring interpreters enrolled in various Interpreter Training Programs. I really look forward to working with ODHH and getting more involved with the Deaf community in Wisconsin.

New Regions for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialists for the Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



Serve on Wisconsin’s Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



Here’s a way you can serve your community!

The Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is a group of nine people who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf-Blind and hearing (e.g., parent of a deaf child, teacher of the deaf, interpreter) appointed by the Governor in order to advise the Department of Health Services and ODHH on issues and concerns affecting over 500,000 people in Wisconsin who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing and/or Deaf-Blind.

Applicants may apply for appointment to the Council at any time. Appointed members may serve a four-year staggered term or serve out a term vacated by a former Council member. Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind individuals are strongly encouraged to apply.

If interested, please contact Dan Millikin at daniel.millikin@wisconsin.gov or 608-284-8224 or go to <http://walker.wi.gov/governor-office/apply-to-serve/boards-commissions>.



October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month!

Deaf Unity is the only nonprofit organization in the State of Wisconsin dedicated to supporting victims and survivors of abuse who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Deaf-Blind and their families. All services are free, confidential, and safe. Services and advocacy for Deaf victims are provided by:

- Listening to victims regarding their experiences with abuse;
- Providing victims emotional and moral support;
- Empowering victims with information, strategies, and choices to make themselves safe, healthy, and independent;
- Providing information to people who know and are concerned about someone who may be experiencing abuse; and
- Going with the victim to court or medical appointments.

For more information, go to www.deafunitywi.org.



"A great day packed with presentations, information and technology!"

Wisconsin HLAA Conference in Madison, October 18, 2014

The Madison Chapter of the Wisconsin Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) hosted the 2014 Wisconsin HLAA Conference: Hearing Loss in the 21st Century on Saturday, October 18, 2014. The event took place at the Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel on the east side of Madison.

The event included ten presentations, exhibitors with information, and demonstrations. It was fully accessible with hearing loops and captioning. The Keynote speaker was Anna Gilmore Hall, RN, MS, CAE, the Executive Director of the Hearing Loss Association of America, who shared her strategic plan for the future of HLAA.

ODHH staff were happy to participate in the event as presenters during two different sessions: Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services for Deaf/Hard of Hearing in Wisconsin; and What Can ODHH Do for You?

For more information about the Madison Chapter of HLAA, go to www.hlaamadison.com.



Teen Getaway Weekend, Jr.

The Teen Getaway Weekend, Jr. is a program designed for middle school students (Grade 6-8) who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Deaf-Blind, regardless of hearing loss or communication preference. The most recent Teen Getaway Weekend, Jr. was held November 7-9, 2014, at the Wisconsin Lions Camp in Rosholt, Wisconsin. The theme of the weekend was "Exploring Social Relationships."

Pre-teens from around the State of Wisconsin had the opportunity to meet one another, participated in fun activities, met and were inspired by adult role models (speaking and/or signing Deaf and Hard of Hearing adults), and explore their own identities. All middle school students, regardless of hearing loss or communication preferences, are invited to attend this unique weekend.

For more information on future events, please go to www.wesp-dhh.wi.gov/wesp/out_teengetawayjr.cfm.

November was Good Nutrition Month!

Did you know that the Department of Health Services has several nutrition programs?



December Schedule of Events

- ◆ **December 3** —
International Day of
People with Disabilities
- ◆ **December 6** —
MHSASC Mental
Wellness Presentation for
the Deaf, Hard of
Hearing and Deaf-Blind,
Delavan
- ◆ **December 11** —
Council for the Deaf and
Hard of Hearing Meeting,
Madison
- ◆ **December 24 - 25** —
Christmas Holiday,
all state offices closed
- ◆ **December 31** —
New Year's Eve,
all state offices closed

FOODSHARE WISCONSIN: FoodShare helps people with limited income buy the food they need for good health.

WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC): WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding education and support, supplemental nutritious foods, and referrals to other healthy and nutrition services.

EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE (TEFAP): TEFAP is a federal program that provides food commodities to distribution sites. Food pantries and prepared meal sites receive commodities that are distributed with other foods. If you need food assistance, then you may be eligible to receive food from food pantries, or prepared meals at meal sites.

ELDERLY NUTRITION: Eat with a group—join other seniors for a nutritious meal served in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. People who are homebound and eligible can have meals delivered by caring volunteers.

COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL: Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) offers free, nutritious foods to low-income seniors aged 60 years and older. The monthly food package, worth about \$35, is available at no cost to eligible people.

The Independent Living Council of Wisconsin Wants You



The Independent Living Council of Wisconsin is looking for people with knowledge of the Centers for Independent Living to join their Council. The Independent Living Council of

Wisconsin is the statewide independent living council under Sec. 705 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Their duties include:

- Developing a State Plan for Independent Living jointly with the Department of Workforce Development, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and;
- Reviewing, monitoring, and evaluating the implementation of the plan.

People with disabilities of all types are encouraged to apply for membership. Members of other traditionally underserved groups such as racial or ethnic minorities, urban residents, and rural residents are also encouraged to apply.

Please contact Arlen Moss, Administrative Coordinator, at arlenm@ilcw.org or 608-256-9257, for information or to apply. Information is also available at www.ilcw.il-wisconsin.net, under "Join Us in Our Work." The Council reviews applications and recommends people for appointment. The Governor appoints Council members to three-year terms.



Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

DIRECTOR

DAN MILLIKIN

**INDIVIDUAL AND SYSTEMS PROGRAM
AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT UNIT
- ISPPDU -**

HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM COORDINATOR
MELANI KAPLAN

DEAF DISABILITY BENEFITS SPECIALIST
JENNIFER KOEHN

DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING SPECIALISTS

SOUTHERN REGION
BETTE MENTZ POWELL

SOUTHEASTERN REGION
CAROLINE LUDKA

NORTHEASTERN REGION
NANCY HARBISON

NORTHWESTERN REGION
SHAWNEE THOMAS

**COMMUNICATION ACCESS AND
DEVELOPMENT UNIT
- CADU -**

SOCIAL SERVICES SUPERVISOR
AMBER MULLETT

TAP/TEPP COORDINATOR
META CUCINOTTA

STAFF INTERPRETER
CARLY BIERI

INTERPRETER
CHANTEL YOUNG



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ODHH MISSION:

TO ENSURE THAT THE VARIETY OF LIFE'S CHOICES AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE TO ALL DEAF, DEAF-BLIND AND HARD OF HEARING PEOPLE.

Questions? Comments?

Do you have a success story, news, or event that you would like to share? Do you want to share what matters most to you?

If there is a topic you would like to see in our upcoming bulletins and vlogs, then please email these to ODHH for consideration.

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Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Report

The [Wisconsin Governor's Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#) is pleased to announce the availability of a free Communication Card to assist with interactions between police officers, emergency personnel and those who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

- Get familiar with the card. Think of how it could work to help in various legal (or other) situations.
- Print out a copy. Keep it in your car, purse, or wallet for emergency use. It can be laminated, stored in the car glove box or above the visor (in a zip lock bag or just folded).



Download your own [Communication Card!](#)