



Maryland Advisory Council on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Meeting  
Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) ~ Hanover, MD  
September 14, 2011

**Attendees:** Carl Bailey (DHR), Ann Black, Marian Bland (DHMH), Amy Bopp, Dakota Burgess (MDOA) Carl Davis, Cheri Dowling, Stacey Farone (MSD), Shane Feldman, Dr. Kathleen Heck (MSDE), Gary Monroe (MCHR), Sara M (DLLR), Jack Rouse (DHCD), Nwokoma Sampson, and Robin Underwood (MDOT).

**Absent:** Nancy Jenkins, Laurie Corcoran

**Staff:** Lisa Kornberg, Laura Quinn, and Julie Schafer

**Guests:** Brenda Kelly-Frey, Lisa Jordan, Sheri Levy

**Interpreters:** Jessica Gabrian, Carrie Quigley, Kelly Stein, Gerard Williams

**CART:** Steve Clark, Nancy Francis

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### **New Members**

Carl Davis is deaf in one ear and is a resident of Southern Maryland. He discovered the Council when looking for a board to be a part of where he could provide his expertise as a person with a hearing loss. He is also a veteran working for the Fire Department at the Pawtuxet River Naval Base.

**ACTION ITEM: Get information about ASL classes in Southern Maryland for Carl Davis.**

Nwokoma Samson is deaf, and a resident of Howard County.

There is one remaining opening for a member from the community.

**ACTION ITEM: Send CV form information to Lisa Jordan to apply for appointment to the Council.**

### **Financial Statements**

Financial statements are due every year around tax time for the previous calendar year. New members must submit their statement once they are appointed for the previous year.

## **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the June 2011 meeting were approved as written.

## **BYLAWS**

Ann Black made the recommendation that it be specified in the bylaws that the deafblind representative must be someone who is deafblind. They are more sensitive to the issues of deafblind individuals. Since this part of the bylaws is based on the language of the law itself, it can not be changed in the bylaws. However, the ODHH has a lot of say in who is appointed to the position and know the importance of having an individual who is deafblind representing that community.

The Bylaws were approved as written.

## **SUBCOMMITTEES**

New members must join one of the three subcommittees. The new MSDE and MSD representatives, Dr. Kathleen Heck and Stacey Farone, were asked to join the Education Subcommittee.

## **Education Subcommittee – Cheri Dowling**

### Statistics

At the last meeting in June, the subcommittee decided to work on getting agencies around the State of Maryland that are reporting on statistics related to deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind students to work together to create one report to ensure better accuracy. Dr. Heck informed the subcommittee that the matter would be addressed during the stakeholder meeting that will be held throughout the State and is on the agenda for MSDE to develop better reporting on this data.

### Regional Activity for Students with Hearing Loss

The subcommittee decided to revive the idea to host a regional fun activity for deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind students in that region to meet and socialize with others in their area. The event will be for both mainstream and MSD students. The first region they plan to host an event for is Baltimore, Harford, and Cecil Counties. The idea is to have a bowling party in the White Marsh area and get an organization like the Lions Club to be a sponsor.

### Family Support and Resource Center (FSRC)

The Family Support and Resource Center (FSRC) provides support for families of children, from birth to age 21, who have a hearing loss. Funding is through MSDE. They are part of the Preschool Partners and Partners for Success programs in the counties for the two age groups. However, FSRC is a little bit different because it specifically serves families of children with hearing loss, is statewide, and serves the full age range. The counties contact FSRC when a new child is identified. The Partners for Success in each county is a team of a parent and an educator. For the FSRC, Cheri is a parent of a deaf child and is paired up with Patricia Timms, an educator in the Family Education Department at MSD. They have offices on both campuses of MSD. Cheri also serves on several committees, like this one, as a parent representing the needs of families throughout the State.

They have a lending library with books and media about and for children with hearing loss, and they can send the materials out through the mail, or home with a student.

