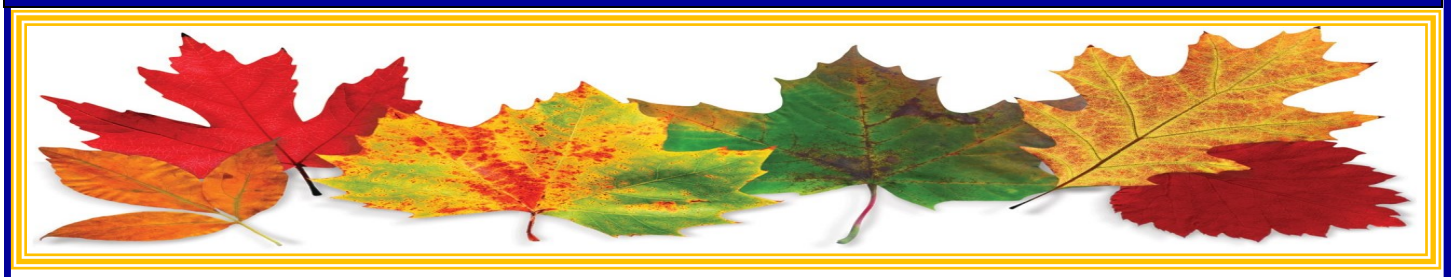
SIGN of the TIME E-NEWS

October-December 2016

Iowa Department of Human Rights **Office of Deaf Services**



Hope you enjoyed the Summer. It is unbelievable that the fall season is here already!

Deaf Services Staff updates:

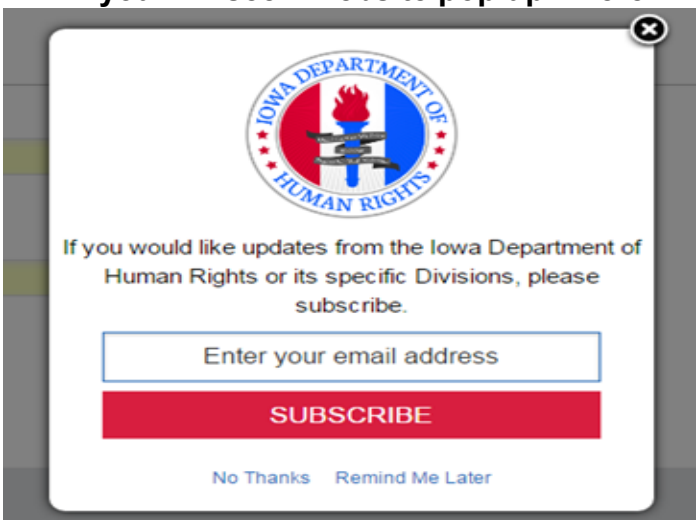
We are pleased to announce some enhancements to our Deaf Services team. In addition to Nathaniel Garrels, Commission Chair; Jill Avery, Executive Officer will be a primary contact for the Deaf Services Commission. Jill will be happy to work with you if you have questions about the Commission meetings, agendas or minutes

This will allow Stephanie Lyons, Consultant for Deaf Services, to have more time to work on resolving communication access for the Community. I hope you will agree that by providing the services of both Jill and Stephanie to the Community, we will be able to serve your needs more efficiently and effectively. To contact Jill, you can email at Jill.Avery@iowa.gov or call at 515-242-6334. To contact Stephanie Lyons at Stephanie.Lyons@iowa.gov or call her at 515-598-7326

Deaf Services Website:

We hope that you are enjoying the new look and content on the Department of Human Rights website. To find the office of Deaf Services directly, you can go to https://humanrights.iowa.gov/cas/ds. We work to keep the website up to date with information that will inform the public about issues in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community, about opportunities to interact with programs in Iowa and other key issues. You will also see a new pop up the will allow you to subscribe to information from Deaf Services and other state organizations so you can stay information about everything that is happing.

you will see " website pop up" here



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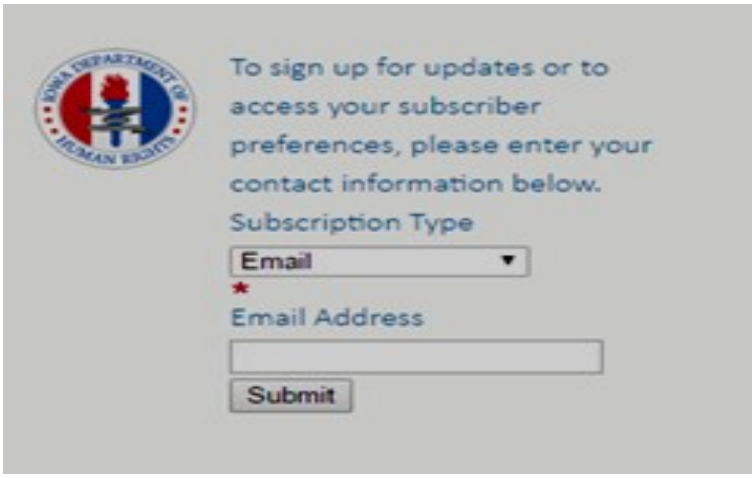

if you would like updates from the Iowa Department of Human Rights or a specific Division, please subscribe. You need to type your email and then click to subscribe. If you already subscribe to Deaf Services, you don't need to subscribe again. If you choose to skip "pop up" then you need to click "No Thanks " or "Remind me later" You are still on the Iowa Department of Human Right homepage. If you will need to scroll down until you find "Commissions, Boards and Councils". You will see Commission of Deaf Services. If you need help or questions, please let us know we will help to guide you through the website.

Attention Please!

Iowa Department of Human Rights launches new email communications system with GovDelivery :

As part of a statewide agreement, the Iowa Department of Human Rights, Office of Deaf Services launched an email communications system through GoDelivery.

