



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF THE DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

ODHH Monthly Bulletin

June 2011

A message from Director Lisa Kornberg

As we inch closer to summer, the temperature isn't the only thing that is rising. This month we also recognize increased access and awareness for people with hearing loss in Maryland. The Hearing and Speech Agency in Baltimore is improving access to programming through captions (see below) and we also celebrate Deafblind Awareness week at the end of the month (see FYI).

And speaking of changing weather, hurricane season officially starts on June 1st, so make sure you take the steps necessary to get you and your family prepared. While hurricanes are unusual in Maryland, we sometimes sustain damage - and some fatalities - from the tropical storms that follow in their wake. Those storms frequently cause flooding, coastal storm surge and wind damage and often spawn tornadoes and thunderstorms. Wide-spread power outages are common after a hurricane. For more information on being prepared for emergencies, [visit the ODHH website](#).

Finally, ODHH will be hosting a Town Hall Meeting in Salisbury on June 7th. I hope that you will take the opportunity to come out and share with ODHH your questions and concerns so the we may better serve you.

-Lisa

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Hearing and Speech Agency Promotes Accessible Programming for Marylanders with Hearing Loss



When [The King's Speech](#) was released last year, few were as excited as the professional team and clients of The Hearing and Speech Agency (HASA). After all, the film chronicles one man's struggle to communicate and his relationship with his speech language therapist. For a team of language and communication professionals, there was no better film to win the Academy Award for Best Picture.

This excitement was tempered by the fact that some of HASA's staff and constituents -many of whom are Deaf or hard of hearing - had difficulty finding a convenient captioned



Deafblind Awareness

Week

The term "deafblind" encompasses many variations of combined hearing and vision loss - from those who are hard of hearing and visually impaired to those who are totally deaf and totally blind. Today, it is estimated that more than a million people in the United States are deaf-blind and those numbers are growing steadily. Deafblind Awareness Week is June 26 - July 2, 2011. The theme for this year is "Losing Your Sight and Sound, But Not Your Identity."

For more information on Deafblind Awareness Week, including a poster, press release, sample proclamation, and suggested activities, go to www.hknc.org and click on the link for "Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week."

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screening of the film. That will change on June 18, when the movie will be shown as part of [The Village of Cross Keys MovieFest](#), which is the only outdoor movie festival in Baltimore with open captions. This year's theme is Academy Award Winners; the films will be shown every Saturday in June. The line-up is: Shakespeare in Love (June 4), The Blind Side (June 11), The King's Speech (June 18), and Slumdog Millionaire (June 25).

This will mark the second year that The Hearing and Speech Agency has partnered with The Village of Cross Keys to present the film festival, but there is additional enthusiasm about it this year. "We were already excited to be able to host a large outdoor screening of the The King's Speech, because it promotes our mission and our work so well," states John Sloan, Director of The Center for Fluency Enhancement at The Hearing and Speech Agency. "But to be able to have it with open captions - well, that is what The Hearing and Speech Agency is all about: clear and accessible communication for everyone."

HASA has also just entered into a partnership with Maryland Public Television to help provide [closed captions for their locally-produced programs](#). The Hearing and Speech Agency's mission and web address will be listed in the production credits of programs created by MPT. "Partnering with Maryland Public Television makes perfect sense. Viewers who need captioning are the very people who are interested in programs and services that we can provide," says Tammy Black, Director of Communications at The Hearing and Speech Agency.

For more information on HASA and their programs, visit www.hasa.org.

NYC is First in Nation to Unveil Public Safety System



The Personal Localized Alerting Network (PLAN) is a free service that will allow customers with an enabled mobile device to receive location-specific, text-like messages alerting them of immediate threats to safety in their area. This service will be available in New York City by the end of 2011, approximately six months before becoming available to the rest of the nation.

The new technology ensures that emergency alerts will not get stuck in highly congested user areas, which can happen with standard mobile voice and texting services. Significantly, the "roll-out" of the PLAN cellular alert system includes a specific requirement that the alert signal be a distinctive vibration for those with hearing disabilities to recognize it as a cellular alert message, and a distinctive audible alert so that persons with vision disabilities recognize it as a Commercial Mobile Telephone Alert System alert message.

When PLAN is operational, customers in an area affected by an emergency who have a PLAN-capable mobile device will receive an alert of ninety characters or fewer. Consumers will receive three types of alerts from PLAN: (1) alerts issued by the President; (2) alerts involving imminent threats to safety of life; and (3) Amber Alerts. Participating carriers may allow subscribers to block all but Presidential alerts.

For more information on PLAN (Personal Localized Alerting Network), visit the Federal Communications Commission website at www.fcc.gov or follow @FCC on Twitter.

Monthly Brown Bag Lunch Event Connects, Informs Professionals

In 2006, ODHH revived the Brown Bag Lunch (BBL) for Professionals who work in Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind Services. The BBL started as a networking opportunity for professionals working in deaf services, but quickly grew into a monthly event designed to educate and unite professionals in the field. A topic is presented at each BBL to promote professional development. The BBL program operates on a volunteer basis where different organizations serve as a host. ODHH

Maryland.gov

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ODHH on the Move

ODHH Advisory Council

Meeting

Tuesday, June 7
2 - 5 PM
Deaf Independent
Living Association
Salisbury, MD

ODHH Town Hall

Meeting

Tuesday, June 7
6 - 7:30 PM
Deaf Independent
Living Association
Salisbury, MD

Brown Bag Lunch

Friday, June 10
12 Noon - 2 PM
Christ United Methodist
Church of the Deaf
Baltimore, MD

manages the list-serv for the group and coordinates logistics for each monthly meeting.

This month's BBL will be held from 12 - 2 PM on June 10 at Christ United Methodist Church of the Deaf. The presentation will be from the Maryland Food Bank. If you are interested in joining the BBL mailing list or would like to host a BBL, contact [Laura Quinn](#).

Summer Conference Round-Up

Summer is here and that means conference season is upon us. Don't miss these opportunities for personal and professional development both in Maryland and in D.C. and Virginia.

Hearing Loss Association of America Convention

June 16-19, 2011

Hyatt Regency Crystal City - Crystal City, VA

Online Registration is Closed. On-site Registration is still available.

[Click here for more information.](#)

22nd Biennial American Society for Deaf Children Conference

"Parent Choices: Key To Your Child's Future"

June 22 - 26, 2011

Maryland School for the Deaf - Frederick, MD

Late fees apply for any registration received after June 3, 2011

[Click here for more information.](#)

Alexander Graham Bell Listening & Spoken Language Symposium

July 21 - 23, 2011

Omni Shoreham Hotel - Washington, D.C.

Online registration ends July 18, 2011

[Click here for more information.](#)

Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Government National Training Conference

June 8-10, 2011

Cafritz Conference Center at George Washington University - Washington, D.C.

Registration is open and also available on-site.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Questions? Comments? Contact:

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