They provide all kinds of workshops and support groups, such as workshops about parent rights and the IEP process, a workshop about woman's wellness, a special needs support group, and a cochlear implant support group. If a program is for parents only, it will be noted on the flyer. Last year, they held a workshop for parents about stress. There is also a monthly newsletter that goes out. The September 2011 newsletter was distributed and can be found at [http://www.msd.edu/publications/pfs/v12i8\\_2011\\_09.pdf](http://www.msd.edu/publications/pfs/v12i8_2011_09.pdf).

Amy Bopp asked if there was a mother losing her hearing and she needs her 4 year old child to learn ASL could Cheri help. Cheri said she would help, but she may need to refer them to their county services as well.

## **Behavioral Health Subcommittee – Carl Bailey**

The subcommittee is normally pretty active between the quarterly meetings but took a break for summer. The next meeting is scheduled for September 26. The idea came up that they may want to consider changing the name of subcommittee to reflect the broader concerns that have come up in the meetings.

DHMH continues to do restructuring as they move further towards the behavioral health model. So the subcommittee is looking to see how these changes will impact the deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind communities.

## **Communication Access Subcommittee – Shane Feldman**

The subcommittee had a very productive conference call last week. Ann Black was able to participate through an interpreter. A few people learned something new about participating via video phone.

They talked about deaf-blind needs regarding making phone calls and the FCC petition focusing on provision of interpreters for deaf-blind people, which the FCC has not acted on yet.

Robin Underwood also talked about MDOT's work on the Baltimore Metro and MARC trains with captioned signage. The community really wants to recognize that accomplishment with a ceremonial event but they've been very resistant to the idea due to fiscal constraints. She also reported that they will be putting up non-discrimination posters.

The airport is doing away with a lot of the phone banks but will be keeping some. These must include accessible telephones. Most deaf individuals do not use TTY and there are many other options now that are quickly replacing TTY. However, there is a few that still use them for various reasons, like lack of high speed internet access, preference for English based communication, or the need for deafblind technology.

Shane received notice that his complaint with MCHR was closed for failure to communicate, because he didn't respond to the letters that were sent to him, due to the fact that he was traveling. If the person filing a complaint does not respond to follow up correspondence sent to them within a certain period, then the complaint is closed. However, if someone from the Council needs assistance, it is best to contact Gary Monroe from MCHR directly. He is always available via e-mail at [gmonroe@mail.mchr.state.md.us](mailto:gmonroe@mail.mchr.state.md.us).

## **AGENCY REPORTS**

Some agency reports submitted a written report prior to the meeting and those are included as Addendum A.

### **ODHH Directors Report – Lisa Kornberg**

- In honor of Deaf Awareness Week this month, the Governor has proclaimed Deaf Awareness Week in Maryland and Lisa presented a copy of the proclamation to Shane, a representative of the MDAD.
- Julie Schafer has started providing ASL classes twice a week, for the entire month, to the staff of the Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) as part of the Deaf Awareness Week festivities.
- Julie recently attended a Legislative Meeting with members of the community and some local legislators in Maryland.
- A Town Hall Meeting is schedule during the Maryland Association of the Deaf (MDAD) Conference, November 11-12, 2011 at the Columbia Campus of MSD.
- ODHH has 3 interns: one from Gallaudet University – Social Work program, one from University of Baltimore - School of Law, and one from the Towson University - Deaf Studies Program.
- Laura Quinn captioned 76 videos for the Governor on the StateMaryland YouTube Channel during FY11
- Lisa is participating in the Hearing Assistive Technology (HAT) Conference – and will provide additional assistive technology training as a follow up to that conference.
- Lisa attended a MSDE/DORS meeting to discuss setting up a special position for serving individuals who are deafblind. They are currently writing the job description for that position.
- Lisa and Julie recently met with Secretary Chow of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs and they are working on including information about hearing loss and including ODHH in their outreach.
- The Department of Public Safety and Corrections is working on curriculum for their corrections staff on interacting with deaf and hard of hearing inmates.
- Laura presented a Governor's Citation for Julie Moyer to Robin Underwood of MDOT in appreciation of her years of services on the Council.