Because you are a member of our existing Office of Deaf Services email list, you are automatically subscribed to receive alerts on one or more topics through this news digital system. By visiting your subscriber preferences page, you can sign up to receive email alerts on additional topics, or you can choose to unsubscribe if you prefer. With a separate subscription for your wireless account, you can also sign up for text alerts.

Please visit your subscriber preferences page to review or update your settings. If you have any questions about this new service, do not reply to this message. Instead please email us or visit our website.

Deaf Services Walk in Appointment:

Office of Deaf Services wants to be able to give exceptional service. When you contact, please leave your name and phone number and a short messages. One of staff members will return your call as soon as we can. If you have an emergency situation or need assistance immediate assistance please contact Deaf Services at 515-281-3164 or 888-221-3724.

In order for us to give our full undivided attention, it is best to make an appointments. We are available to advocate and consult with clients on **Tuesday and Thursday**. We focus on other projects on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. If these days do not work for your schedule, we will schedule an appointment with you. We ask you to call one of our staff to make an appointment.

Appointment Scheduling: Making an appointment ensures that you are available to talk with one of our Office of Deaf Services staff. That's most convenient for you.

If you want to meet with Jill Avery , Monica Stone or San Wong; make sure to request an interpreter.

Stephanie Lyons, Consultant
515-598-7326 VP
Stephanie.lyons@Iowa.gov

Monica Stone, Administrator
515-725-2816
Monica.Stone@iowa.gov

Jill Avery ,Executive Officer
515-242-6334
Jill.Avery@iowa.gov

San Wong, Director
515-242-6171
San.Wong@iowa.gov

Linda Scott
Community Advocacy & Services, Secretary
515-281-3164 or 888-221-3724 Voice/TTY
Linda.Scott@iowa.gov

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Iowa Department of Human Rights Office of Deaf Services

Contractual Interpreting Program FY17:

The Department of Human Rights is no longer able to fund the Contractual Interpreting Program. As you know, this program is funded by state general fund dollars and provides individuals with up to $150 to assist in paying for American Sign Language interpreters and CART (captioning) services for weddings, family gatherings, and other personal events not covered by state or federal laws.

Many state agency budgets, including ours, have been held at status quo or reduced in recent years. At the same time, staff and operational expenses have risen. The Department has focused on increasing its efficiency to avoid impacts to direct programming. This year, our budget was reduced, necessitating this difficult programming choice. While it was not a specific line item in the budget, we worked diligently to maintain this benefit for Deaf Iowans for as long as possible. The Contractual Interpreting Program was the last remaining direct financial assistance program offered in the Community Advocacy and Services Division.

It is important to note that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) protects Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals by requiring that providers of critical services such as health care, employment, education, and legal services provide accommodations to ensure effective communication, which includes providing interpretation or other accommodations as appropriate. **This requirement is not impacted and has not changed**. For more information about ADA requirements, requesting interpretation services and finding an interpreter, you may visit our web site at https://humanrights.iowa.gov/cas/ds/interpreting or you can call our office for assistance.

Please know that we remain steadfastly committed to ensuring communication access to the resources of state government for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Iowans.

Federal Communication Commission, FCC Adapts landmark Agreement to improve Access to Hearing Aid compatible Cell phones and Wireless Devices:

On August 4, 2016, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted new rules to ensure people with hearing loss have full access to wireless devices. As the FCC noted, the action taken "will modernize existing hearing aid compatibility (HAC) rules while maintaining the balance between fostering accessibility and promoting innovation and investment."

Upon the adoption of the rules, FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler said in his statement, "One area where the Commission has made significant progress in making sure accessibility is baked into new technology is hearing aid compatibility for new mobile devices. Today we take another step toward the day when Americans with hearing loss can access the same range of wireless handsets as anyone else."

The new rules will require manufacturers and service providers to make more HAC phones available to consumers:

66 percent of offered handset models must be compliant within two years for manufacturers of handsets, with additional time for service providers.

85 percent of handsets must be compliant within five years for manufacturers, again with additional time for service providers.

The FCC reported that it "reconfirms its commitment to pursuing 100 percent compatibility within eight years." Chairman Wheeler stated, "To be clear, we expect to require 100 percent compliance."

FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn noted, "I know I am in good company in saying that I look forward to the day when all Americans who use hearing aids have the same options as everyone else when purchasing a mobile phone."

HLAA was intimately involved in the collaborative effort that led to the groundbreaking consensus letter signed by industry representatives: CTIA, the Competitive Carriers Association (CCA), the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), and consumer organizations: HLAA, Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. (TDI), and the National Association of the Deaf (NAD).

HLAA would like to thank all the parties to the consensus proposal for their willingness to compromise and their commitment to finding a way to reach the goal of 100 percent HAC phones. We are thrilled to see our hard work codified into rules.

HLAA is also grateful for the efforts of FCC Commission staff, Chairman Wheeler and all the Commissioners in taking the consensus proposal from an idea to reality by drafting and adopting these updated HAC rules.

FCC Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel said in her remarks supporting the new rules, "Hearing loss is a big deal." All of us at HLAA – members, staff and board alike, know only too well how true those words are. These new rules will give those of us with hearing loss greater access to mainstream products and services, thus giving us more tools to live well with hearing loss.

These new rules will give those of us with hearing loss greater access to mainstream products and services, thus giving us more tools to live well with hearing loss. HLAA, along with the other organizations involved in the initiative, issued a joint statement regarding the agreement.

