



E-NEWS

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February 16th, 2024

From The Executive Director

DEI at MCDHH Update: MCDHH is working towards improving practices and awareness as well as working towards resolution of concerns recently discussed. We are beginning our work with a consultant as well as looking into further training on the issue and partnering with other agencies in our community to do that. While MCDHH has already begun at changing how we handle advocacy calls: addressing, follow-up, and documentation. This more-recent discussion had led to considering a similar practice for concerns or feedback the community would like to share or pursue with our office. We appreciate our community and input we have received and will put it to good use.

LEAD-K Progress: The LEAD-K Committee is having its third meeting today. The Office of Childhood did a very good job gathering information from states who already have LEAD-K legislation or good programs for family services and language support and assessment. The committee looked through the information and provided feedback for which programs the committee felt best reflected our state. We are now looking closer at the programs in Kansas and Indiana and will reference these programs. The next step would be looking at assessments to recommend to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education along with the milestones.

In honor of Black History Month, Sonya Smith has interviewed several Missourians as a part of her Spotlight series. TiaJenice Morris, one of our Commissioners who also owns her own business in the St. Louis area, and John Brand III, an assistant professor at William Woods University, were released earlier this month. Watch for our next spotlight coming soon!

MCDHH would like to send out a HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to the SASI of St. Louis. This is Sight and Sound Impaired-St. Louis. They host many activities and support programs that serve the Deaf-Blind community. They just celebrated their 15th year! If you are looking to be involved, here is their webpage: <https://sasistl.org/home>



Deaf-Blind Task Force: MCDHH received interest for this Task-Force to be reinstated as an advisory group to the Commission as we work towards improving our service to the Deaf-Blind community. One very important part of this service is the SSP program. We are just getting things started and still getting grounded and figuring things out. We had our first meeting at the end of December and our second one will be next week, February 23rd. We will be establishing a way for consumers to provide input either to the Commission or through the representatives on the committee. More information will come.

Legislation to Keep an Eye On: This legislative Session there are two bills, HB 1918 and HB2626 being referred to the Health Care Reform committee (<https://house.mo.gov/Committees.aspx?cluster=true>) adding hearing aids and cochlear implants to be covered by MO HealthNet. If you would like to read the bills you can go to: <https://house.mo.gov/LegislationSP.aspx> and do a search for the bill you would like to read. Both had public hearings on 2/13/2024.

Amusing Trivia

Football playoffs are in full swing, and this season brought an unexpected twist as dedicated fans cleared a whopping 19 inches of snow from Highmark Stadium for the Bills and Steelers game. The people don't realize there is a little piece of deaf history in football history. It is often a shared fact in the deaf community that Paul Hubbard invented the football huddle in 1894.



Fast forward to 2023, when we once again made history with the introduction of the first-ever 5G-connected football helmet. AT&T, the Telecommunications giant, asked athletic director Warren Keller and head football coach Chuck Goldstein what they could do to make football more inclusive for the deaf. The result? A cutting-edge helmet featuring a heads-up display connected to 5G. Imagine a coach sending plays directly from a tablet to the quarterback, who then relays the play to the team. This innovation not only aids hard of hearing and deaf players but also addresses challenges related to crowd noise that can affect communication on the field.

The Gallaudet football used it for the first time on October 5 played against Hilbert College. The results showed improvement in communication and reduced mistakes and penalties. Gallaudet's Bison football won the game 34-20! As for now, only quarterbacks will wear them, but the future looks promising. They are optimistic that the innovation will continue to further improve and become mainstream in sports one day.



To see more details on 5G-
Connected Helmet:

[https://youtu.be/3ImU1VmCupM?
si=td_cwjMWmoUYHWJO](https://youtu.be/3ImU1VmCupM?si=td_cwjMWmoUYHWJO)

"We work out the same way as every other college football program, we practice the same way, we compete the same way," Goldstein said. "The difference between coaching a hearing team compared to a Deaf team is first the communication."

