

Monthly Communicator

NJ Department of Human Services | Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

June 2016 | www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/home/index.html

Chris Christie, Governor

Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor

Elizabeth Connolly, Acting Commissioner

David Alexander, Director

Bring Your Child to Work Day



On April 28, 2016 the DHS participated in *Bring Your Child to Work Day*. Children from the department spent the day learning about the work their parents do. Activities for the children were also planned. One of the activities was led by DDHH staff Catie Purrazella and Jason Weiland, who presented to the children about people who are Deaf and hard of hearing. Children had an opportunity to watch sign language interpreters at work and to ask questions about hearing loss.

Child Study Team Presents at Advisory Council Meeting

On April 29, the DDHH Advisory Council's guest speakers presented on the topic of "*Special Education Evaluation Services for NJ Students with Hearing Loss*." The speakers included: Jason Collins, *School Psychologist on the NJ Specialized Child Study Team*, Wendy Eufemia, *Learning Disability Teacher Consultant*, and Kara Rogers, *Regional Consultant for Deaf and hard of hearing students*. It was explained that the *NJ Specialized Child Study Team* (NJSCST) consists of seven members, six of whom conduct evaluations. The team is required under NJ law, though not all states have the same requirement. The team is made up of school psychologists, Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultants, Speech and Language Specialists, and by law, could also have a social worker, though none is currently on the team at this time. Every Child Study Team is mandated to provide evaluations, (for children aged 3 – 21 years), in a child's native language for eligibility decisions. If a school district's own Child Study Team lacks the necessary skills to adequately evaluate a child, then the NJSCST can be contacted and will conduct the evaluation for a fee paid for by the requesting school district. Their team covers the entire state of N.J., and 210 school districts have used their services since 2008. The NJSCST and Ms. Rogers fall under the supervision of the Office of Special Education Programs. The phone number is **609-292-0147** and the community is encouraged to contact them with any questions about evaluation services for children with hearing loss.

DOJ Seeks Input on Web Captioning

The U.S. Department of Justice published a *Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) Notice* in the *Federal Register* indicating that the Department will submit an information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. The proposed information collection is titled, “*Assessing the Potential Monetized Benefits of Captioning Web Content for Individuals Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing*” and is intended to solicit information about the perceived monetary value of captioning on Web sites from individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. The Department is not suggesting that people with disabilities be asked to pay for captioning, but is merely soliciting information about the theoretical monetary value that they place on the captioning of Web content in order to help the Department quantify the benefits of captioning on Web sites. The Department hopes the information collected will assist it in the preparation of future regulatory assessments, which are required by *Executive Order 12866* and *Executive Order 13563*.

Written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies are encouraged. Comments will be accepted until July 11, 2016. The PRA Notice provides more detailed information on the types of comments that the Department is seeking. The PRA Notice can be found at *81 FR 29577*, available [here](#).

FYI!

Social Work Internship Program

The New Jersey Department of Human Services, Student Internship Program is designed for students who have an interest in human services, New Jersey state government and public service. Unpaid internships are designed to recruit students into state government where they will be exposed to the work of government and human services as well as gain experience in the professional world. DDHH is pleased to participate in this program. For the fall semester, 2016 DDHH would like to welcome Christopher Shannon who is currently pursuing his Masters in Social Work from Rutgers University.

DDHH Advisory Council Meeting

Barbara K. Strassman, Professor & Co-Chair, Department of Special Education, Language, & Literacy Education of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing Coordinator at the College of New Jersey, will be the guest speaker at the next DDHH Advisory Council Meeting on Friday, July 29, 2016. She will present, a “*Summary of Current Research Based Practices in Literacy & Language and an Overview of Pending Legislation in Other States.*”

Upcoming Conferences/Calendar

Hearing Loss of America, Convention 2016

June 23 - 26

Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20009 US

<http://www.hearingloss.org/content/convention>

53rd Biennial National Association of the Deaf Conference

July 5 – 9

<http://phoenix.nad.org/>

For additional information contact DDHH at 609-588-2648.

Calendar of Events

DDHH Advisory Council Meeting Friday, July 29, 2016

9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Talking Book & Braille Center

2300 Stuyvesant Avenue, Trenton NJ 08618

Speaker: Barbara K. Strassman, Professor, College of NJ



DDHH Regular Office Hours: Monday – Friday: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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