Legislators are coming January 2017:

Think about how you really want to see the state of Iowa improve in providing for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community on such things as hearing aids, insurance, Children's Bill of Rights, mental health and other issues. Remember, you decide what type of advocacy best suits your personality and comfort level. You can write, phone or talk face-to-face with your legislators. Talk to your friends or DSCI Commissioners and ask them to support/help each other to make a call, write/e-mail or contact your legislator. Also, you can ask your legislator to meet and talk about issues over coffee or visit them at the Capitol. Invite your legislator to local events, an open house or plan discussions with friends or Deaf Clubs. How do you find your local legislators? Go to the Iowa Legislature website at www.legis.iowa.gov. You will see in the left column, type your address or zip to find out who your Senator is or Representative is. If you need our assistance in finding your legislator, we will be more than happy to help you.

Employer's Disability Resource Network, EDRN, Job Fair:

They had a really great placement of a person who is Deaf from the first reverse job fair. The video shows younger people with disability types, ages there. More information see the website at http://whotv.com/2016/03/09/reverse-job-fair-connects-iowans-with-disabilities-to-employers/

Schedules:

- ⇒ **Workshop Dates: Oct 11, 2016:** This is an opportunity for people to go through stations where they will work on presentation, interviewing skills, elevator speech, etc. to prepare for the reverse job fair.
- ⇒ **Rehearsal: October 25, 2016**: – This is a dry run to make sure that everyone is ready to put their best foot forward.
- ⇒ **November 2, 2016** – The reverse job fair.

If your interested, please contact Diane Hernazdez at Iowa Employment Solutions at DMACC, phone no is 515-725-3668 and her email:diane.hernandez@iwd.iowa.gov She will send you participant application for the Job Fair. Diane has experience working with couple Deaf customers at the Iowa workforce Development

National Voter Registration Act:

Please consider to registering to vote as a part of the National Voter Registration Act. This is a Federal Act planned to improve voting opportunities for every eligible American. The Iowa Office of Deaf Services is required, agreeing to the law, to offer voter registration to any client who seeks our services. As a result, we will now be doing the following:

When you stop by here at Deaf Services we are required to provide you with a hard copy of the Iowa Voter Registration form and ask if you would like to register to vote today. You can choose to register that day or decline to register. If you respond yes, you can fill out the form. We will send it to them for you. If need help to fill it out we can provide assistance. Please call and make appointments on Tuesday and/or Thursday from 8– 3 PM *** Take 5 minute or a less ***

If you say no, we will ask you to fill out the declination form. If you say no, that is your choice. The original form must be provided by us. The forms will go to the appropriate County election office and we will provide a copy of that registration. These are CONFIDENTIAL records and will be managed by a confidential staff member at the Department of Human Rights to ensure your information's confidentiality. Please contact me Stephanie Lyons at 515-598-7326 or Jill Avery at (515) 242-6334 & jill.avery@iowa.gov or Monica Stone at Monica.stone@iowa.gov . We will work with you.

Please come on and register your vote your protect the right to vote!!!!!

Any questions, contact Deaf Services

515-281-3164

Telecommunications Access Iowa, TAI:

There's an app for that *Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Iowans use versatile iPad technology to keep their independence*

Iowans who are Deaf or experiencing hearing loss can receive vouchers for specialized telecommunications equipment from Telecommunications Access Iowa (TAI). While each of these devices is meant for a single use, another option can be used for a multitude of functions.

That device is an iPad with pre-loaded communications apps, and it may be the most useful – and versatile – of all.

"In fact, a single iPad can replace several pieces of hardware" So what kinds of things can an iPad do? If you are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, iPad apps can provide Internet Protocol (IP) Relay, video relay services, IP captioned telephone services (when paired with the user's own cell phone or landline phone), video calls, and more. For those with speech difficulties, specialized apps allow the individual to tap on pictures, words, and phrases to create sentence– the device then speaks for them.

Similar to its process with traditional telecommunication equipment, TAI offers vouchers to assist with the purchase of an iPad that comes pre-loaded with special apps for qualified applicants with hearing or speech difficulties.

Versatility is the other great benefit to an iPad. In addition to the hearing and speech apps, users can connect with loved ones via email and social media, surf the web, share photos, download and read books, create calendar reminders, connect to their bank, and much more. There are literally thousands of other users.

"It's a life-changer for many people," Boeke said. It doesn't just connect them to their loved ones. They have can access to the entire world at their fingertips"

Two types of iPads– the iPad Air and the iPad Mini– are available through the TAI program, which has generated tremendous enthusiasm from participating applicants– young and elderly alike.

I m so thankful to have been given the opportunity to receive an iPad." a satisfied customer said. " I love it, as I can facetime my family and take care my daily businesses by making a call the captioning app!

The application process is similar to the program for traditional telecommunications equipment.

Contact TAI at teleIowa@aol.com or call 1-800-606-5099 Voice/515-200-2898 VP. Just simply visit our website at www.relayiowa.com and download the iPad application.

Specific qualifications must be met, meaning you will be asked to supply some information in order to be considered for a specialized iPad.

In addition, selected applicants must agree to participate in a survey and agree to specific terms and condition on the program, which are found on the application form.

There is a waiting list, so its important to apply as soon as possible. " Don't wait" Boeke said " Get your name on the list. Applications are processed on a first-come, first serve basic."

Iowa Department of Public Health
Promoting and Protecting the Health of Iowans

Iowa Board of Sign Language and Transliterators:

On August 15, 2016 the Iowa Board of Sign Language Interpreters and Transliterators adopted changes to Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 361, "Licensure of Sign Language Interpreters and Transliterators,"and Chapter 362, "Continuing Education for Sign Language Interpreters and Transliterators." The amendments are intended to strengthen the supervision requirements for temporary sign language interpreter and transliterator license holders in response to complaints and concerns received by the Board about the quality of services being provided under the current temporary license regulations, which allow for continuing education in lieu of direct supervision. The amendments clarify the definition of direct supervision of a temporary license holder, revise the requirements for temporary licensure, and revise the continuing education requirements for new licensees and temporary license holders. The amendments to Chapter 361 and 362 will become effective on November 16, 2016.