Chuck Goldstein

MCDHH COMMISSION MEETING

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE FOLLOWING DATES:

APRIL 4TH KCMO 10-2 PM

JULY 18TH JCMO 10-2PM

OCTOBER 10th JCMO 10-2PM

MCDHH's Upcoming Occasions

Defying Gravity:

Dive into the Details of the 2024 KC Interpreters Conference—
Register Now for Exclusive Access!

April 4-6, 2024

- **Registration:**
 - <https://mcdhh.mo.gov/registration/>
- **Forms:**
 - <https://mcdhh.mo.gov/forms-2/>
- **Schedule:**
 - <https://mcdhh.mo.gov/schedule/>
- **Payment:**
 - <https://mcdhh.mo.gov/2024payment/>
- **Presenters' Bios:**
 - <https://mcdhh.mo.gov/presenters-bio/>
- **Workshops Descriptions:**
 - <https://mcdhh.mo.gov/workshop-descriptions/>



Sponsored by:
Missouri Commission for the Deaf
and Hard of Hearing



CERTIFIED DEAF
**MENTOR
TRAINING**

April 6, 2024
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Location: TBA
Kansas City, Missouri

CONTACT US

636-692-4630 | www.signingedge.com

MCDHH & KCDHH Interpreter Conference- Sponsored Events



DINNER + ASL NETWORKING

APRIL 5, 2024 6-12 AM
JOHN'S BIG DECK
928 WYANDOTTE STREET
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO COME!

SPONSORED BY




WESTPORT ALE HOUSE SOCIAL EVENT




April 6, 2024 at 6pm until 3am
4128 Broadway, Kansas City, MO 64111
<https://westportalehouse.com>

contact info:
Shanda: Shanda.miller@mcdhh.mo.gov
Colette: Marcy.BarnesMaelzer@ks.gov




Racial Equity Training/ Presentation is COMING SOON in Olathe. We will announce the confirmed date and place soon.

This interactive training will benefit attendees on unpacking their privileges and provide guidance on how to dismantle racism from all parts of life. This much needed hands-on training will highlight the many ways racism appears and how each of us can address it with the goal that all of us have equity.



Dominic Harrison, M.Ed., (he/him) is a Deaf Black doctorate candidate from the department of Language, Literacy, and Sociocultural Studies under the College of Education and Human Sciences at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He is a certified secondary social studies teacher at the New Mexico School for the Deaf. He also received the graduate certificate in Race & Social Justice from the University of New Mexico. He loves to travel the world to try new food and learn various cultures.

KCDHH is collaborating with the Kansas School for the Deaf to offer this opportunity. All are welcome! For questions, please contact Marcy.BarnesMaelzer@ks.gov



5th Annual
1904
DEAF FILM FESTIVAL

ENJOY THE FILMS AT THE COMFORTS OF YOUR HOME!

ONE-TIME PAYMENT OF ONLY \$10!

Watch the top 25 selected deaf-related films of the year!

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024 - MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2024

BUY YOUR MOVIE PASS TODAY AT
<https://1904dff.festivee.com/>

DEAF VISUAL ARTS FESTIVAL
St. Louis Community College - Florissant Valley
3400 Pershall Road, St. Louis, MO 63135
SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
BOOTHS, FOOD, FRIENDS, AND ENTERTAINMENT!

Shuttle available from parking to festival for Seniors and Disabled!

Over 20+ artists attend every year!

Starring
Antines (NuNu) Davis
Renca Dunn
Muzzarelli Theatrical Deaf Puppets

Registration required for admission.

INTERPRETERS WILL BE PROVIDED.

FOOD & BEVERAGES AVAILABLE AT THE FOOD COURT!

REGISTER TODAY!
<https://www.deafinc.org/dvaf>

AVOID LONG LINES, REGISTER EARLY!