### Technology Distribution for Deafblind

The 21st Century Video and Technology Act was passed and signed by President Obama last year in October and it provides access to current technology to individuals who are deaf-blind. The FCC has requested that one entity in each state be the lead agency in providing such equipment to provide appropriate access to individuals who are deaf-blind. Brenda Kelly-Frey stated that Maryland Relay/Telecommunications Access of Maryland (TAM) is going after the lead on that for Maryland since they have 15 years of experience providing equipment to individuals who are hard of hearing, speech disabled, and physically disabled. They had a meeting to see which agencies in the State of Maryland and other organizations can partner with them to make it the most effective program that there is to offer.

### Emergency Management

During Hurricane Irene, the Office worked closely with the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and the Governor's Office to ensure that interpreters were provided for the Governor's press conferences. However, the TV stations cropped out the interpreter or had other items on the screen making it smaller or not showing the interpreter at all. On the Governor's live feed on his website, the interpreter remained in full view the entire time. Brenda recommended that community members write a letter to the new stations thanking them for the coverage with the interpreter but requesting that they please keep the interpreter in full view during the entire broadcast. She also noted that live broadcasts are not always captioned.

### Visual Language Assistant (VLA) Card Grant

Several years ago, a student at MSD, named Bobby Harris, did an internship with the Frederick Police Department and developed a visual communicator for police. The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) was able to get a grant through the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) to print and distribute these VLA cards with the help of ODHH. They also got input from the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI) about other individuals with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) who would benefit from the use of the VLA cards. Emphasis was placed on the fact that this tool does not replace the need for an interpreter and should only be used for emergencies. The distribution of the cards included a 15 minute training PowerPoint for police when the cards are handed out during roll call. These cards do not help much with the deafblind but that is addressed in the sensitivity and awareness training that ODHH provides to law enforcement agencies.

The training PowerPoint was shown to the Council.

### **Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) – Marian Bland**

As part of the Behavioral Health Integration, DHMH is planning to integrate administrations. They are currently looking at dual regulations for the Mental Hygiene Administration (MHA) and the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration (ADAA). One of the areas they are looking at is financing. They are in the exploratory phase, and are holding stakeholder meetings in the community. More information can be found at <http://www.dhmh.state.md.us/bhd/integrationefforts.html>. There was also a PowerPoint that was distributed about DHMH.

### Other items:

- All agencies under DHMH will experience cost containment and are being asked to reduce their budgets.
- The new director of the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) is Frank Kirkland.
- The Autism Commission report is available on the DDA website at [http://dhmh.maryland.gov/autism/pdf/2011/Autism\\_Report.pdf](http://dhmh.maryland.gov/autism/pdf/2011/Autism_Report.pdf)
- In the fall the ADAA plans to put out Request for Proposals (RFP) for deaf services.
- New initiative – New State Health Improvement Process

**Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) – Dakota Burgess**

The MDOA will be providing trainings for volunteers and community partners on Medicare Part D from September 15 through October 14. Open enrollment is from October 15 through December 7.

The Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) is looking for volunteers. If anyone is interested and would like a brochure, they may contact Dakota by calling her at 410-767-1101.

**ACTION ITEM: Have proclamation and other new attachments printed in Braille.**

**NEXT MEETING**

Date: December 6, 2011

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Location: Southern Maryland (TBD)

**STATE AGENCY REPORTS**  
**to the Maryland Advisory Council on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**  
**September 14, 2011**

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**Maryland Department of Aging (MDoA) Report**

**Update on Departmental Priorities**

There have not been any significant changes in MDoA's priorities.

**Specific Programs, Projects and /or Services Being Developed or Implemented to Address Constituent Concerns**

Since the beginning of the Medicare Part Drug Prescription Program (Medicare Part D), the Maryland Dept. of Aging Senior Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) has sponsored pre-AEP trainings for SHIP volunteers and community partners (not beneficiaries) throughout the State. This year, the Annual Enrollment Period (AEP) has been moved- earlier, to October 15-December 7th.