The Board has also proposed amendments to strengthen the examination requirements for applicants for a sign language interpreter and transliterator license in response to concerns received by the Board about the quality of services being provided under the current license regulations. The amendment will require an applicant to pass the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) with a score of 4.0 or above beginning July 1, 2017. The current rules require an applicant to pass the EIPA by a score of 3.5 or above.

The adopted rules are posted on the Board's website for review,

http://idph.iowa.gov/Licensure/Iowa-Board-of-Sign-Language-Interpreters-and-Transliterators

If you have any questions, please contact Judy's contact information here:

Judy Manning
Board Executive
Bureau of Professional Licensure
Division of Administration & Professional Licensure
Iowa Department of Public Health
321 E 12th St.
Lucas State Office Bldg.
| Des Moines, IA 50319-0075
Office: 515-281-4413

Judith.Manning@idph.iowa.gov

FEMA URGES IOWANS TO BE READY FOR ACTIVE FLOODING AND SEVERE:

With active flooding underway in parts of Iowa and the threat of more to come, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is urging Iowans to be ready to take life-saving actions on short notice.

"Additional rainfall, even in smaller amounts, when combined with an already saturated ground, could quickly lead to hazardous conditions," said FEMA Region VII Administrator Beth Freeman. "It's critical that Iowans prepare now to do what's needed to be safe in the wake of current and near-term flooding, as well as other severe weather."

FEMA's Region VII office in Kansas City, Missouri has been in regular contact with emergency management officials in Iowa as both agencies actively monitor severe weather and flooding in many parts of the state.

"This flooding is a serious situation for many Iowans," Freeman added. "We can't stress enough how important it is for citizens to stay informed of ever-changing conditions, to follow official emergency instructions, to have an emergency plan for *all* members of the family, including pets, and to be ready to quickly put that plan into action."

Flooding is not unfamiliar to many Iowans but it helps to refresh on the immediate steps to stay safe:

Be Informed/Know the Danger:

Keep track of severe weather and flood forecasts, and take them seriously. To do that:

* Monitor newspaper, radio and TV reports of current and predicted weather conditions;
* Keep a NOAA Weather radio turned on and charged up to get alerts around the clock;
* Set mobile devices to alert with the latest weather information. Make it easy by downloading and using a **free** FEMA app, which provides real-time weather alerts from the National Weather Service for up to five locations anywhere in Iowa or the nation. The app also provides valuable safety tips to help families prepare for, and recover from, more than 20 natural and man-made hazards, including how to make a family communication plans, a customizable checklist of emergency supplies and maps of open shelters and disaster recovery centers. The app is available on the Apple App Store and on Google Play.

Be Ready for Flooding and Severe Weather:

Plan for the Worst:

Severe weather can strike suddenly so have a plan to stay safe and take life-saving action if needed. The plan should include:

- **Actions** to take if it's necessary to shelter-in-place;
- **Where** each person/pet will go to get out of danger;
- **How** each person/pet will get to a place of safety;
- **How** family and friends will communicate with one another if evacuation to or from different locations becomes necessary.

For more information on creating an emergency plan, visit www.Ready.gov or www.beready.iowa.gov.

Be Ready:

- **Gather essential items** in one place if evacuation is needed. Those should include:
  - Wallets, purses, car/house keys, eyeglasses, cash, credit cards;
  - Medicine and basic first-aid supplies;
  - Daily living supplies for infants/young children, family members who are elderly or have access and functional needs, and pets;
  - Important information such as numbers for bank accounts, insurance policies (health, auto and property) and credit cards;
  - Important phone numbers of relatives, employers, schools and medical professionals such as pharmacies, physicians and veterinarians;
  - Chargers for mobile devices;
  - One or more changes of clothes. Include long pants, socks, boots and/or sturdy shoes;
  - Bottled water and high-protein, non-perishable food such as a peanut butter, tuna and nuts.
- **Talk through** the emergency plan with all family members so that everyone knows what to do.

Know What to Do:

- **Understand** severe weather terms and know what to do for each.
  - **Watch** means a specific type of threat (flooding, tornadoes) could be forming;
  - **Warning** means take action. Life/property threatening conditions are occurring or imminent.
- **Heed emergency instructions.** If told to evacuate, go immediately!
- **Move immediately** to higher ground if flash flooding is possible. Don't wait to be told. **DO NOT DRIVE THROUGH FLOOD WATER, even if you know the road. Turn around, don't drown!**
- **Abandon** mobile homes. They offer little to no protection, even if tied down.
- **Don't touch** downed power lines or objects in contact with downed lines. Report electrical hazards, downed lines and gas leaks to the police and utility companies.
- **Don't re-enter** damaged structures without first checking to see if they are safe.

If you need assistance please contact your Red Cross or Emergency management locations for more Information. Or contact Dept. of Human Right.

You can also visit their website at www.homelandsecuirty.iowa.gov

Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management: HSEMD are now back to their Duty Officer on call status. They have requested a FEMA Volunteer Agency Liaison to assist with local long term recovery committees. They continue to receive requests for cleanup kits.

Black Hawk Co: They **have set up a statewide call center. Most of the calls coming in are from members of the public requesting clean up and repair assistance. Recommendations were to direct them to the local emergency manager, local community action agency, CERT team, recovery coalition or to HSEMD.**

Iowa Association of Community Action Agencies: They will provide a contact list of all community action agencies statewide. Request to HSEMD for total households affected.