We're **HIRING!**

- Community Educator
- Interpreter Coordinator
- Staff Interpreter



Visit our website for more information:
<https://www.deafinc.org>

MCDHH's Upcoming Occasions



Part 2 of 4

0.2 RID GS

Online via Webex

Cost: Free

MCDHH is an approved RID Sponsor

FEBRUARY 28, 2024 TIME: 5:00 PM- 7 PM

Missouri Interpreter Certification: It's ALL in the Details Webinar Series: Part 2 What Certifications are available, Conversions/Recognitions & Skill Level Standards

Come join MCDHH for the first part of a mini webinar series to learn the ins and outs of MCDHH, our interpreting system and to have your questions answered regarding all things interpreting!

Join from the meeting link:

<https://stateofmo.webex.com/stateofmo/j.php?MTID=m23420c12da11c596e796d264dadfe71b>

Future offerings:

Part 3: March 27th (0.2 CEUS GS) (CEU requirements, Mentoring Options, and Self-Study)

Part 4: April 24th (0.2 CEUS GS) (Renewals, Complaints against you, Lapses of certification)

MCDHH

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Interpreter

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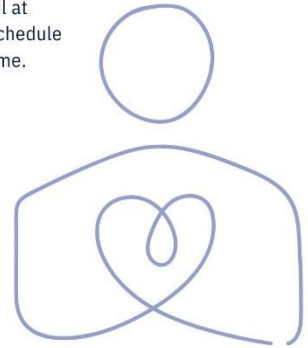
MISSOURI COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

DO YOU NEED ADVOCACY?

We have a passion for providing advocacy for Deaf and Hard of hearing Missourians. If you need any assistance, please contact our Deaf Community Advocate, Sonya Smith at (573) 298-6778 or email at sonya.smith@mcdhh.mo.gov to schedule appointment. Walk-ins are welcome.

OUR SERVICES:

- SSA & SSDI
- Request ASL interpreter
- Communication assistant
- and more....



Mainstream News

Mental Health Services for the Deaf

There are mental services available for the D/HOH community in both St. Louis and Kansas City!

As we move into the winter season with shorter days, longer nights, and many holidays, it is important to talk about Seasonal Depression. Many people go through times when they feel unusually sad or just different, for some, these feelings happen when the seasons change, and have the "winter blues" when the daylight gets shorter in the fall/winter and start to feel better after daylight savings in the spring when the sun is out for longer.

Sometimes these mood changes can be more serious and can affect how a person feels, thinks, and even behaves. If you have noticed significant changes in your mood, thoughts, or behaviors during the fall/winter time, you may be struggling with Seasonal Affect Disorder or Seasonal Depression. Symptoms can include, among other things: Persistent sad, anxious, or "empty" mood, feeling hopeless, guilt, or unusually irritable. Oversleeping, over eating, and avoiding social situations can all be signs as well.

The holidays can also bring about struggles with loneliness, additional stress and anxiety, and the 'Holiday Blues'. The good news is, treatment is available. Treatments for the "holiday blues" and for season depression can include talk therapy and medication services.

For anyone needing assistance on the East side of the state of Missouri, BJC Behavioral Health can help with therapy, medication, case management support. Please contact Laura Shapiro by cell phone: 314-210-4301 or email: laura.shapiro@bjc.org

Kansas City also offers mental health services for anyone in the Western half of the state of Missouri. Please contact Elijah Buchholz by cell phone: 913-709-5540 or email: ebuchholz@rediscovermh.org

Both programs offer services and therapy by sign fluent therapists and staff who can directly provide mental health support to those in need!



Program of Study Opportunities

No cost to participate. Earn up to 11 RID PPO CEUs.

This program is for interpreters who wish to improve their skills in working with a wider variety of populations and across a wider range of language variation. Interpreters participate in online modules and an induction program over 12 months. Thirty interpreters participate as a cohort and work through the Program of Study together. The cohort includes 20 trainees and 10 supervising partners from across the U.S.

