



March 8th, 2024

From The Executive Director



A black woman with ponytail is wearing a white turtleneck dress and blue jean jacket. She is sitting on the chair of the school hallway reading a book with a group

February 28, 2024 – One of our staff from Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Sonya Smith, the Deaf Community Advocate attended St. Peter Elementary school to read and teach a few basic signs at our Literacy Night. Carissa Lucas who established a American Sign Language Club and she is also a teacher, believed that exposing my students to a variety of voices and perspectives through reading is essential for their development both academically and socially. Reading aloud not only enhances their listening and comprehension skills but also fosters a love for literature and learning. Having a guest reader/signer can bring excitement and new experiences to our school, enriching our curriculum and broadening our horizons.

LEAD-K Update: The LEAD-K Committee had it's third meeting. The group is focused on comparing Missouri Learning Standards to milestones used in Kansas and Indiana. The group is working remotely now, but will meet again in on April 24th.

Missouri Assistive Technology is having their Power Up Conference next month. MCDHH staff, Amber Carter and Shanda Miller will present on how technology is used by the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community. The agency who runs the SSP program in our state, Vancro, will also be at the conference. Currently, MCDHH is also teaming up with Vancro working on a presentation for Missouri Behavioral Health Council later this summer.

On another note, the Commission is gearing up for the Interpreter Conference April 4-6 in Kansas City, MO. Check out more information at <https://mcdhh.mo.gov/2024conference/>. This is our first time partnering with another state, Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Presenters include our keynote, Kim Kurz, Dominic Harrison, Dan Hoffman, Monique Champagne, DeAnna Swope, Barbara Garrett, James Frost, Jane Herder, Ben Hall and Linda Ross to make a great line-up of workshops for you to take part in. Part of the conference will be an Open Community forum. All community members are welcome to participate in the forum free of charge to discuss DEI issues and opportunities in our community. This will run from 10:00-12:00 on Saturday, April 12th. There have been questions regarding the exact location of the workshops. There are a few more details to work out, but our hotel

information is correct, and the venue is in that vicinity. Confirmation with exact information will come as soon as it is available.

The next commission meeting will be in Kansas City on April 4th, 10:00-2:00. Exact venue awaiting confirmation.

MCDHH Listening Session: MCDHH was asked to host a Listening Session for those who wanted a focused platform to discuss DEI practices and mindset at MCDHH before the Open Community Forum at the conference. MCDHH is working with DeAnna Swope with Diamond Speaks, LLC as our facilitator. Check out the announcement below. We know it is short notice, but hope you can join us:

Listening Session

March 14, 2024

5:00pm-7:00pm CST

Zoom link to register:

<https://us05web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUvc-igrz4iGtd8myY3eB-OEbXp4wBzidPe>

This Listening Session will be an opportunity for community members to provide feedback to MCDHH with the goal of contributing to practice and policy development in regard to DEI mindfulness in our agency. Please join us to share experiences, express concerns, or provide ideas and resources you believe will be helpful in this pursuit. With our community, we strive for growth!

If you would like to send statements or questions ahead of time, please send them to mcdhh@mcdhh.mo.gov and we will send them to our facilitator, DeAnna Swope from Diamond Speaks, LLC.

*American Sign Language will be the language used in this meeting. If accommodations are needed, please contact mcdhh@mcdhh.mo.gov or at 573.355.9320.

Tentative Agenda:

- Welcome
- Ground Rules
- Process Rules
 - Time limit, Turn-taking, Documentation, Follow-up
 - Recording Notice/Permission
- What Happened? Experiences/Occurrences/Information:
 - Participant shares
 - Discussion items sent in
- Action Planning

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If accommodations are needed, please contact mcdhh@mcdhh.mo.gov or at 573.355.9320.

Amusing Trivia



**To see more interview from
Daily Moth:**

<https://www.dailymoth.com/blog/interview-with-denton-mallas-in-the-queer-eye-reality-tv-show>

Step into the vibrant world of Queer Eye, where Season 8, Episode 4 unfolds with an extraordinary twist! A deaf guest, Denton Mallas, takes center stage as the “Five Fab” advisors immerse themselves in the mission to transform lives.

Nominated by the esteemed Dr. Natalie Delgado, stated “They want the world to know about the dedication and care that our team members, like Denton Mallas, bring to our students daily.” Denton Mallas is currently Athletic Director at Louisiana School for the Deaf (LSD) in Baton Rouge. Mallas played as defensive back for Gallaudet University team from 2009 to 2012, and at that time, he was one of two players in school history to be named to the ECFC All-Academic team for three consecutive years. He major in history, graduated in 2013 then went on to deaf education two years later.

