

Watch the Sign Language Video of this Bulletin: [LINK](#)

ODHH Monthly Bulletin

August 2014

Greetings from Executive Director:

Hello!!! It's hard to believe it is already the middle of August; summer is almost over and kids are heading back to school. Time moves so fast!!!

Here is our last summer **bulletin** - and as we do every year - we are beginning to look forward to an exciting fall with many new things.

Check out the article on our hospital kit program - we had great success with our kick off and are looking forward to being invited to provide the program at many hospitals in Maryland.

We are also busy planning our National Disability Employment Awareness **Month** (NDEAM) workshops - this year to be held in Salisbury and Largo.

And finally - we are getting ready to launch our new website - it is amazing.

Enjoy the **bulletin** and as always, feel free to contact us.

~Lisa

This Month:

Hospital Kits Kick-Off

Employment Workshops

Announcing Our Revamped Website!

Hospital Kits Kick-Off



August 26th is Women's Equality Day

In what year did women in the United States win the right to vote?

- a. 1776
- b. 1848
- c. 1920
- d. 1946

How many years did it take for women to win the right to vote in the United States?

- a. 72 years
- b. 120 years
- c. 20 years
- d. 51 years

Click [HERE](#) to take the quiz!

Click [HERE](#) for National Women's History Project website.

ODHH

This summer, ODHH kicked off the second stage of our hospital kit project that we have been working on for the past two years. Up until this point, ODHH was in the first stage of assembling the hospital kits. In this second stage, we are training hospital staff on how to use these hospital kits.



Our first training was with Atlantic General Hospital earlier this summer. During this training, ODHH provided an introduction of the training to the supervisors and administrations of the hospital in the morning for an hour before proceeding to train the entire staff who work directly with patients. The training includes: ADA requirements for effective communication, examples and strategies for achieving effective communication, basic etiquette when interacting with individuals who have a diverse range of hearing levels, roles and limits of assistive technologies and interpreters, the demographics and diversity of the population, and more. It was a day filled of fun and education, and it made a difference. This is what ODHH received from the hospital's Director of Clinical Operations, Charles Gizara, who arranged and scheduled the kick-off training.

His testimonial:

"I would like to extend our appreciation for the outstanding presentation to our leadership team and staff members on avenues healthcare providers can take to improve communication and services for the Deaf and hard of hearing population.

I have received numerous emails from leaders who were very appreciative of your education and they extended many compliments for the manner in which you conveyed the information. Your creativity, energy and "real-life" experiences allowed staff to become engaged and truly understand the deficits faced by the deaf population. Our Director of Education will be contacting you in the fall to establish another educational session due to the positive feedback that was received."

ODHH is excited to continue providing training to hospitals in order to increase awareness and promote communication access. If you have encountered a hospital that you feel would benefit from the training and the hospital kits, please refer them to ODHH. ODHH will be more than happy to provide a hospital kit to an individual if you are interested in introducing it to your local hospital.

Each kit contains a patient needs/accommodation needs check-list and communication tips sheet, a protective case for

Save The Date!

Maryland Disabilities Forum Presents:

2014 Gubernatorial Candidates Forum on Disability Issues

Join us on:
**Thursday, October 9,
2014
1:00 3:00 pm**

**National Federation
of the Blind
200 East Wells Street
at Jernigan Place
Baltimore, MD 21230**

Click [HERE](#) for Pre
Registration to this
Free Event!

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hearing aids and cochlear implants, "I am Deaf/hard of hearing/deafblind" stickers, "Keep one hand free for communication" stickers, "I am Deaf/hard of hearing/deafblind" above the bed sign, a point-to-pain indication sheet, dry erase board, a point-to-needs page, a show-and-tell page, a dry erase marker, a hospital communication kit evaluation postcard, and an ODHH business card. These kits are not in any way to be used to replace interpreters. Instead these are to be used to enhance patient and medical personnel communication.

For more information or to request a training, please contact us.

ODHH continues to explore ways to make sure all walks of life are accessible.

Employment Workshops

In honor of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) in October, ODHH and the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR) will host two workshops for jobseekers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind. 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. The theme for 2014 is "Expect. Employ. Empower." Both workshops will include information on basic job seeking skills. During the first half of the event, we will have a panel of experts and during the second half of the event, there will be interactive workstations where job-seekers can have professionals work on their resumes, conduct mock interviews, see a display of different accommodations that apply to the workplace, and more. The event details are:



Deaf:

Friday, October 17, 2014

1-4pm

Lower Shore One-Stop Job Market

31901 Tri-County Way

Suite 111

Salisbury, MD 21804

Hard of Hearing:

Monday, October 27, 2014

1-4pm

Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation

Conference Room

Room 140

1801 McCormick Drive

Largo, MD 20774

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/2014EmploymentWorkshops> or by contacting ODHH's Deputy Director at: zainab.alkebsi@maryland.gov.

Announcing Our Revamped Website!

ODHH is excited to announce our revamped website! ODHH and our Department of Information Technology (DoIT) team have been working extremely hard to ensure that our website is more accessible and contains more features! In addition to many changes to content and design, our revamped website also includes easy screen reading for our DeafBlind community! We are excited about that. The website also contains all-new ASL videos too!



Please do take the time to visit our revamped website at www.odhh.maryland.gov Please feel free to contact us any time with feedback on the new website. It will be officially up and running as of September 1st.

Hope you all enjoy and love the new look as much as we do!

If there is a topic you would like to see ODHH cover in our upcoming bulletins and vlogs, please email us and we will consider your request.

Questions? Comments? Contact:

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