

# MCDHH E-News: February 3, 2023

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## Greetings from the Executive Director

The next Town Hall will be in Fulton, MO on February 25, 2023 in Ingle Auditorium on the MSD campus.

Despite the weather, we had a Commission meeting on Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. The next Commission meeting will be April 13, 2023 in Jefferson City. Please contact Laurie Lister for details.

Upcoming events to come out and meet us are at Deafopia in St. Louis ([St. Louis, MO - Deafopia](#)) on February 18, 2023.

## Public Hearings Scheduled for Vocational Rehabilitation Services

[Public Hearings Scheduled for Vocational Rehabilitation Services | Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education \(mo.gov\)](#)

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## Public Hearings Scheduled for Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation (MVR) will conduct two virtual public hearings on vocational rehabilitation services in March to gain feedback on ways to improve services for individuals with disabilities.

Input is welcome regarding MVR's goals and priorities found in its current [state plan](#).

### Public Hearings Schedule March 8, 2023

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Use [this link](#) to join by computer

### 2023 MCDHH Commission Meetings

#### Thursday, April 13

The Lohman Building,  
100 Jefferson Street,  
Jefferson City, MO  
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

#### Thursday, June 22

The Lohman Building,  
100 Jefferson Street,  
Jefferson City, MO  
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

#### October 2023

Date TBD

Use this information to join by phone  
Call 1-650-479-3207  
Meeting number (access code): 2468 172 4063  
Meeting password: 9AxRJ7ASeS2  
**March 9, 2023**  
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Use [this link](#) to join by computer

Use this information to join by phone  
Call 1-650-479-3207  
Meeting number (access code): 2469 228 6334  
Meeting password: 6PXhGZeab65

Written comments must be submitted by March 31, 2023. Those comments can be mailed to 2023 Public Hearings, Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 3024 Dupont Circle, Jefferson City, MO 65109; sent via email to [info@vr.dese.mo.gov](mailto:info@vr.dese.mo.gov); or by completing this [survey](#).

MVR will provide real-time captioning of these events. Individuals who require additional accommodations should make arrangements in advance by contacting Tammy McSorley at 877-222-8963 (toll-free), 573-751-1441 (fax), or via email at [info@vr.dese.mo.gov](mailto:info@vr.dese.mo.gov).

## **Coding Bootcamp Town Hall Meeting #1**

Wednesday, February 8th at 7 pm ET/4 pm PT

[Click here](#) to joining the Zoom Meeting

The CSD Learns and Deaf Kids Code Team invites you to join our town hall meeting on February 8th at 7-8 pm ET/4-5 pm PT. This Zoom meeting is for educators, caregivers, learners, and anyone else curious about our upcoming virtual coding bootcamps. The CSD Learns team will give a sneak peek of the coding course in Canvas, explain the registration process, and answer any questions you may have about our coding bootcamp, co-hosted by CSD Learns and Deaf Kids Code. ASL interpreters and live captioning will be provided for this meeting.

Here is the [Zoom link to join the meeting](#). Can't join us on February 8th? No problem! We have two more town hall meetings happening in March:

- Town Hall Meeting #2 on March 7th from 7-8 pm ET/4-5 pm PT
- Town Hall Meeting #3 on March 29th from 7-8 pm ET/4-5 pm PT

We are thrilled to share this resource with you! P.S. If you haven't already, you can register for the Coding Bootcamp [here](#).



## Emergency Management Access and Functional Needs Disability Awareness Trainings in Missouri

Niagara University Disability Awareness Training has received funding from the Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council to educate anyone involved in emergency planning, preparedness, response, and recovery as it pertains to individuals with disabilities and access and functional needs. NU has tailored a presentation that identifies the responsibilities of both emergency management personnel and disability advocates during an emergency. This program will introduce the four modules necessary for proper response that include Disability Awareness Training, the Americans with Disabilities Act specific to Emergency management, emergency plan content, and Inclusive Planning and Active Participation.

### Topics to be discussed:

- Disability Awareness specific to Emergency Management
  - Access and Functional Needs defined to include Universal Design
  - Understanding how the whole community concept is imperative to proper response to individuals with disabilities and how to involve them.
  - NYC Lawsuit and its ramifications nationwide
- The Americans with Disabilities Act relative to Emergency management and response.
  - Community resources and other materials that assist Emergency Management in proper response
  - Disaster Preparedness and Planning
  - Inclusive Planning and Active Participation

Option 1: Two-Day Program: This program is designed for those who are active in the disability community and or working in some capacity in an emergency management office. Requirement to report an Emergency Management Access and Functional needs activities after the training is required.

Option 2: Half-Day Program: This program educates individuals who want to learn about the process, be active in a capacity that suits their interest and availability, and wants to assist in directing peers and colleagues within their demographic, municipality, or line of work. Obligations to report emergency management participation is not required in this role.