Iowa Department of Public Health, Iowa Department of Human Services and Iowa State Extension: There is information on their website regarding safety and cleaning measures after a flood event.

http://www.idph.iowa.gov/flooding
http://www.extension.iastate.edu/content/dealing-with-flooding
http://dhs.iowa.gov/disaster-assistance-programs

Polk County Health Department:

Polk County Health Department allows you to sign up for email alerts to find out when there's a public health emergency, such as disease outbreaks, emergency healthcare facilities, or disasters with health consequences. In August, we kept subscribers in the loop about emergency cooling locations during the warmest July since 1955.

Would you like to receive these alerts? Do you have friends, colleagues or family members who also should be getting these alerts? **Please forward this email to them so they can sign up**.

They also have email alerts for general public health news. These emails let you know about events, community health priorities (Healthy Polk 2020), health outcomes and other public health-related news.

HERE'S HOW TO SIGN UP TO RECEIVE EMAIL ALERTS ABOUT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS:

Go to our website http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/health/ and see the gray box that says "Receive email updates about public health emergencies. *NEW!* Receive updates about general public health news" Enter your email address and hit "submit." This will take you to a page where you can select which news alerts you would like to receive.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach
Healthy People. Environments. Economies.

Hello Polk County residents!

Attached is your October issue of "Words on Wellness," a nutrition and health newsletter provided as a public service by ISU Extension and the College of Human Sciences.

Every month, "Words on Wellness" features short, research-based articles—news you can use—on the topics of nutrition, food safety, physical activity, and wellness. Each issue offers a low-cost healthy recipe and an announcement about a health-related ISU Extension class or product or community event.

This month we have:

- How to get your vitamin D
- A recipe for "Loaded Potato Soup"
- Tips on how to use your slow cooker safely
- The benefits of dancing!

A fun "Gifts from the Kitchen" parent-child event in Ankeny

Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to friends, co-workers and/or the people you serve. You may post it on your organization's website as part of your worksite wellness program. As always, the first column on the second page is editable, so that you can use it for your own announcements or organizational information. Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to friends, co-workers and/ or the people you serve. You may post it on your organization's website as part of your worksite wellness program. As always, the first column on the second page is editable, so that you can use it for your own announcements or organizational information. If you are interested to subscribe to the Words on Wellness newsletter let Mary know

Mary Krisco | Human Sciences Specialist, Nutrition and Health

Human Sciences Extension and Outreach
Empowering People. Growing Lives.

Polk County Extension | 1625 Adventureland Dr., Suite A, Altoona, Iowa 50009

p. (515) 957-5787 | f. (515) 957-6164 | e. mkrisco@iastate.edu
www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences

Serving Dallas, Madison, Polk and Warren Counties

The Announcement of the Hamilton Relay Deaf Community Leader Award:

The 2016 Hamilton Relay Deaf Community Leader Award was given to Sarah YoungBear-Brown of Tama, IA. She is a graduate of the Iowa School for the Deaf and is very active in bringing awareness to the American Indian/Native American Community. Sarah is the founder of Gathering of Deafatives, and was recently honored by the Deaf Women United under Deaf Women History Month.

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Deaf Nation; Sarah's vlog here:

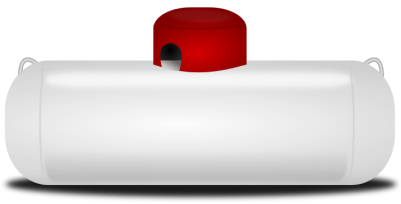
Deaf Services wanted to share the Deaf Nation, Power of Deaf Women of Sarah Young Bear Brown vlog at http://deafnation.com/power-of-deaf-women/sarah-young-bear-brown-usa. Congratulation Sarah YoungBear-Brown from the Deaf Services Staff and Commissioners.

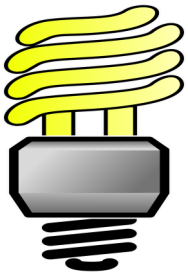
LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP):

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federally funded block grant administered through the Iowa Department of Human Rights/Division of Community Action Agencies. It is designed to help eligible low-income Iowa households in the payment of a portion of their non-business residential heating costs for the winter heating season. The state contracts with community action agencies throughout Iowa for local program delivery.

The LIHEAP payment is made directly to energy suppliers for households who heat with natural gas, electricity, liquid propane, fuel oil, wood, and coal Five-percent of program funds are allocated under the Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP). These funds can be used for emergency fuel delivery, repair or replacement of furnace/heating system, temporary shelter, and purchase of blankets and/or heaters, fans and air conditioners.

Up to five percent of program funds may be allocated to conduct assessment and resolution activities. Such activities include: budget counseling, energy education, outside referrals, arranging deferred or budget payment plans, staying a disconnect, or negotiating payments or reconnections on the behalf of clients. Other activities include improving accessibility to the program to potential clients, making home visits, traveling to alternate intake sights and providing publicity concerning availability of Energy Assistance.





Applicants must furnish social security numbers for all household members, a copy of the households most recent heating and electric bill or any other documents showing the account numbers or energy suppliers, along with proof of the household's gross income for the past ninety days or for the past calendar year.

Completed applications need to be mailed or delivered to the local community action agency outreach office or neighborhood center, or in care of LIHEAP, Iowa Department of Human Rights, Division of Community Action Agencies, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

What is Proof of Income?

Documents that offer proof of total household gross income from all sources must be provided for the processing of the application. Those on a fixed income may include: Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Aid to Families with Dependence Children or Family Investment Program, Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance, pensions etc should include copy of the most recent check. Wage earners can attach copies of check stubs for the three months preceding the date of application or a copy of their federal income tax return. Self-Employed persons or Farmers should attach their most recent federal income tax return. TANF or FIP Recipients should bring their current DHS Notice of Decision or copy of their check.

How is the LIHEAP award determined?

