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ODHH Monthly Bulletin

October 2013

Greetings from Executive Director Lisa Kornberg

September was a really busy month for us at ODHH! There were so many great events for Deaf Awareness Week! I hope you had a chance to attend some of the events to learn more about Deaf culture and heritage. I also want to give a special thank you to those who attended our Town Hall Meeting at the Hearing and Speech Agency. We really enjoyed meeting with you and learning about your vision for a more accessible Maryland.

October is shaping up to be as exciting as September. October is National Disability Awareness Month, which is the theme of this month's bulletin. As I mentioned in last month's bulletin, we are thrilled to be partnering again with the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR) to host two workshops for job seekers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind. We encourage you to attend! As part of our theme, we are also featuring a spotlight on the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS).

Also, check out the bulletin to learn about two very important traffic laws that took effect in Maryland on October 1.

Finally, don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Twitter for updates!

Happy reading!

~Lisa

This Month:

[NDEAM Workshops for Jobseekers](#)

[Department of Rehabilitative Services \(DORS\)](#)

[New Laws Taking Effect in Maryland](#)

[NDEAM Workshops for Jobseekers](#)



October is "National Protect Your Hearing" Month

Noise-induced hearing loss is completely preventable. If your hearing is damaged by noise, that hearing loss is irreversible.

Hearing loss is a growing health issue among young adults and older Americans. There are 48 million people nationwide with hearing loss.

October is National Protect Your Hearing Month, an important reminder to take steps to preserve your hearing health. That means limiting exposure to loud noises, as well as using ear protection when attending sports events or music concerts.

Follow the "60/60 Rule,"



As a reminder, don't forget about the workshops we are offering this month! The Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH), together with the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR), are proud to be partnering again in honor of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). During the month of October, ODHH and DLLR will host two workshops for job-seekers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind. Held each

October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is a national campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. This year's theme is "Because We Are EQUAL to the Task."

Both workshops will include information on basic job-seeking skills and a tour of a DLLR American Job Center (previously known as One Stop Career Center).

The workshop scheduled for Tuesday, October 15, 2013, will be held at the Frederick County Business and Employment Center (5340 A Spectrum Drive, Frederick, Maryland 21703) and will focus on job-seeking skills for people who are deaf and use ASL to communicate. Craig "Hank" Passi, Staff Specialist, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services and Statewide Coordinator for the Deaf for the Division of Rehabilitation Services, will be the expert presenter on issues faced by job-seekers who are deaf.

The workshop on Thursday, October 31, 2013, will be held at MontgomeryWorks (Westfield Shopping Center, South Office Building, 11002 Veirs Mill Road, Wheaton, MD 20902) and will focus on job-seeking skills for people with a hearing loss or who are hard of hearing. Lise Hamlin, Director of Public Policy for the Hearing Loss Association of America, will serve as the expert presenter on issues faced by job-seekers with a hearing loss.

Both workshops are free and open to job-seekers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind. Professionals working with people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind are also encouraged to attend. Registration is required and can be done online at <http://tinyurl.com/n2vp76z>.

Department of Rehabilitative Services (DORS)



The Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) offers programs and services that help Maryland citizens with hearing loss get ready for work and independence. Some specialized services to help job-seekers reach their goals include:

- Audiological evaluation and assessment
- Assistive devices
- Telecommunication devices
- Speech and language therapy

which means limiting the use of ear bud headphones to 60 minutes at a time and at 60 percent of the device's maximum volume.

Talk to a hearing health care provider or your physician and schedule a hearing test. If you do have hearing loss, it is important to discuss it with your family and seek treatment.

Common signs of hearing loss include:

- Turning up the volume on the TV or radio to the level that others find too loud
- Having trouble understanding on the phone
- Having difficulty following conversations in noisy backgrounds such as in restaurants

For other signs of hearing loss, click [here](#).

For more on hearing loss prevention, click [here](#).