The following list shows the dates/locations planned for the Pre-AEP trainings:

- Sept. 15th--Montgomery County (Sunrise at Fox Hill, Bethesda)
- Sept. 19th--Queen Anne's County
- Sept. 22nd--Baltimore County (Parkville Senior Center)
- Sept. 26th--Harford County (Havre de Grace)
- Sept. 27th--Washington County (Hagerstown)
- Oct. 3rd--Calvert County (Prince Frederick)
- Oct. 5th--Wicomico County (Salisbury)
- Oct. 13th--Prince George's County (Camp Springs)

The Agenda will include:

1. General presentation on Medicare Part D and Medicare Advantage Issues
  2. LIS/Extra Help
  3. SPDAP and MHIP programs
  4. Medical Assistance/ QMB/SLMB
  5. Medicare Plan Finder
  6. Senior Medicare Patrol Program-Medicare fraud, waste and abuse
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**Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Report**

**1. MSDE Legislative Updates:**

- Maryland State Senate Bill 754 passed in May 2011, establishing the *Permanent* Hearing Aid Loan Bank (HALB) Program.

**2. Specific Projects and Programs:**

- The Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank (HALB) continues to be located in the Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services at the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Dr. Kathleen Heck, Lead Technical Specialist, Low Incidence Disabilities and Resources, currently oversees

the HALB. Since being appointed to her position in March 2011, Dr. Heck has successfully processed eight HALB application requests, and has received seven hearing aid loan returns from families of infants and toddlers across the State. Updated application and application for extension forms are now available on the MSDE website. Dr. Heck will update the hearing aid inventory within the next few months in order to provide more current hearing aid technology devices to infants and toddlers ages birth through three.

- A revised HALB brochure is now available.
- The HALB is currently seeking a part-time licensed Audiologist to work as a consultant to perform such duties as monitoring loaned devices, and testing and programming equipment for the hearing aids.
- The Maryland Quality Assurance Screening (MQAS) Program for Educational Interpreters will be hosting a Fall 2011 workshop entitled “Form, Function, and Foundations” at the John Hopkins University Center for Technology in Education (JHU/CTE) in October. This professional development training will present theory and practice sessions for interpreters working within the State. It will be offered at no-cost to educational interpreters employed by one of the Maryland Local School Systems. The workshop will include a session geared toward interpreters interested in completing the national Educational Interpreters Performance Assessment (EIPA).

### **3. Events of Significance:**

#### **MSDE**

- Dr. Nancy Grasmick, who served as State Superintendent of Schools at the MSDE for twenty years, retired on June 30, 2011. One of her last official engagements was to provide the keynote address at the American Society for Deaf Children (ASDC) Conference held at the Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD) on June 23, 2011. Dr. Grasmick, a strong supporter of children and youth with disabilities, will be sorely missed.
- Dr. Bernard J. Sadusky is now serving as the interim State Superintendent of Schools.
- Maryland’s public schools have again ranked #1 in the nation in Education Week’s 2011 Quality Counts Annual Report, for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row.
- Maryland is one of 11 states to win a federal Race-To-The-Top (RTTT) four-year grant. The \$250 million award will be used to fund initiatives to boost student achievement, through improved teacher effectiveness, assessment and data collection processes, and improving under performing schools.

#### **DSE/EIS**

- Dr. Carol Ann Heath, who served as Assistant State Superintendent for the Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services (DSE/EIS) for fifteen years, retired on August 1, 2011. Dr. Heath established a strong relationship with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. Before her retirement, Dr. Heath approved a discretionary grant awarded to MSD, to support families of children and youth who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing to attend the ASDC Conference held at MSD in June, 2011.