The energy assistance award is based on the amount of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance block grant appropriation and the number of qualifying households. The individual grant is based on household income, household size, type of primary heating fuel, type of housing, and targeting factors. Those targeting factors assure that households with the greatest need will receive the highest level of assistance.

How are payments made?

Payments are made to the home energy suppliers in the form of a single payment. The client's assistance shall remains as a credit on the client's account until the program assistance is expended or the account is terminated. The basic energy assistance award is to be applied to the cost of the heating source supplying the household's non-business residential primary heating fuel.

The assistance award for households whose primary source of heat is wood will be forwarded to the household electric supplier if a suitable wood vendor is not available. If no electric supplier exists, a direct payment may be made.

How can further information about LIHEAP be obtained?

Information can be obtained at the website: https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/liheap or check the telephone book for listings under "community action agencies", or write to: LIHEAP, Iowa Department of Human Rights, Division of Community Action Agencies, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. Telephone: 515-281-3861 or 515-281-0859 - for hearing impaired with a telecommunication device for the deaf (TTD), call RELAY IOWA on their toll-free number 1-800-735-2942.

Relay Iowa

Become a Relay Friendly Business Today!

If you own or manage a business that is not Relay Friendly — you're missing out on potential customers who want to do business with you.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, or have difficulty speaking utilize the Relay to conduct their personal business. So if you hang up on a relay call, you're hanging up on a potential customer.

As a Relay Friendly Business, you'll discover that relay users are customers with money to spend.

Answering relay calls can mean increased revenue
Answering relay calls can increase the number of customers you serve
Answering relay calls can result in the recommendation of your business to others

Best of all, the Relay Friendly Business Program is free! You can positively impact relay users by making the Relay Friendly Business training a part of your employee development plans, and by telling friends and business associates about the program.

The Relay Friendly Business Program.

The Relay Friendly Business Program is a free program that:

* Offers FREE training to assist your business with receiving and placing relay calls
* Reduces or eliminates hang ups on relay users
* Allows customers to know you are certified as a Relay Friendly Business
* Offers you a free on the Relay website
* Provides a Relay Friendly Business logo to post on your business' website
* Provides a Relay Friendly Business decal for your door or window

Top reasons to become a relay friendly business:

*Broaden your customer base
*Increase potential revenue
*Build positive relationships with the community
*Increase employee awareness on serving customers with hearing loss or speech impairment

To learn more about the program contact Ashley Hagedorn, Relay Iowa Project Manager at **515.344.8548 | C: 515.344.8548 | ashley.hagedorn@hamiltonrelay.com www.hamiltonrelay.com**

The Christian Experience Weekend:

The Christian Experience Weekend (CEW) IS a retreat for ANYONE. This retreat is for people from all different churches, not only Catholics. You will enjoy speakers in ASL, group sharing, group prayer services, and a chance to worship together and share our faith. The retreat will help you grow in your faith in Christ as you look at your relationship with yourself, with others, and with God. Each person is welcome to chat and share with others in helpful ways. You can share in whatever way you are comfortable.

Why a CEW?

Life is hard. We can become very busy. If we are busy, it is easy to forget God. It is hard in today's world to live like God wants us to live.

CEW gives you a chance to spend time with God and other people who believe in Him. It also gives you a time to think about your life of faith so far and where you would like it to go.

As Christians, we are part of a family of believers. During CEW, you will enjoy this Christian family in many different ways and come to understand how important sharing our faith together is in our lives.

Jesus came and helped the early Christian disciples become a family of believers and then they helped each other. We also can enjoy this through the CEW weekend. We very much hope you will join us !

What to expect: CEW begins with signing up and signing in at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, and ends at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. We will sleep at the retreat site (OLIH – 510 East First Street, Ankeny) in order to feel a sense of being a family of believers sharing and learning together.

Regular mattresses are available for all participants.

There are separate sleeping rooms for men and women

Do you need a special sleeping arrangement? If so, please mark that on your registration form.

Shower areas are available.

Delicious meals are served throughout the weekend.

Your hosts will be a team of lay and ordained members of the Ankeny area Christian community. Also, Fr. Paul Zirimenya (Deaf Priest), Fr. Shawn Carey (Deaf Priest), Deacon Patrick Graybill (Deaf), and Deacon Ralph Hinch (Deaf) will be serving, as well.

Total cost is $50, with $10 required at the time of registration. $$ assistance is available; please contact us if you need help. Detach and mail the registration form, or register online at

http://olih.org/cewretreats/

If you have any questions, please contact Gus & Dee Cordero at VP number 515-412-4330 or Peggy Chiconine at Voice/Text 515-720-6120 or email Peggy at dpchicoine@msn.com

Deaf Services Commission of Iowa:

LEAD-K

Commissioner Jennifer Keaton, along with Kathy Miller, Iowa Association of the Deaf's President (IAD), provided an overview of a Gallaudet-inspired program that emphasizes language equality for Deaf children. At present, the system for the Deaf places a lot of focus on spoken English, but lacks in the development of a strong foundation for Deaf children through American Sign Language. LEAD-K is here to support and educate those hearing families with Deaf children.

The LEAD-K Campaign is a visual civil rights movement to end the nationwide epidemic of language deprivation by promoting language equality, American Sign Language (ASL) and English, as a basic human right for all Deaf babies, leading to a new generation of Deaf children who are Kindergarten-ready.

LEAD-K believes Deaf Kids are usually forced to learn ONE language, ASL or English. Their mission is to bring Deaf Kids up to their two language acquisition, both ASL and English. Their message is clear. Do not omit one language for the betterment of another. Research has proven that Deaf children can be bilingual. Bilingualism is very important to our community. It can be done with your support and respect for both ASL and English.

