

THE COMMUNICATOR



Chris Christie, *Governor*

Kim Guadagno, *Lt. Governor*

Elizabeth Connolly, *Commissioner*

David Alexander, *Director*

DDHH Attends Middlesex Senior Event

By Ira Hock

This past September, DDHH staff, Ira Hock and Baylie Sappir attended the **Middlesex County Senior Health and Fitness Walk** in Roosevelt Park, Edison New Jersey. It was very successful with more than 600 seniors participating. The division was able to disseminate a lot of information about our programs and services. The DDHH exhibit table was filled with devices available through the Equipment Distribution Program. The display drew many consumers who learned about communication and safety technology for people with hearing loss.



DDHH Outreach Specialist Exhibits Statewide

By Wayne Roorda, *Hard of Hearing Specialist*

The past few months have flown by with presentations at assorted senior centers in conjunction with county offices' on aging etc. Recently I was an exhibitor at a caregiver's conference and met people who were interested in our **Hearing Aid Project and Equipment Distribution Program**. Also, participating in local health fairs is an opportunity to meet other exhibitors to network and share information with those who attend these events.



In October I participated in a **Wounded Warrior Event** at Ft. Dix. Our exhibit table had our brochures with information about DDHH services. I had some individuals take the "Unfair Hearing Test."

Earlier this month, an event in Avalon Community Center was an opportunity to share and display information on Assistive Listening Devices. This popular occasion received local press attention.

We are always interested in participating in health fairs and events to share information about DDHH. Please contact me at wayne.roorda@dhs.state.nj.us with your suggestions.

Spreading Awareness on Deaf-Blind Services

On October 27 the DDHH Advisory Council welcomed members from the **New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI)** and **The College of New Jersey (TCNJ)**. Together the group put on an informative presentation on deaf-blind services and initiatives for community integration. The four main goals of CBVI are to help students in education, provide employment services, encourage independent living and promote eye health.

Services that are available to individuals with combined hearing and vision loss include **iCanConnect New Jersey** and **Support Service Provider (SSP-NJ)**.

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iCanConnect New Jersey provides communications equipment, installation, training and support; whereas SSP-NJ provides visual and environmental information, human guide services, and access to information which helps enable people to make the best informed decision. More information on these services can be found at the websites below.

iCanConnect New Jersey - www.icanconnect.org/how-to-apply/new-jersey

SSP-NJ - www.nj.gov/humanservices/cbvi/services/dbssp/providers/

Carbon Monoxide Detector Discontinued

By Ira Hock

The division plans to continue the **Equipment Distribution Program** for its 26th year in January 2018. The program has grown tremendously when only TTYs were first given out. Now, eligible consumers may receive an amplified phone, smoke detector, baby alert system, artificial electrolarynx device, and captioned phone. The carbon monoxide detector that the program distributed, however, is no longer manufactured. The division is seeking an appropriate replacement device vendor with which to contract.

Applications may be downloaded at: www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/equipment/.

DDHH Attends Statewide Events

By David Alexander, Director

November was a busy month with DDHH staff participating in events statewide. DDHH staff attended both the **New Jersey Association of the Deaf (NJAD)/ New Jersey Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (NJRID)** biennial conference and the Hearing Loss Association of America-NJ (HLAA-NJ) Annual Meeting and Mini fair.

The NJAD/NJRID biennial conference was the second successful collaborative conference hosted by both organizations. In line with the conference theme, "**Envision the Future: Partner, Collaborate and Connect**", the two organizations worked together to plan an incredible conference. It provided two and a half days of informative workshops and trainings by distinguished presenters. In addition, the conference had exhibits and opportunities for networking. The DDHH was a supporter of this conference. In addition, DDHH was one of the exhibitors sharing information with attendees about services and programs available from the agency.

DDHH also attended the HLAA- NJ Annual meeting. Director Alexander welcomed the attendees and provided opening comments for the meeting. Philip Freedman from the Division on Civil Rights provided the keynote presentation addressing the New Jersey Law against Discrimination and how this law impacts people with hearing loss. The meeting also offered a mini fair with a variety of resources available to people with hearing loss. DDHH participated in the fair providing information and responding to consumer questions about hearing loss.



DDHH Training and Workshops

By David Alexander, Director

A reminder to our constituents that DDHH is available to provide workshops on a variety of topics related to hearing loss and deafness. These workshops are available to private, public and government entities. If you are interested in learning more about the types of workshops available to the community please contact us at 609-588-2648.

Also, the Division has recently published new updated brochures on programs and services offered by DDHH. To read the division's brochures, please [Click Here](#).

A Note from the NJ Relay & CapTel Manager

By Lori Timney

I'm honored to be the new manager of NJ Relay & CapTel. I worked with the previous manager, Aparna Lele, as an outreach specialist for nine years. You and I may have met at one of the many booths I staffed or presentations I gave for NJ Relay & CapTel. I truly enjoy meeting people and helping them get the most out of the services and products available via NJ Relay & CapTel.

I look forward to continuing to provide and market relay and CapTel services for all New Jerseyans. The outreach team continues to travel all over the state to exhibit and give presentations, so let us know of events or groups that may be interested in a free demonstration or presentation. For questions or requests, contact me at lori.timney@sprint.com. The NJ Relay & CapTel team wishes you joyous holidays!

NJ Relay & CapTel is seeking to hire an Outreach Specialist.

Here's the link for this job description: www.advantagexpo.com/candidates/job-search/position/23459

To learn more about our services contact:

Relay Services - www.njrelay.com

Customer Service - NJ Relay (844) 525-4877 TTY/Voice/ASCII

DDHH Advisory Council Meeting

Friday, January 26, 2018

9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

East Brunswick Public Library

2 Jean Walling Civic Center

East Brunswick, NJ 08816

**Presenter: Pamela Aasen, Program Director,
Early Hearing Detection and
Intervention Program,
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network, Inc.**



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM
THE STAFF AT DDHH

REMINDER: If you would like to be notified when our newsletter is posted on line at www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/newsletters/communicator/current/ please send your email address to: monthlycommunicator@dhs.state.nj.us. This will also enable the division to email DDHH news updates and other information about hearing loss.

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

Office Closed: December 25 – Christmas
January 1 – New Year’s Day
January 15 – Martin Luther King Day
February 19 – President’s Day
March 30 – Good Friday

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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