- Ms. Marcella Franczkowski, former Chief of the Early Intervention and Education Branch, DSE/EIS at MSDE, has been appointed to the position of Assistant State Superintendent of the DSE/EIS.
- On July 11, 2011, the DSE/EIS hosted a delegation of special educators from Hong Kong. Ms. Wendy Wong and Ms. Maggie Law, from the Speech and Hearing Services Section, Education Bureau, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, came to the MSDE seeking information regarding services provided to Deaf and Hard of Hearing students in Maryland, who attend MSD, local school systems (LSSs), and birth through age 21 programs in Maryland. They also sought to learn about speech and language services that Maryland provides to its children and youth with disabilities. Presenters to the delegation included staff from the MSDE, speech-language pathologists from the LSSs, audiologists from MSD, and heads of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Programs within the LSSs. Each presenter provided an informative overview of their respective educational areas of expertise/program. Ms. Law and Ms. Wong also shared information regarding characteristics of speech-language services, and Deaf and Hard of Hearing programs in Hong Kong. One significant fact shared was that there is no one Sign Language system utilized in Hong Kong which is similar to American Sign Language; sign language used by those who are Deaf depends on the school that the individual attends, and the community in which he lives, and varies throughout the region.
- The most recent version of the Maryland Online IEP (MOIEP) became effective on July 1, 2011. Presently, seventeen (17) of twenty-four (24) counties in the State utilize the MOIEP.
- On October 12, 13, and 14, 2011, the DSE/EIS will hold its Annual Leadership Conference. The theme of the Conference is, “The Power of INNOVATIVE LEADERSHIP for RESULTS.” During the Conference, *Maryland Learning Links*, a comprehensive, online special education/early intervention webportal, will be launched. Maryland Learning Links will be interactive, and include online resources, professional development modules, and media to support enhanced teacher and administrative practices for improved results for children and youth with disabilities.
- In an effort to move forward with further development of the State Plan for the Education of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children and Youth in Maryland, the MSDE has obtained a consultant to facilitate Focus Group Sessions. The purpose of the Focus Group Sessions will be to gather information from individuals throughout the State regarding services provided to children, youth, and families who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The Focus Groups will include educators, parents, and advocates, and the sessions will be held in several designated areas within the State. The sessions will be held in Fall, 2011.
- Results of the Focus Group Sessions will be utilized to further develop the State Plan for the Education of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children and Youth in Maryland. The State Plan will address eight major areas of focus: Language and Communication Access, Early Identification and Early Intervention, Family Involvement, Placements and Programs, Technology, System Responsibility: Standards, Assessments, Accountability and Data Collection, Professional Standards and Preparation, and Collaborative Partnerships.

#### 4. Information for Dissemination to Constituents:

- *Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank Brochure*

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## Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) Report

### 1. Update on Departmental Priorities:

- **Behavioral Health Integration**

DHMH is planning to integrate regulations for mental health and substance abuse services. As a first step in the regulations development process, DHMH is soliciting stakeholder feedback on how the new Behavioral Health Regulations (integrated MHA and ADAA regulations) should be organized. One of the structures DHMH is considering is creating three sections: Administrative (includes definitions, governance, records, etc.), Ambulatory Services, and Residential Services. With the goal in mind of promoting administrative simplicity, DHMH would like to hear from stakeholders as to how to best organize the new regulations. Feedback may be provided via email to [regulations\\_integration@dhhm.state.md.us](mailto:regulations_integration@dhhm.state.md.us) by 9/7/11. DHMH will review the feedback and post a proposed structure by September 26, 2011.

#### System options

DHMH is hiring a consultant to meet with stakeholders and develop options for financing an integrated system of care. Consultant meetings were scheduled for August 29 and 30, 2011, however due to the Hurricane the meetings were cancelled. These meetings will be rescheduled at a later date.

#### Chronic care medical home model

DHMH is considering developing a chronic care medical home pilot to provide integrated care. Medicaid held a stakeholder meeting on the chronic care medical home pilot on Thursday, August 18, 2011. Based on this presentation, DHMH is interested in your ideas on this potential pilot for Maryland. Please send comments and suggestions to [Jweaver@dhhm.state.md.us](mailto:Jweaver@dhhm.state.md.us). DHMH will be accepting comments until September 12, 2011.

#### Agency collaboration

ADAA and MHA will be collaborating in implementing steps for integration in Maryland. Updates on cross-agency activities will be posted on DHMH's website.

### 2. New Programs, Projects and/or Services being Developed or Implemented to Address Constituent Concerns:

- Mid-Shore Mental Health Systems provided outreach for interpreting services following the discontinuation of interpreting services by DILA. Mid-Shore has developed contracts with 4 interpreters and is negotiating contracts with possibly 2 additional interpreters. Services to consumers were not disrupted during the contracting process.