IAD will be sending Carol Manning and Dirk Hilliard to San Francisco, California in September to attend a workshop to learn more about LEAD-K and, hopefully, bring back information to pass along or implement here in Iowa.

To learn more about LEAD-K you can go to ***Language Equality & Acquisition for Deaf Kids! (LEAD-K)*** ***http://www.asl4deafkids.org***

YouTubes:

* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smxcDqtt0AA (Research based video)

*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BUJUD51Sy20&list=PL4V2VIxorHifH03mFN3HZg_f0FEN4xaw4&index=11&spfreload=5 (Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind Deaf Adult Role Model program)

The State of Minneosat's Parent-Infant Language/Role model inform below
http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/disabilities/documents/pub/dhs16_149010.pdf

Strategic Plan: The Commission spent considerable time discussing the Strategic Plan. They voted to change the language in the proposed Strategic Plan to include "communities we re present" wherever Deaf and Hard of Hearing is mentioned. There will also be a footnote/ asterisk with a reference to a website that lists the different groups so none are left out.

Deaf Services Commission Meeting:

The four focus points of the CAS Strategic Plans: **1)Language and Communication Access**; **2) Civic Engagement**; **3) Community Connection** and **4) Youth Leadership** and updates in each area.

The commission voted more inclusive/additional language be added to the Strategic Plan. Discussion transpired about possibly narrowing down some of the items that we are working on. The Strategic plan was not voted on yet.

Strategic Near-Term Focus (FY2016)

Increase compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in public facilities in Iowa.
Work with the Department of Administrative Services and other relevant state agencies to perform an audit of existing compliance with ADA for the Hard of Hearing
Collaborate with the Department of Public Safety and other organizations to add hearing assistive technology to the building code adopted by the State of Iowa.
Enhance the availability of information on the Department of Human Rights website and through other media to serve the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
Increase access to information and education regarding hearing assistive technology
Annually request a proclamation from the Governor recognizing Better Speech and Hearing Month in the State of Iowa; Continue to proclaim Deaf Awareness Week/Month.

Strategic Mid-Term Focus (FY2016 – FY2018)

Find legislative sponsor, and establish a coalition to draft, support and pass legislation that requires hearing instrument specialists to provide full information about all available assistive technologies at the point of service.
Increase communication and service access for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
Create a directory of service providers that are accessible to/provide services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
Add an American Sign Language interpreter to the Deaf Services Commission.
Increase the availability of real time captioning for late-deafened adults
Increase assistance to the elderly Deaf community
Increase availability of accessible housing for them
Establish a means for an advocate to be available to members of the Deaf community in difficult legal situations.

Strategic Long-Term Focus (FY 2016-FY2020)

Find legislative sponsor, and establish a coalition to draft, support and pass legislation that mandates insurance companies to provide health insurance for hearing aids and other hearing-related assistive technology.
Increase the number and availability of interpreters for the Deaf
Create a “Teach for America” type program for interpreters to provide tuition assistance for Interpreters.
Create an American Sign Language Interpreter major within Iowa’s universities and community colleges; provide workshops throughout the state to assist with improvement in the interpreters skills.
Increase the interpreter compensation fund at the Department of Human Rights to $10,000.

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- Create a "Teach for America" type program for interpreters to provide tuition assistance for interpreters.
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- Increase the interpreter compensation fund at the Department of Human Rights to $10,000.

Deaf Services Commission meeting and New Commissioners:

Congratulations 4 new Deaf Services Commissioners:

- Jennifer Keaton of Mt.Vernon, Deaf
- Michael Ballard of Boone, Deaf
- William Felderman of Ankeny, Hard of Hearing
- Christina Anne Herrin, Iowa City, Hearing.

We are looking forward to working with Christina ,Michael and William & Jennifer and all of the commissioners as well.

We hope to see you at the Commission Meeting, November 4, 2016

Our next Commission meeting Friday, November 4, 2016 from 11:00 – 3:00. **Please mark your calendars for that date**. Deaf Services and Commissioners are open to receiving the general public's feedback and comments.

What: Deaf Services Commission, DSCI, Meeting

Date: Friday, November 4, 2016

Time: 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Where: Pleasant Hill Public Library, 5151 Maple Dr., Pleasant Hill, Iowa

Any questions you have, please let Jill and Linda know at 515-281-3164 or 888-221-3724 Voice/TTY/VRS.

Mark your Calendars

October 17, 2016: Cedar Rapids Association of the Deaf, 17th annual Halloween/black-Gold party, City Hall Building, 120 5th N. Walford, Iowa 52351. Time: 6 P.M.– 10 P.M. Admission $10 Adults (wit or without costume or black,/gold, $5 for 5-12 years old, Free 4 years old and under.

October 22, 2016: Cedarloo's Chili or chicken Noddle soup supper and Halloween. Door opens 4:00 PM, Dinner 6 PM. Admissions for Dinner only Adult $8,

October 29 2016: Iowa Association of the Deaf, Board meeting, hosted by Sioux City Association of the Deaf at the Goodwood, Camp,, 5705-152nd,St, South Sioux City, Nebraska (not Iowa) Door open at 8:00- Meeting starts at 9:00 AM. Breakfast free– Lunch $5– Halloween Party $5 (evening) Everyone is welcome! Join and have fun.

November 4, 2016: The next DSCI Commission meeting will be held at the Pleasant Hill Public Library, 5151 Maple Dr., Pleasant Hill, IA . From 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 P.M. (More information will be announced later)

November 11 and 12, 2017: Understanding the Political Process Workshop on November 11-12, 2016 at Drake University, Olmsted Center Building, 2875 University Ave, Des Moines, Iowa. Friday, 11th from 1 pm to 5 pm; Saturday, 8 am - Noon with 7 pm Meet and Greet with Iowa Legislature (Friday evening). Free Registration. To request accommodation, please contact Kathy Miller or David Legg at least 10 days in advance - Kathy at (712) 266-3486 VP or email iadpresident@aol.com or David at (319) 432-7418 VP or email davidjlegg71@gmail.com.

