

Monthly Communicator

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

October 2015 | 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

Most people are aware that DDHH advocates on behalf of people who are deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind. Not as well known, is that DDHH also serves people who are speech impaired. Our **Equipment Distribution Program** includes an artificial larynx device. People who have had their larynx removed due to medical reason often are unable to produce speech. The artificial larynx device enables these individuals to produce speech and to communicate.

■ **Cathy Grehlinger**, *Coordinator of Communication Access Services*, has returned to work after an extended absence. Welcome back Cathy! Please call her for assistance with communication access referrals at 609-588-2648.

■ DDHH often receives inquiries from consumers who wish to donate used TTY's or other used assistive technology devices to the division. Please be aware that DDHH does not accept donations of used assistive technology devices. Our constituents are encouraged to contact "**Back in Action**" at the following link: <http://backinaction.drnj.org/home.php>

Refurbished Hearing Aids

by Ira Hock

The DDHH, Montclair State University, and Sertoma Inc., collaborate on a program that refurbishes and distributes used hearing aids. To donate a used hearing aid, send in a padded envelope, box or unlabeled prescription container to:

Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Montclair State University
New Jersey Hearing Aid Project
1515 Broad Street, Bldg. B
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

To request an application to receive a hearing aid, contact DDHH at 609-588-2648 or www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/home/hearingaidproject.html.

NJ DDHH Co-sponsors Deaf Fest 2015

by Jason Weiland, *DDHH Field Representative*

On September 20, **New Jersey Deaf Awareness Week (NJDAW)** hosted the **13th Deaf Fest** at the Middlesex County Fairgrounds in East Brunswick, NJ. Hundreds descended on the fairgrounds to browse tables from video relay providers like Sorenson and Purple along with wireless provider Sprint Relay. Two tents were available for attendees to learn more about services such as addiction counseling, mental health services, employment, education and advocacy. **New Jersey Association for the Deaf** hosted a table and visitors could learn more about the **Domestic Violence Advocacy Project** in which NJ DDHH is a partner through the planning process. Vendors also were available to sell clothing, assistive devices, technology, and crafts. Under the main tent, a variety of entertainment captivated the audience.

NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing had a booth with a representative answering questions about the equipment distribution program, advocacy, resources, technology, and other topics related to programs and services the division offers. In addition, NJ DDHH was one of several sponsors for the event and provided funding for provision of captioning and interpreters to allow the event to be accessible to all. The next Deaf Fest event will be held in 2017.

ACTIVITIES

■ DDHH Advisory Council

The next *DDHH Advisory Council* meeting will be held on Friday, October 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the East Brunswick Public Library. Communication access will be provided with Sign Language Interpreters, realtime captioning, and assistive listening devices. Speaker to be determined.

■ Walk4Hearing

The *Hearing Loss Association of America New Jersey Walk4Hearing* will occur on Sunday, October 18 2015 at Mercer County Park, West Windsor, New Jersey.

Info at: <http://hearingloss-nj.org/htm/dates/dates.htm>

■ First-ever Joint Conference

The *New Jersey Association of the Deaf and New Jersey Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf* has partnered to host the first-ever joint conference. It will be held on November 6-8, 2015 at Hilton Hotel in Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey. Additional information can be found at: www.njadnjrid.org/.

■ Fall Workshop

The Association of Late-Deafened Adults—Garden State fall workshop, lunch and open house will occur on Saturday, November 7, 2015, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Additional information at: www.aldags.moonfruit.com/events-calendar/4585669361

Calendar of Events

October 30, 2015

DDHH Advisory Council Meeting

9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the East Brunswick Public Library

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

Office Closed : Monday, Oct. 12 - Columbus Day

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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