



# ODHH Monthly Bulletin

August 2011

## A message from Director Lisa Kornberg

Things are heating up this summer at ODHH (and outside)! We've finished our progress report on the first year of our Five-Year Strategic Plan (below) while maintaining focus and setting goals for the next two years. Looking back provides us an opportunity to reflect on the progress we've made and also address challenges faced. The ODHH staff looks forward to working with all of you to continue to move Maryland forward so that we can achieve equal access for all.

We've also revived our "Spotlight On" column to highlight the good work all of you are doing for Marylanders with hearing loss. This month's Spotlight is on the Baltimore County Association of Senior Citizens Organizations, Inc. If you'd like your organization or agency to be featured, contact [Julie Anne Schafer](#) for more information.

Finally, we are running our "Summer Heat Precautions" FYI for the second month in a row. Temperatures continue to rise to dangerous levels and we want to make sure every stays safe. Follow our Twitter account for more updates and tips for braving these high temperatures.

Stay Safe and Cool,  
-Lisa

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## Year One Progress Report: ODHH Strategic Plan



Last year, ODHH released a Five-Year Strategic Plan, which outlines goals and strategies to advance the Office's mission, which is to promote equal access for all Marylanders by providing expertise that enhances the welfare of Maryland's deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind residents. In order to execute programs already in place while maintaining the flexibility necessary to engage in new projects, ODHH established five broad focus areas: training, program and policy development, information and referral, outreach, and information collection. Under these five focus areas,



## Summer Heat Precautions

Lately, it seems like every other day temperatures are approaching 100 degrees. So in case you missed it late month, here are some summer heat tips and precautions to keep you and your family safe. People suffer heat-related illness when the body's temperature control system is overloaded and the body can no longer cool itself. As long as blood is flowing properly to the skin, extra heat from the body is pumped to the skin and removed by sweat evaporation. If fluids are not replaced soon enough, heat stroke can result, potentially leading to brain damage or death.

More information is available on the [Maryland Emergency Management Agency's website](#).

For information in ASL on heat related safety, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0DZFOJowvb8>.

## Quick Links

[ODHH Website](#)



[Contact Us](#)

ODHH provides support to federal, State, and local government agencies, as well as to community stakeholders and constituents.

[Maryland.gov](http://Maryland.gov)

The progress report for the Plan is available on the ODHH website. Highlights include:

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- ODHH assisted the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) in applying for a grant to create, produce, and distribute a "point to picture" communications aid for first responders. Through the collaborative efforts of MCPA, ODHH, the Frederick Police Department, and the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission, the communications aid was developed, tested in focus groups, and sent to press at the close of FY 2011. It will be distributed along with training materials during FY 2012.
- The Office began working with the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) to develop a training program for all levels of DPSCS staff so that they can effectively communicate with deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind inmates.

## ODHH on the Move

### The Maryland Disabilities Forum - Baltimore City Mayoral Candidates Forum on Disability Issues

Thursday, August 4  
2 - 4 PM  
National Federation of the Blind  
Baltimore, MD

To view the report in its entirety, visit the [Strategic Plan section of the ODHH website](#) and click on "Year One Progress Report."

### Maryland Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Conference

Friday, August 12  
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM  
Hearing and Speech Agency  
Baltimore, MD

## What Does Redistricting Mean for You?



"Redistricting." It's a word that is being used frequently in the news, but what exactly is redistricting and what does it mean for you?

Redistricting is the process of drawing electoral district boundaries. The district that you reside in determines who your federal and state elected officials are and, on the federal level, how many elected officials you have. Districts are often "redrawn" in response to population changes determined by the results of the Census. That's one reason why the Census is so important!

### Maryland Association of Counties Summer Conference

Wednesday, August 17 to  
Saturday, August 20  
Roland Powell Convention Center  
Ocean City, MD

Maryland's population grew 9% between the 2000 Census and 2010 Census, so we will keep the eight Congressional districts we have. However, the districts themselves may change as the district lines are redrawn. Using the results of the federal census and input collected during public hearings, the Governor's Redistricting Advisory Committee (GRAC) will submit recommendations for a legislative redistricting plan to the Governor. After considering those recommendations, the Governor will prepare a plan that creates the legislative districts for electing members of the State Senate and House of Delegates. It will be introduced as a joint resolution to the General Assembly on the first day of the legislative session. The General Assembly will have 45 days to either approve the Governor's plan or pass an alternative plan. If no plan passes in 45 days, the Governor's plan as submitted becomes law. The GRAC will also make recommendations to the Governor for the redistricting of Maryland's eight Congressional districts.

The GRAC will hold 9 more public hearings across the State that will help inform the committee as it drafts a recommended plan for the State's Legislative and Congressional redistricting. For more information on these hearings, visit the [Maryland Department of Planning's website](#). Sign Language interpreters have been scheduled for each hearing.

## Spotlight on: BCASCO, Inc.



BCASCO, the Baltimore County Association of Senior Citizens Organizations, Inc., is an all-volunteer 501 (c)3 umbrella association working to educate older adults, caregivers, family members, baby boomers, professionals, and seniors with disabilities through meetings and public

presentations, as well as testimonies to policy makers on state and federal legislation targeting senior needs. Membership presently includes 50 groups.

The 34 year-old organization presents 5 meetings a year at the Towson United Methodist Church, Dulaney Valley Road and Hampton Lane, Beltway Exit 27B. Meetings, which include informational tables from service providers and government agencies, are from 9:45 A.M. to 12 noon. Most meetings are the second Friday of the month and are held in September, November, January, March, and May except when there is a holiday. Meetings are free and open to the public.

The meetings for calendar year 2011-2012 are as follows:

- September 9, 2011 - A forum for the Hard of Hearing
- November 4, 2011 - Aging-in-Place, Part 4: Affordable Options
- January 13, 2012 - Scams and Frauds
- March 9, 2012 - 8th Annual Educational Senior Forum
- May 11, 2012 - Senior Legislative Roundup

Those who desire more information or to receive five flyers a year announcing complete information of each meeting can contact Beth Wiseman at 410-484-6866 or [bwiseman84@hotmail.com](mailto:bwiseman84@hotmail.com). The website is [www.spenceweb.org/bcasco/bc-index.htm](http://www.spenceweb.org/bcasco/bc-index.htm).

#### Questions? Comments? Contact:

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