

Monthly Communicator

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

November 2015 | www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/home/index.html

Chris Christie, Governor

Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor

Elizabeth Connolly, Acting Commissioner

David Alexander, Director

DDHH Volunteers in the Community

On Tuesday, September 29, DDHH Director David Alexander along with other executive staff from the Department of Human Services volunteered to serve meals at the **Trenton Area Soup Kitchen**. This is a non-profit organization with a mission to feed those who are hungry in the Trenton area and offer programs to encourage self-sufficiency and improve the quality of life of its patrons.

This event was organized by Acting Commissioner Beth Connolly. Executive staff volunteered as a group to serve the evening meals. They were joined by other volunteers representing local high schools, colleges and other individuals from the community. Staff assisted with preparing food trays and delivering them to individuals and families who are patrons of the meal service.

It's an unfortunate truth that millions of Americans go hungry every day. Soup kitchens, which rely on volunteers and charitable donations, are one good step toward ending hunger. DDHH was pleased to be part of the generosity of DHS to assist people in the local community to overcome their hunger.

DRNJ Summit in Trenton

Ira Hock attended the **New Jersey Disability Rights' Assistive Technology Advocacy Center's Summit** on Friday, September 25 in Trenton. Kathy Wood, Chairman, ATAC Advisory Committee welcomed community participants to network and educate others on new technology for people with disabilities. Representatives from **Middlesex College, ALS Association, Medshare, The Leaguers, Inc.** were some of the attendees that shared their experiences with the group.

Online News

Division staff met with Joey Garth and Kevin Mona to learn about their new online news service, www.njdeafnews.com that will advertise activities and events for the Deaf community. They will present at the October 30 DDHH advisory council meeting at the East Brunswick Public Library. HLAA-NJ Joel Strasser will also present on their online news service.

DDHH Meets with the Division of Developmental Disabilities

The Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has been collaborating with DDD to provide efficient services for its mutual clients. Toward this end, Catie Purrazzella, David Alexander, and Jason Weiland met with DDD Director Elizabeth Shea and Deputy Commissioner Dawn Apgar to discuss how DDHH and DDD may work

together to address the communication access needs of people who are Deaf and hard of hearing and who are clients of DDD. Feedback received from the community was shared with DDD. The meeting ended on a positive note and a commitment from both DDHH and DDD to meet again and plan strategies for improving communication access.

Questions and/or concerns about this project can be shared with Catie Purrazzella at: Catherine.purrazzella@dhs.state.nj.us or (609) 503-4862.

NJ DDHH Provides Training EMT's

The NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing often is called upon to provide training to various agencies and organizations with the State of New Jersey related to hearing loss and services for the deaf and hard of hearing. This past month, Jason Weiland provided cultural sensitivity and awareness training to more than 20 emergency medical technicians (EMT) at the *Princeton Fitness and Wellness Center* in collaboration with the Community Education and Outreach unit in the Princeton Healthcare System. Attendees were volunteer EMTs from various locations in the Mercer County area which has a strong Deaf and hard of hearing population and includes the *Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf*.

If your agency or program is interested in scheduling a training/presentation, please contact Jason at (609) 498-7006 or Jason.weiland@dhs.state.nj.us.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 29, 2016

DDHH Advisory Council Meeting

Time and Location: TBA

Happy
THANKSGIVING!

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

**Office Closed: November 3 – Election Day, November 11 - Veteran's Day,
November 26 - Thanksgiving Day**

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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