The dates of Nov 2016 – July 2017 for the Performing Art of DM; Look at Page 22 Interpreter provided.

February 2017: DSCI Commission meeting TBA

February 2017: Iowa Association of the Deaf Board Meeting: TBA

May 2017: DSCI Commission Meeting TBA

May 2017: Iowa Association of the Deaf board Meeting: TBA

July 5-8, 2017: Iowa Association of the Deaf, 57th Biennial Conference, Cedar Rapids Marriott, 1200 Collins Rd. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

If you would like to post your events or articles on our E-News, please send an e-mail to Stephanie.lyons@iowa.gov by December 30, 2016

Visit the DSCI website: https://humanrights.iowa.gov/cas/ds ~ Questions or Comments? Email us at dhr.dsci@iowa.gov or call 515-281-3164 V/TTY or Toll-Free: 1-888-221-3724 V/TTY

Performing Arts of Des Moines:

The Performing Arts Center of Des Moines is proud to announce the new Broadway Show season. During each production the Sunday matinee will offer sign language interpreting by Deaf Services Unlimited. To get tickets contact the Box Office at 515-246-2300 or visit their office at 221 Walnut Street, Des Moines Monday – Friday 9am-5pm. ***Be sure to ask for the reserved seating in the Deaf section when you order your tickets.***

Here is the schedule for the interpreted Broadway performances for the 2016-2017 season:

Broadway Show	Interpreters
RENT – Sunday, November 27th 2016 1:00	**Diana Kautzky & Karen Potter-Maxwell**
BEAUTIFUL – Sunday, December 11th 2016 1:00	**Debbie Ditolla & Diana Kautzky**
MAMMA MIA! – Sunday, January 22nd 2017 1:00	**Bethany Koubsky & Julia Matson**
THE SOUND OF MUSIC – Sunday, February 12th 2017 1:00	**Bethany Koubsky & Julia Matson**
JERSEY BOYS – Sunday, March 19th 2017 1:00	**Bethany Koubsky & Julia Matson**
FUN HOME – Sunday, April 9th 2017 1:00	**Bethany Koubsky & Amy Ruth McGraw**
THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME Sunday, May 21st 2017 1:00	**Bethany Koubsky & Amy Ruth McGraw**
AN AMERICAN IN PARIS Sunday, July 23rd 2017 1:00	**Debbie Ditolla and Diana Kautzky**

Understanding the Political Process workshop
November 11-12, 2016
At Drake University, Olmsted Center Building

Friday , November 11, 2016

1 –5 pm **Workshop Session**

including a tour of the Harkin Collection, featuring documents relating to the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

7 PM: Meet and greet with Iowa Legislators

Saturday, November 12, 2016

8 AM – 12 PM:

Workshop Session

Presenter, Kim Biaco majeri, State legislative Affairs Coordinator

FREE REGISTRATION

To request accommodation please contact Kathy Miller or David Legg ***at least 7 0 days in advance.***

Kathy Miller (712)266-3486 VP, or email at iadpresident@aol.com, OR

David Legg (319)432-741 8 VP, or email at davidjlegg71@gmail.com

Dear Community October 4, 2016

Community Hands & Hands Up Communications is seeking nominations for this years award recepients. The awards are:

Hands Up Award: recognizes a colleague who has made a significant impact upon our lives, careers and the interpreting profession. Someone who has positively impacted another through mentoring, made great strides as an interpreter, is a leader in the field, is an exemplary team, encourages rather than tears down, and/or is dedicated to the profession of interpreting.

Community Champ Award: A Deaf Community Member dedicated to advancement for deaf people in an aspect of life. This person seeks positive change in our Community with a collaborative approach. Someone who is sees a need and desires to help, support, or aide. Someone who embodies the beauty of the Deaf Community and Culture.

Harper Achievement Award: Someone dedicated to the education of families with deaf children, students of American Sign Language, and the community in which they live. Some one who volunteers time to the betterment of deaf services. This person values education, family, dedication to deafness, positive, and has a love of life as modeled by Phyllis Harper and her family.

Please consider nominating someone you believe should receive one of these awards at our November 12, 2016 banquet. Send your nominations to: styrrell@community-hands.org or styrrell@handsupcommunications.com by October 30, 2016. We hope to see you November 12, 2016 to celebrate all of us… "Our Community".

Sincerely,

Susan Tyrrell

ANNUAL FALL BANQUET

Presenting...

Harper Achievement Award
Community Champ Award
Hands Up Award

Saturday, Nov. 12th @ 5:30PM

DoubleTree by Hilton
350 1st Ave NE, Cedar Rapids

$25 Dinner Ticket

This year Community Hands is celebrating individuals who have gone above and beyond by bridging gaps in the Deaf Community. Please join us in celebrating the people in our community that make a difference!

Any specific dietary needs may be directed to the office.

HandsUP COMMUNICATIONS

Community HANDS

Contact 319-213-9920 for tickets.
sgraham@community-hands.org

The IOWA Youth Leadership 2017 FORUM

FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

JULY 16-21 2017

AMES, IA

Learn about leadership skills, disability rights, self-advocacy, technology and resources to help you achieve your independence!

FUN

EDUCATIONAL

EXCITING

MAKE NEW FRIENDS FOR LIFE

ALL EXPENSES PAID

A Partnership Between The Office of Persons with Disabilities, The Department for the Blind and Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services.
For information and application form call (888) 219-0471 or Email: dhr.disabilities@iowa.gov or Online at www.state.ia.us/government/dhr/pd