There are currently openings for: Interpreter Trainees, Supervising Partners, and Partnering Interpreter Referral Agencies.

<https://cssh.northeastern.edu/cali/program-of-study/>

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 23, 2024

Sight and Sound Impaired-St. Louis

Trivia Fund Raiser

When: March 23rd, 2024

Doors open at 5:30 PM. Trivia begins at 6:30 and ends around 9:00 PM.

Who: open to Deaf Blind individuals, SSP's, family members, friends, volunteers and the community.

Location: The Heights, formerly known as the Richmond Heights Community Center at 8001 Dale Ave, Richmond Heights, MO, 63117

\$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. (Payment includes bottled water.)

Candy and chips will be available for purchase. Vending machine beverages are \$2 each, cash or credit card. You may bring your own snacks & drinks. Alcohol is permitted.

You can also help support us with the Pick-A-Number game.

Numbers 1-100 will be sold @ \$20 per number.


1st Place \$500 2nd Place \$250 3rd Place \$150
4th Place \$75 5th Place \$25.

We will also be playing Heads or Tails AND Before or After.

The cost of each game is \$1 per person.

Both games will be explained on Trivia Night.

General Upcoming Affairs



We work with the hearing impaired
Do you have Medicare Part A and B?

Would you like these benefits?


- *Comprehensive Dental/Dentures
- *Eyeglasses/Hearing aids
- *Healthy Foods

Call or Text
573.253.9502

It only takes a couple of minutes to see if you may qualify for these and other benefits that you may not be receiving now.

- Remember: No cost to you to see if you qualify!

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Call Frank or Kim Hanna 573.253.9502
Licensed Independent Medicare Insurance Brokers

We do not offer every plan available in your area. Any information that we provide is limited to those plans we do offer in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-medicare for information regarding all your options

78th Annual Men and 32nd Annual Women
Art Kruger & Thomas Elliott

NATIONAL BASKETBALL



Tournament

Come Watch The Best Club Teams In The Country
Compete For The National Championship!
Hall of Fame Ceremony and Boys and Girls High School All Star Games

Early Bird Price Until ~~December 31, 2023~~
EXTENDED to January 15, 2024
\$20 For All Fans * \$10 Kids (13-17)

DATE, TIME & LOCATION
APRIL 25 - 27, 2024

Thursday & Friday	Saturday
8am - 8pm	8am - 8pm
New Century Fieldhouse 551 New Century Parkway New Century, Kansas 66031	Gardner High School 425 Waverly Road Gardner, Kansas 66030



[HTTPS://USADB.US/2024](https://usadb.us/2024)

List of Links Resources

Event Dates:

Certified Deaf Mentor Training

Signing Edge

April 6, 2024

8 AM-3PM

Location: TBA KCMO

P: 636-692-4630

www.signingedge.com

National Basketball Tournament

April 25-27, 2024 8 AM- 8 PM

New Century/Gardner Kanas

For more information:

<https://usadb.us/2024>

Resources

We Work with the Hearing Impaired

Do you have Medicare Part A and B?

Would you like these benefits?

Comprehensive Dental/Dentures

Eyeglasses/Hearing aids

Healthy Foods

It only takes a couple of minutes to see if you may qualify for these and other benefits that you may not receiving now

*Remember no cost to you to see if you qualify!

Call Frank or Kim Hanna at 573.253.9502

*License Independent Medicare Insurance Broke

5G-Connected Helmet

https://youtu.be/3lmU1VmCupM?si=td_cwjMWmoUYHWJO

Job Openings



We're **HIRING!**

- Community Educator
- Interpreter Coordinator
- Staff Interpreter



Visit our website for more information:
<https://www.deafinc.org>



Want to post job positions & flyers in our newsletter?

Please e-mail

Johanna.martin@mcdhh.mo.gov with image/video descriptions and scripts (if applicable)



Want MCDHH to share your posts on Facebook?

- Make your posts sharable
- Direct message us on FB
- We will share!