[Workplace noise dangers](#)

[Teenagers experienced reduced hearing ability after attending a concert.](#)

[Hearing Health for Young Musicians](#)

**October is
Breast Cancer
Awareness Month**

**National Breast Cancer
Awareness Month is a**

- Interpreter services

Rehabilitation Counselors for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing have the training needed to help meet the unique needs of people who have hearing loss. These DORS counselors understand deaf culture as well as the struggles faced by those who have lost their hearing later in life. Many are deaf themselves. These counselors can talk with you about how to go to work including how to:

- Find out about the accommodations you will need to attend school or training
- Interview for a job
- Ask an employer for reasonable accommodations

DORS counselors who work just with people who are deaf or have a hearing loss are located in the following DORS offices:

- Frederick
- Germantown
- Wheaton
- Lanham
- Annapolis
- Salisbury
- Baltimore City
- Towson

There are also counselors in other DORS offices who serve people who are deaf along with individuals with other disabilities.

Governor Martin O'Malley has proclaimed September 23-28, 2013 as Deaf Awareness Week. The proclamation calls upon all Marylanders to observe the week and recognize the abilities and potential of our fellow citizens who are Deaf. "In Maryland, we are united in our belief in the dignity of every individual," said Governor O'Malley. "It is in the interest of the State to work together to ensure that those who are Deaf have equal and full access to resources, services, and opportunities for participation in all aspects of community life."

The purpose of Deaf Awareness Week, also known as International Week of the Deaf, is to celebrate the culture, heritage, and language unique to Deaf people of the world. The intent of the week is to show the diversity, accomplishments, and potential of the Deaf community. As a part of Deaf Awareness Week, Marylanders are encouraged to increase awareness, understanding, and support for individuals who are Deaf. Be sure to check out our Facebook page and follow us on Twitter for more information about the week's events.

New Laws Taking Effect in Maryland



In Maryland, using a handheld device while driving was already illegal but as a secondary offense, which meant that the driver must have already been committing another offense, such as speeding. On October 1, it became a primary offense, which means drivers can get a ticket if they are using a handheld device, even if they

chance to raise awareness about the importance of screening and the early detection of breast cancer.

About 1 in 8 women born today in the United States will get breast cancer at some point during her life. After skin cancer, breast cancer is the most common kind of cancer in women.

The good news? Many women can survive breast cancer if it's found and treated early.

A mammogram - the screening test for breast cancer - can help find breast cancer early.

Make a difference!

Spread the word about mammograms and encourage communities, organizations, families, and individuals to get involved.

For more information about Breast Cancer Awareness, click [here](#).

To view videos about Breast Cancer in ASL, click [here](#).

ODHH on the Move

Brown Bag Lunch for Professionals

October 25
12 Noon
Kennedy Krieger Institute
Baltimore, MD

NDEAM Jobseeker Workshop

are not breaking any other traffic rules. Now all an officer needs to pull a driver over and issue that person a ticket is to see him or her using the cellphone while driving. Texting while driving is already a primary offense in Maryland.

The fines for drivers caught using cellphones are as follows:

- \$75 - first offense
- \$125 - second offense
- \$175 - third and subsequent offenses

Another new traffic law that took effect on October 1 is a seatbelt law making it a primary offense to drive or be a passenger in the front seat without a seat belt. Drivers or passengers riding in a car in the front seat must wear a seat belt or face a \$50 fine.

Since it's a primary offense for people in front seats, a driver can be pulled over for only the seat belt offense. The fine doesn't apply only to the driver; a passenger can be ticketed, too. So if you are a passenger over 16 years old, you will get a ticket too. If the passenger is younger than 16, the driver will get the ticket. An unbuckled backseat passenger faces a \$50 fine as well, but that remains a secondary offense.

Questions? Comments? Contact:

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October 31
1 PM
MontgomeryWorks
Wheaton, MD

MDAD/PCRID Conference

November 1-2
Maryland School for the Deaf
Columbia, MD

HLAA Walk 4 Hearing

November 3
Washington, D.C.

Brown Bag Lunch for Professionals

November 22
12 Noon
Maryland School for the Deaf
Columbia, MD

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