### 3. Number of Students Enrolled: N/A

### 4. Staff Concerns

- Springfield Hospital Center's low census on deaf unit
- Staffing for Service Review Meetings at SHC

## **5. Policy Issues, Transition, or Job Training**

Mental Hygiene Administration's (MHA) Office of Special Needs Populations will be scheduling a meeting with providers, advocates and CSAs to review existing policies and conditions of awards for interpreting services in late September/October 2011.

## **6. Significant changes in Budget Impacting Programs/Service (including grants):**

Request for interpreting services have increased in several counties (Howard, Baltimore, and Frederick). MHA increased the interpreting budgets for Baltimore and Frederick counties due to increase in constituents seeking services.

## **7. Events of Significance:**

MHA has obtained grant funds to sponsor three consumers for the Alternatives 2011 Conference to be held in Orlando, Florida on October 26 – October 30, 2011. Grants will cover expenses for registration and airfare. MHA is exploring funding to cover hotel expenses and transportation. Two individuals have been identified. MHA has funding to support one additional constituent's registration and airfare.

## **8. Information for Dissemination to Constituents**

- The Maryland Infant hearing Program is housed within the Office for Genetics and Children with Special Health Care Needs (OGCSHCN), under the direction of Donna X. Harris. The mission of the Infant Hearing Program is "to promote the best communication outcomes for infants with hearing loss by creating and maintaining systems of care that identify these infants and ensure their referral to appropriate intervention services at the earliest possible age." This mission is accomplished in part through tracking, surveillance and data collection utilizing a secure online database.
- Official notification was received in July, 2011 that the Maryland Infant Hearing Program has been awarded a grant from the CDC. Funding offered through this grant will allow enhancements to the current database that will help reduce the number of infants who are Lost to Follow-up/Lost to Documentation (LTF/LTD) during the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) process. In addition, database enhancements will also result in a decreased data entry burden for hospital staff.
- The Program awaits official notification of a HRSA grant award. The HRSA grant funds, if awarded, will be utilized to continue to staff two full-time follow-up hearing screening coordinator positions and will fund placement of hearing screen devices in underserved areas. The state will ensure that all births are reported to the Maryland Infant Hearing Program through collaboration with out-of-hospital birth providers, the Home Visiting program, and other state agencies. The program will work to build relationships and improve communication with physicians and audiologists in the state to better coordinate care and improve reporting for infants who require hearing screening or diagnostic services. Finally, a long-term action plan will be developed for the future of all Early Hearing Detection and Intervention services that is responsive to the needs of the population it serves.

- The Infant Hearing Program held its annual Stakeholders Meeting on August 12, 2011. The theme this year was centered around the medical home concept. The Infant Hearing Program is staffed by a program chief, Tanya D. Green, a program audiologist, Erin Filippone, and two follow-up coordinators, Theresa Thompson and Stephanie Hood. The Infant Program may be reached by calling 1-800-633-1316 or 410-767-5603.

**ADDENDUM:**

**DHMH Budget:** Preparation of budgets for FY13 are taking place. All State agencies should expect some cost containments to be on the table.

**Behavioral Health Integration:** See attached PowerPoint.

**Developmental Disabilities Administration** – The new Director for DDA is Frank Kirkland. See attached press release. Also, the Autism Commission Interim Report is on DDA’s and the Autism web site. Please review and offer any comments to Janet Furman (DDA Autism Coordinator) at [JFurman@dhmh.state.md.us](mailto:JFurman@dhmh.state.md.us).

**Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration:** The MD Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration (ADAA) has extended the current contract with the University of Maryland DASAM. The Administration is continuing its efforts to develop an RFP for deaf and hard of hearing services to be advertised in the fall.

The National Recovery Month Kick -off Celebration was on September 8, 2011 on the Spring Grove Campus. The ADAA and MHA partnered in this year's event to celebrate recovery from all behavioral health disorders. Recovery Month promotes the societal benefits of treatment for substance use and mental disorders, celebrates people in recovery, lauds the contributions of treatment providers and promotes the message that recovery in all forms is possible.

**Other Announcements:** New State Health Improvement Process (SHIP) launched. Please visit website: <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/ship/> for additional information.

**Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR) Report**

**1. Update on Departmental Priorities**

- Currently, one of DLLR DWDAL’s primary priorities is to ensure that our new Maryland Workforce Exchange Virtual One-Stop System (MWE VOS) is fully operational and functioning properly for the State and our local workforce areas. This includes making sure that all of the data in the system is accurate.

**2. New Programs, Projects and/or Services being Developed or Implemented to Address Constituent Concerns**

- Nothing to report at this time.

**3. Number of requests from Deaf / Hard of Hearing Constituents for Services (by WIA)- since June 1, 2011**

- Anne Arundel County- 6 requests for interpreters from deaf/hard of hearing clients since June 1, 2011
- Baltimore City- no information at this time

- Frederick- During July '10 through June '11, provided Deaf interpreters for 17 seminars (11 customers)
- Mid Maryland has not had any requests for our services during the time period requested
- Prince George's County- had 6 requests
- Southern Maryland- Nothing to report but will keep a log on request and events
- Susquehanna- no requests during this time period
- Upper Shore- no requests during this time period
- Western Maryland- served 6 hearing impaired/deaf individuals since June 1. Of these, 1 Adult customer is in Core Services using our Hagerstown Job Search Lab on a somewhat regular basis, and 5 youth were enrolled in our DORS funded Summer Program that we operated (all of these individuals were in Washington County)

#### **4. Staff Concerns**

- On June 29, 2011- Sudan Khan from the MD Relay provided an hour long training for Maryland's LEA's (Labor Exchange Administrators) about MD Relay services, programs and equipment. In turn, this information and resources will be passed down to the local One-Stop Career Centers. At the end of this training, I encouraged the LEA's to bring MD Relay into the local One-Stop Career Centers to train on their services as well as set up TTY training.
- As a result of the training on June 29, 2011, Sudan Khan from the Maryland Relay presented a 1 hour program on the services Maryland Relay offers to hearing-challenged customers at the Columbia One-Stop Career Center (Mid-Maryland WIA). She demonstrated different services available and how customers can access. This was a full center meeting consisting of all 4 co-located partners, DORS, DLLR, POAC and Howard County Office of Workforce Development.

#### **5. Policy Issues**

- US DOL/ETA issued a Training and Employment Notice about: "Increasing the Public Workforce Development System's Participation in The Ticket to Work (TTW) Program for Disability Beneficiaries." The purpose of this notice is to provide updated information to the state workforce agencies, local workforce investment boards (LWIBs), and One-Stop Career Centers on the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program, including changes to the Social Security Administration's (SSA's) policies for Employment Networks (ENs). The Notice can be accessed at: <http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEN/TEN6-11-ACC.pdf>.

#### **6. Significant changes in Budget Impacting Programs/Service (including Grants)**

- Maryland received a \$7.6m grant, in partnership with Washington D.C., focused on BRAC workforce development and other federal employment opportunities. A major portion of this grant includes training several individuals on preparing high quality applications and resumes for federal employment opportunities. I facilitated an initial information sharing conference call between this grant's Project Manager and one of the federal employment points of contact at DORS. As the grant rolls out, I will continue to encourage and facilitate partnerships and collaboration with DORS and other disability organizations to promote the federal employment of qualified job seekers with disabilities.
- DLLR DWDAL is currently waiting on notification of funding for the Disability Employment Initiative grant proposal submitted on July 15, 2011.

#### **7. Events of Significance**

- Nothing to report at this time.

## 8. Information for Dissemination to Constituents

- Ongoing outreach about the MWE VOS- <https://mwejobs.maryland.gov/>- resume builder, comprehensive database of open jobs, labor market and occupation information, Green jobs and Military to Federal jobs, training and education information, several resources for both job seekers and employers.

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## Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Report

### BWI Airport Update

- The airport has posted nondiscrimination signs on the visual paging systems throughout the terminals (the nondiscrimination signs cover ADA and Title VI and who to contact and how to contact them).
- They had non discrimination signs printed to post in the garages; information desks; and near the moving sidewalks, but they have to reprint them in a larger font and then they will post them.
- The airport has also worked with their sub-recipient “First Transit” on ADA concerns and getting them to post nondiscrimination signs on their buses that include ADA information.
- **Baltimore Metro/MARC LEG Captioning Sign Event**
- An e-mail was sent to Vernon Hartsock regarding an update, but due to budget constraints, MTA did not believe that they would be having a ribbon cutting ceremony.