In a heartwarming turn of events, Queer Eye showered LSD with a cascade of improvements, including new lockers, revamped concession and a captivating mural featuring Mallas’ empowering catchphrase, “Protect the Nest.” Mallas, in interview with Daily Moth, sheds light on the challenges faced by smaller Deaf schools, emphasizing need for resources and recognition. Mallas encourages the people to be the change. The smaller Deaf schools tend to be overlooked for doing most of work, and they truly deserve recognition.

And guess what? The magic of this Queer Eye episode is just a click away on Netflix!

“Really, whatever support you give to Deaf schools, keep on doing it. We are grateful for all that you do for students. I just happened to be picked, but I know that all of you are truly heroes too. Just keep on being positive and stay supportive. Know that your work does not go unnoticed. Everyone sees you for what you’re doing. And for any parents who are watching, please check out Deaf schools or Deaf programs. Look at what is best for students.”

Denton Mallas

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



SIGNING

EDGE

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 APRIL 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.

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



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.



MCDHH's Upcoming Occasions

Did you know this month is what?! It's definitely National Social Worker month! If you haven't see our MCDHH spotlight Ashley Pappineau at DeafLEAD!

Check this out!

<https://youtu.be/ihciiZplCDE>



MCDHH is still searching for Deaf/HOH business owners or employed to do a spotlight, if you are interested, please contact our Deaf Community Advocate Sonya Smith by emailing Sonya.Smith@mcdhh.mo.gov

Mainstream News

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!

Starring

Antines (NuNu) Davis

Renca Dunn

Muzzarelli Theatrical Deaf Puppets

Shuttle available from parking to festival for Seniors and Disabled!

Over 20+ artists attend every year!

INTERPRETERS WILL BE PROVIDED.

Registration required for admission.

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

FOOD & BEVERAGES AVAILABLE AT THE FOOD COURT!

AVOID LONG LINES, REGISTER EARLY!

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/>

Mainstream News

Community of the Deaf

This program is a shield for the deaf including hard of hearing women and girls to protect their women's rights through education.

CommUnity of the Deaf, INC. (CUD) created the program "CUD-Economic Empowerment of Deaf Women & Girls (CUD-EED W&G)" in the Caribbean and Caribbean Diaspora often with less access to education, health, and economy as well as less opportunity to voice their opinion and take an active role in women's rights and activism.

CUD will be held in the event on the International Women's Day on March 8, 2024 at 7pm - 9pm. The purpose is to increase the women and girl awareness through open discussion and provide a safe space for sharing ideas and developing quality connections with other deaf Caribbean women. Raise Your Voice and Share it!

Zoom Link:

When: Mar 8, 2024 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/.../tZcocO6rqTwvHNNZ4dgJh9fDRIPdj...>

Meeting ID: 835 7737 7567

Passcode: CUD2024

zoom
LIVE
LIVE ZOOM
COMMUNITY OF THE DEAF Economic Empowerment of Deaf Women & Girls
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
FRIDAY 8 MARCH 7 PM
ANTINES DAVIS KEY SPEAKER
SONYA SMITH PODCAST/HOST
DEANNA SWIPE GUEST SPEAKER
SALINA PETERSON GUEST SPEAKER
VANESSA LOUIS GUEST SPEAKER
MARRISSA PHILLS GUEST SPEAKER
JOIN NOW
f /cudhoh
1 585-360-0377 (Videophone)
communityofthedeaf@gmail.com
Meeting ID: 835 7737 7567
Passcode: CUD2024
(For Your Info...signs will be in Jamaican Sign Language and American Sign Language)

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.

FCC Seeks Comment on ASL and Multilingual Wireless Emergency Alert Templates

In October 2023, the FCC adopted rules to require participating wireless providers to make available certain Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) in the thirteen most commonly spoken languages in the United States and in American Sign Language (ASL) in addition to English, and to allow consumers to opt-in to receive ASL WEA alerts.

On February 15, 2024, the FCC released a Public Notice seeking comment on 18 different emergency message templates in 13 languages and ASL. With regard to the video messages signed in ASL, the Bureau seeks comment on the effectiveness of the ASL videos as well as the format and production of the ASL videos. The [proposed templates for ASL](#) are not final and are presented solely for the purpose of seeking comment on what the final templates should be. The Public Notice also seeks comment on support for form-fillable templates that would include information specific to the particular emergency, as well as whether participating wireless providers' device offerings should support [templates in additional languages](#). The comment dates will be announced after the Public Notice is published in the Federal Register, and an AccessInfo will announce these dates when available.