**We are currently holding FOUR trainings in the state of Missouri, listed below.**

**We will be carrying out trainings in all 9 regions of Missouri over the next 3 years. All trainings are free.**

### **Springfield, Missouri**

Option One: Full Training **March 6th-7th, 2023 8:30-4:30pm CST**

[Click Here to Register](#)

OR

Option Two: Half Day **March 7th, 2023 12:30-4:30pm CST**

[Click Here to Register](#)

**Place: Springfield-Greene County OEM**

**330 W. Scott Street, Springfield, MO 65802**

### **Independence, Missouri**

Option One: Full Training **March 8th-9th, 2023 8:30-4:30pm CST**

[Click Here to Register](#)

OR

Option Two: Half Day **March 9th, 2023 12:30-4:30pm CST**

[Click Here to Register](#)

**Place: Uptown Market building**

**211 W. Truman Road, Independence, MO 64050**

## Columbia, Missouri

Option One: Full Training **March 27th-28th, 2023 9:00am-5:00pm CST**

[Click Here to Register](#)

OR

Option Two: Half Day **March 28th, 2023 1:00-5:00pm CST**

[Click Here to Register](#)

**Place: New Hall Event Space**

**700 Cougar Drive Columbia, MO 65216**

## St. Louis, Missouri

Option One: Full Training **March 29th-30th, 2023 9:00am-5:00pm CST**

[Click Here to Register](#)

OR

Option Two: Half Day **March 30th, 2023 1:00-5:00pm CST**

[Click Here to Register](#)

**Place: St. Louis County Office of  
Emergency Management**

**1150 Hanna Rd., Ballwin, MO 63021**

For questions regarding this training or to request accommodations such as an ASL interpreter please email [carynewman@niagara.edu](mailto:carynewman@niagara.edu) or call 716-286-8139



Funding for this training has been provided by the Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council

# MCDHH Town Halls

**February 25, 2023**  
**10:00-12:00**

**MSD-Ingle Auditorium**  
**505 E 5th St, Fulton, MO**

**March 11, 2023**  
**10:00-12:00**

**The Whole Person**  
**3710 Main St, Kansas City, MO**

**April 1, 2023**  
**10:00-12:00**

**The Library Center-The Frisco**  
**Community Room**  
**4653 S Campbell Ave, Springfield, MO**

## Greater St. Louis Area Town Hall Meeting

Do you or know of someone who has a hearing loss or is deaf, but is also experiencing vision loss issues? Do you or know of someone who has a vision loss or is blind, but is also experiencing hearing loss issues?

We invite you to join us. In the world of combined vision and hearing loss, there are many things we can do to improve our lives. We want to hear from YOU. There are agencies that want to help, but need to hear YOUR FEEDBACK. Come LEARN about US and help us LEARN about YOU.

Come in Person or via Zoom: Choose one date to attend

When: Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 6:30-8:00 pm

When: Saturday, March 25, 2023 at 10:00-11:30 am

Where: Society for the Blind & Visually Impaired, 8770 Manchester Rd, Brentwood, MO 63144

If attending in person, arrive 30 minutes early to socialize.

If attending via Zoom, join the link 15 minutes early to ensure your camera/microphone are working and you can access the interpreter/captions if needed.

RSVP by March 10th with your full name, date, whether you'll be attending in-person or virtually, and if accommodation is needed.

913-677-4562 (Voice) or 913-227-4282 (VP)

Email: [bjordan@helenkeller.org](mailto:bjordan@helenkeller.org)

A Special Thank You to our Sponsors: DEAF, Inc., St. Louis Society for the Blind & Visually Impaired, Sight and Sound Impaired of St Louis, Helen Keller National Center, and Lighthouse for the Blind

**ANNOUNCEMENT FOR LEAD-K:** HB 106 has been moved to the Education Committee. The chair of that committee is named: Representative Brad Pollitt. Please contact Representative Pollitt and ask for a hearing on HB 106.

Subject: HB106 (LEAD-K)

**Some ideas to use if you need: (Feel free to cut and paste...add ideas)**

Rep. Pollitt, I am contacting you regarding HB106 (Rep. Barnes, sponsor). As the chair of the Education Committee, I am asking that the bill be given a hearing. Please give us, the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community, who have been through Missouri's educational system or have children who have been/are in the educational system, the opportunity to explain why this measure is needed. This legislation will result in the establishment educational tools and developmental guidelines to assist the families and educators of deaf and hard of hearing children so that these children can be kindergarten-ready when they reach school and begin their academic progress with the same opportunities as their peers.

---OR---

Rep. Pollitt, please consider letting the community speak to the need of HB106. Too many children have fallen to illiteracy, unnecessarily, and end up dependent on the government because of the challenges they face when they cannot obtain employment or access services. Deaf and Hard of

hearing children deserve whatever intervention necessary, the same as any child would get if not progressing as expected.

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Rep. Pollitt, Jerome Barnes has submitted HB106 which would establish an assessment tool and program to ensure that deaf and hard of hearing children are progressing in their language development appropriately. Too many Missouri deaf and hard of hearing children start school with weak language and cognitive skills. This does not have to be the case in Missouri. Please have a hearing to hear the concerns of the public, many of whom have/had children in the educational system in Missouri, others who are products themselves. The system we have is not working, let's start making progress towards equal opportunities for deaf and hard of hearing children in our state

DEAFOPIA– February 18, 2023 in St. Louis, MO - 10AM to 5 PM – Event will be held at 777 Casino Center Drive, Maryland Heights, MO 63043

**Starkloff Disability Institutes'** is offering the Dream Big program as well as the upcoming summer camps for deaf, hard of hearing and/or Deaf-Blind children ages 14-21.

If you have further questions about the Dream Big program, please feel free to reach out to me or the Dream Big program coordinator, Danielle Giuffrida, at [dgiuffrida@starkloff.org](mailto:dgiuffrida@starkloff.org). For more information, click here:



Dream Big General  
Program Flyer.pdf



2023 Dream Big  
Camp Club.pdf

**Sleep Family Scholarship:** We are a family-run organization that offers helpful resources for individuals with sleep and wellness issues, especially as caused by physical and mental disabilities. We offer an annual \$1,500 scholarship for disabled students, for more information, click here: <https://sleepfamily.org/scholarship/>