### MDOT Complaints/Concerns

- We worked with ODHH to provide an accommodation for a deaf or hard of hearing customer at MVA, because MVA was delaying her services.
- We worked with ODHH to assist a deaf senior group, the Silent Golden Age, in Baltimore County who was looking for a way to get senior ID cards.
- We received a recommendation from ODHH to change language on MVA’s website from “hearing impaired” to “deaf and hard of hearing”.

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## Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD) Report

### 1. Update on Departmental Priorities:

- The accreditation site visits are happening soon – Nov 14<sup>th</sup> through Nov 17<sup>th</sup>, the Middle State Association as well as CEASD will be visiting both campuses of MSD. The mission statement, beliefs and profile of a graduate have all been completed. The 4 student performance objectives have also been completed with a renewed commitment to reading, writing and math.
- A group of teachers and administrators from both campuses attended the Educator Effectiveness Academy this summer to learn more about implementation of the new Common Core Curriculum. The

new Director of Student Achievement will be working closely with MSDE and reporting back to Frederick and Columbia with updates and trainings to help prepare the school for the upcoming challenge.

**2. New Programs, Projects and/or Services being Developed or Implemented to meet Students' Needs:**

- The Work-to-Learn Program had a large summer program with 17 students being placed in summer jobs across the state. It was a very positive experience for the students. This fall another 18 students will be involved in the WTL Program in jobs ranging from hospital records to cosmetology.
- This school year opened on August 30<sup>th</sup> (thanks to Irene) with almost an entirely new administrative staff. Kevin Strachan is the new Principal of Frederick Campus; Jennifer Yost-Ortiz is the new Principal of Columbia Campus. Lori Bonheyo is the new Director of Student Affairs, Stacey Farone is the new Director of Student Achievement for both campuses, Sara Lee Herzig is the new Assistant Principal of Elementary – FC, Martin O'Brien is the new Assistant Principal of Middle School – FC, and Adrienne Rubenstein is the new Interim Assistant Principal of High School – FC. All teacher vacancies have been filled at both campuses.
- 2011-2012 is the awareness year for the new Common Core State Standards. MSD is working on professional development ideas and workshops to ensure all teachers and staff are up-to-date on the enormous changes coming next fall.

**3. Number of Students Enrolled:**

- 470 – This includes Frederick, Columbia and Family Education

**4. Staff Concerns:**

- Accreditation – preparing the school for the visit; completing all of the reports in a timely manner; making sure all staff is on board and prepared; aligning accreditation with the new CCSS
- Common Core State Standards – providing professional development; assessing materials needed for a successful launch next fall; beginning implementation while undergoing an accreditation visit
- Student performance on recent state testing – did not show the growth we had hoped for
- Almost an entirely new administrative staff to lead the school in a year of challenges
- Highly qualified credentials for a small percentage of faculty

**5. Policy Issues – Transition, or job training, etc**

- Reviewing new policy and guidelines from MSDE regarding IEP's and ITP's
- MSD recently created a new Gang Policy in accordance with MSDE's directive
- MSD is currently developing a Service Animal Policy as well

**6. Significant changes in Budget Impacting Programs/Service (including Grants):**

- MSD is operating with a conservative budget this year. It is the 4<sup>th</sup> straight year of flat funding.

**7. Events of Significance:**

- The 22<sup>nd</sup> Biennial American Society for Deaf Children (ASDC) Conference at Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD) was a huge success both in terms of family enjoyment and financial contribution to ASDC! Monetary contributions to ASDC are expected to far exceed that of previous conferences, families expressed extreme gratitude regarding the instant and continuous access to communication and information for parents and children alike, many first time families are already making plans to attend

the next conference in Arizona, and MSD is forever changed by hosting this worthwhile event. The ASDC Board was extremely appreciative of the recognition from the Governor's Office with the presentation of the Governor's Citation.

- Accreditation Site Visit – November 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>

**8. Information for Dissemination to Constituents:**

- Refer to [www.msd.edu](http://www.msd.edu)