- Interested parties may file comments by accessing the Electronic Comment Filing System at <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings>. All filings must reference PS Docket Nos. 15-91 and 15-94. People with disabilities who need assistance to file comments online may request assistance by email to FCC504@fcc.gov.

Link to the October 2023 WEA Report and Order:

URL: <https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-adopts-rules-improve-accessibility-wireless-emergency-alerts>

Link to the February 15, 2024 Public Notice:

URL: <https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-comment-multilingual-wireless-emergency-alerts>

For information regarding WEA accessibility, visit <https://www.fcc.gov/wea-accessibility>. For specific information regarding the multilingual alert Public Notice, contact Joshua Gehret, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau at (202) 418-7816 or Joshua.Gehret@fcc.gov. Individuals who use videophones and are fluent in American Sign Language (ASL) may call the FCC's ASL Consumer Support Line at (844) 432-2275 (videophone).

Seek Research participants

My name is Bentley McCullough, I am majoring in American Sign Language English Interpreting at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts. I am looking for research participants for my senior year capstone project. My study focuses on the perspectives of American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters regarding communication access in Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) treatment settings. These settings may include Alcoholics Anonymous, Smart Recovery, detox facilities, in-patient treatment centers, or residential programs.

Your assistance in this research is greatly appreciated. Whether you have experience interpreting in AUD treatment settings or not, your input is valuable. By participating, you will contribute to a better understanding of ASL interpreters' perspectives in this specialized context.

This questionnaire is expected to take approximately 5 - 10 minutes to complete. Your responses will remain anonymous; your name will not be requested nor appear anywhere on the survey.

Here is the Link: https://neu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6WFUNlcqtW5G6Oy

Greatly Appreciated,

Bentley McCullough
Candidate for B.S. ASL-English Interpreting, Minor in Psychology
College of Social Sciences & Humanities | Northeastern University 2024
mccullough.be@northeastern.edu

General Upcoming Affairs

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 8am - 8pm	Saturday 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)

Job Openings

Assistant Professor, American Sign Language (ASL)

Qualifications from the job posting:

- Master's Degree in an ASL-related degree (ASL and/or Deaf Studies, Teaching of ASL or ASL Teaching, Sign Language Education) or in Deaf Education with 18 credits in ASL-related courses) as required by JCCC HLC (Higher Learning Commission) criteria
- Demonstrated excellent communication and collaboration skills
- Demonstrated ability to teach Elementary and Intermediate level ASL courses, and other courses such as Introduction to the Deaf Community, Linguistics of ASL, and ASL Literature.
- Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of using technology in the classroom, Learning Management System software such as Canvas, and teaching delivery methods on face-to-face, online hybrid, hybrid, hybrid flex, and/or online
- Demonstrated Self-starter, strong interpersonal skills and understanding of adult learning.
- More than 2 years of teaching experience.
- Demonstrated knowledge of Vista's Signing Naturally Curriculum
- Demonstrated knowledge of ACTFL World-Readiness Standards for learning languages



<https://careers.jccc.edu/cw/en-us/job/495669/assistant-professor-american-sign-language-asl>

Ava R-1 School District (Ava, MO) Sign Language Interpreter

Primary tasks and major responsibilities include:

- Provide interpreting and/or translating services for the deaf population and the hearing population in the educational setting.
- Facilitate communication through the use of sign language, spoken English, and have knowledge about accessibility.
- Interpret within social and academic settings, conversations (direct and/or overheard), class instruction, lectures, tests/exams, assemblies, field trips, extra-curricular activities, etc.
- Prepare course material and provide assistance with accommodations, modifications, and/or captioning as needed.
- Provide requested information to an IEP team or 504 team (if applicable) regarding students' skills in relation to the use of interpreting services.
- Maintain confidentiality and professionalism in all settings.

*Applicants would need to possess a current valid certification in the Missouri Interpreters Certification system under ASL or "Sign Language Interpreter" with Basic, Advanced, or Master Level or RCED and PCED (learners permit).

*At least sixty (60) college credits hours is preferred. Previous experience in an educational setting is strongly preferred.

*Part-time and/or full-time employment will be considered for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year. The District is pursuing full-time employment for the 2024-2025 school year. Ava R-1 School District utilizes a four-day school week.

*Interested candidates should apply online at www.avabears.net

Candidates must successfully pass a background check satisfactory to the District's Board Policies. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Melissa Dalton, Special Services Director, at (417) 683-3809.



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!