



April 2026 Newsletter Issues 13 & 14

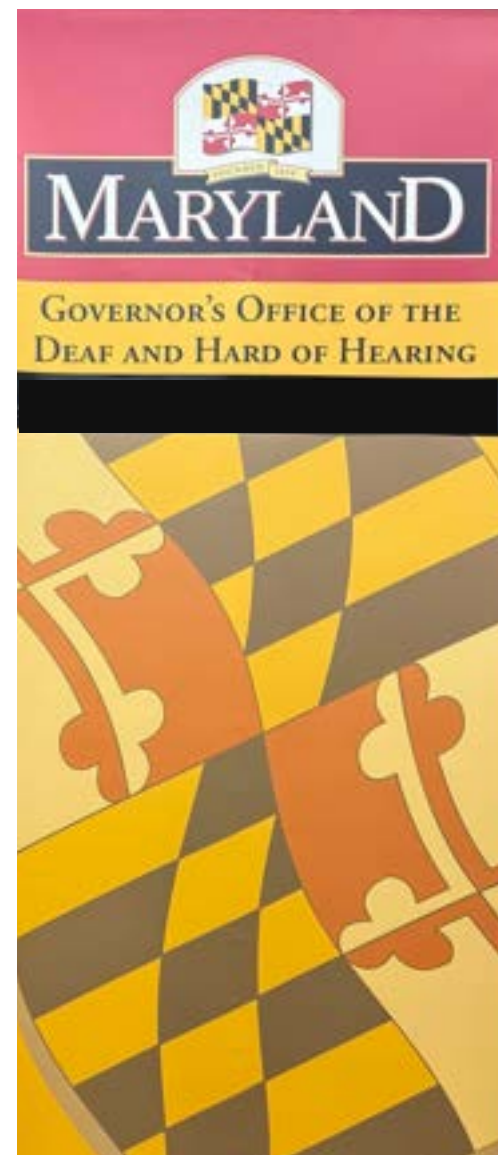
Usherla DeBerry | Director

Issued April 8 and April 30, 2026



You can find our brief ASL Updates on
YouTube or our Social Media
@MDGOVODHH.

Join our Email Newsletter



CONTACT US

Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032

gov.odhh@maryland.gov
VP: (443) 453-5761

GOVERNOR MOORE APRIL RECAP



Economic Development

- Governor Wes Moore highlighted a \$65 million ARLIS headquarters groundbreaking at the University of Maryland Discovery District to strengthen Maryland's leadership in quantum innovation and job creation.
- The FY2027 budget includes significant investments in quantum research, workforce development, and capital projects to drive long-term economic growth.

Fiscal Accountability

- Nearly \$68,000 was invested in the Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network to support a multi-agency drug trafficking investigation.
- The administration reaffirmed continued funding and oversight for law enforcement and public safety efforts.

Public Assistance Programs

- The administration enacted the Vax Act to ensure vaccine guidance is based on sound medical evidence and protects public health.
- The Jillian and Lindsay Wiener Short-Term Rental Safety Act was signed to strengthen safety standards and protect Maryland residents.



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GOVERNOR MOORE APRIL RECAP



Intergovernmental Affairs

- Law enforcement from 13 federal, state, and local agencies collaborated across multiple states to dismantle a major drug trafficking organization.
- Strong interagency coordination and communication were emphasized as key to the operation's success.

Other Updates

- A major investigation led to 12 arrests, the seizure of 42 kilograms of cocaine, \$23,000 in cash, and 11 firearms removed from communities.
- The operation involved over 80 search warrants, months of surveillance, and undercover work.
- The governor reiterated a zero-tolerance stance on violent crime and noted continued declines in crime and homicides statewide in 2026.
- The administration signed 146 bills into law following the 2026 legislative session, advancing key public safety and health priorities.

Resources

- <https://governor.maryland.gov/news/press/pages/governor-moore-announces-record-funding-to-support-law-enforcement-in-proposed-fy-2027-budget-amid-historic-drops-in-violen.aspx>
- <https://governor.maryland.gov/news/Pages/bill-signings.aspx>
- [https://governor.maryland.gov/news/press/pages/Governor-Moore-Breaks-Ground-on-\\$65-Million-ARLIS-Headquarters,-Bolstering-Maryland's-Leadership-in-Quantum-Innovation.aspx](https://governor.maryland.gov/news/press/pages/Governor-Moore-Breaks-Ground-on-$65-Million-ARLIS-Headquarters,-Bolstering-Maryland's-Leadership-in-Quantum-Innovation.aspx)
- <https://governor.maryland.gov/news/press/pages/Governor-Moore-Celebrates-Passage-of-Entire-2026-Legislative-Agenda,-Delivering-on-Commitment-to-Protect-Marylanders,-Lower.aspx>

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GODHH April Events

NIC/BEI Study Table

On April 7, 2026, Outreach Interpreter Manager Tanéa Brown led a virtual Study Table designed to provide a focused and disciplined learning space for interpreters. This initiative supports HB 260 and aligns with the Moore–Miller Administration's priorities of Connecting Marylanders to Jobs and Making Maryland a State that Serves.

Study Tables offer interpreters an opportunity to exchange notes, collaborate, and support one another in preparation for the certification exam.



ID: A photo of four black women smiling in a Zoom Meeting.

2026 Legislative Session

Governor Wes Moore Signed the 2027 Budget Bill into Effect, today April 8, 2026. Watch the video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/Kh1ulFFRuac?si=OQQni8VwFyLGV6fb>

Check out more information below:

- [SB 282 The President \(By Request – Administration\) Budget Bill \(Fiscal Year 2027\)](#)
- [SB 283 The President \(By Request – Administration\) - Creation of a State Debt](#) – Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2026, and the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loans of 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025
- [SB 284 The President \(By Request – Administration\) Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2026](#)

GODHH extends appreciation to MACDHH, SBSLI, and the Workgroup for the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing for all their support this legislative session!



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APRIL SPOTLIGHT



Bailey Spells is currently a senior at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. During her sophomore year, she enrolled in ASL 1 to fulfill a graduation requirement, but she quickly developed a passion for the language. Over the past three years, she has continued taking ASL courses, which has given her the opportunity to work closely with Mrs. Yamada, a deaf teacher in the DHOH department. Through these experiences, she has built meaningful connections and friendships with members of the Deaf community at her school, further strengthening her interest in ASL.

Bailey is also a member of her school's Honor Society, where she is required to complete volunteer service hours, demonstrating her commitment to both academic excellence and community involvement. After graduating this June (2026), she plans to attend the University of North Florida, where she will major in American Sign Language Interpreting with the goal of becoming a professional ASL interpreter.

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APRIL SPOTLIGHT



Lisa Uscanga is a nationally certified (NIC) Sign Language Interpreter with 18 years of experience serving Deaf and hard-of-hearing students in Montgomery County Public Schools. She has supported students through the entire birth-to-graduation pathway, giving her a deep understanding of language development, academic access, and the evolving communication needs of students of all ages.

Fluent in American Sign Language (ASL), Lisa brings extensive knowledge of Deaf culture and frequently serves as a cultural mediator to support meaningful, respectful communication between students, peers, and educators. She is known for her conceptually accurate interpretation and her commitment to fostering inclusive, language-rich learning environments.

In addition to her interpreting work, Lisa has experience mentoring interpreting students and new interpreters, helping to strengthen the next generation of professionals. She consistently upholds the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) Code of Professional Conduct. She collaborates closely with teachers, specialists, and staff to ensure equitable access and full participation for every student she serves.

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APRIL SPOTLIGHT



Clint Squires and Anibelka Henriquez Squires met on September 1, 1997, while traveling to Ocean City, Maryland, a day forever marked in history as the day of Princess Diana's tragic passing. At the time, Anibelka was a senior undergraduate at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., and both she and Clint were the only drivers transporting their college friends for Labor Day weekend. What began as a simple trip turned into something far more meaningful. The weekend was filled with sun-soaked beach days, long conversations, easy laughter, and a growing connection that blossomed into friendship and ultimately, a lifelong partnership grounded in love, respect, and commitment.

They made Maryland their home in 2003, building a life together over the years. After a long journey through infertility, their story came full circle in 2023 with the joyful arrival of their rainbow son, completing their family. Their journey stands as a testament to enduring love, resilience, and the blessing of finding forever in one another.

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APRIL SPOTLIGHT

Paula and Ted Baran



"We settled in Frederick, Maryland, 15 years ago, drawn by its strong Deaf community and its proximity to MSD. After putting down deep roots in Connecticut and building meaningful connections within the Deaf community there, the move was a significant step but one that quickly felt like home.

We are both proud CODAs, and all four of our parents graduated from the American School for the Deaf. We were incredibly grateful to be welcomed so warmly into the Maryland Deaf community. Paula continued her interpreting career with ZVRS, while I interpreted part-time alongside my work at Gallaudet University.

Our strongest connections developed through MSD, particularly within the Athletic Department. As former athletes and coaches at ASD, we were able to reconnect with old friends while building new relationships, making our involvement there especially meaningful.

We raised our two daughters in Frederick, watching them grow from young girls into accomplished, compassionate women with strong ties to the local Deaf community. Both are college graduates and married, one remaining in Maryland, the other now living in Morgantown, West Virginia. We are especially proud that they value their second language and are passing it on to our grandson, Adley. At just a year and a half old, he already has an impressive ASL vocabulary.

Today, we both remain active in the interpreting field and continue to value our involvement with the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing community. Being CODAs is a lifelong gift, one that has profoundly shaped who we are. Although we have lost three of our four parents, we carry their legacy forward through the beauty of ASL and the deep connections within this community.

We recognize how unique our CODA marriage is. It is the foundation of our laughter, our love, and our life together."

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MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER ISSUES 15 AND 16 TO BE RELEASED MAY 31, 2026.



**UNLOAD - CONNECT
UNDERSTAND - EACH OTHER
UNITY - TOGETHER**

*Coining the slogan, "nothing about us
without us,"*



Working at the pleasure of the Moore/Miller
Administration as they say, 'leave no one
behind.'



Governor Wes Moore



**Lieutenant Governor
Aruna Miller**

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