



E-NEWS

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April 12th, 2024

From The Executive Director

Interpreter Conference: Last week our interpreter conference took place as a joint effort between MCDHH and KCDHH. This is the 30th Conference for our state, but first time pairing up with a neighbor state. It was a unique experience and we learned much about hosting and planning such an event. We had just over 100 registrants this year and are collecting post surveys to gather feedback and improve how things went. We will report some of that information as to suggestions made for future conferences.

You might recall there was a focus shift to needs of the community regarding Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging. Workshops were very informative and initiated needed discussion. On Saturday there was an Open Forum. Participation provided feedback that will be included to the feedback received at the Listening Session a few weeks ago. An action plan will come from that feedback and be shared online. MCDHH would like to thank KCDHH for the opportunity to work with them, thank the presenters for sharing with us and guiding us AND thank the attendees and exhibitors as well. We will share more soon.

Before the conference commenced, the MCDHH meeting was hosted at the location. Some topics that were covered or updated upon include:

LEAD-K: Committee had the opportunity to provide feedback on milestones used in Kansas and Indiana alongside the Missouri Learning Standards. The next meeting will at the end of this month where assessment tools will be looked at and discussed. The Office of Childhood has also discussed how the information will be shared/exhibited to the public and what that looks like.

Legislation: There were two state bills that MCDHH had dealings with. Several members of the community contacted MCDHH about SB1005 which would dismantle DESE and transfer program and responsibilities to other state agencies. This bill has not been acted upon since January. The other bill was HB2626 which includes hearing aids and cochlear implants to be covered in the Missouri Health Network. This means not only children, but more adults will have an opportunity to receive devices. If this passes, it will affect the program we have here at MCDHH, our Hearing Aid Program. We are seeing how it progresses. It moved through the House and is in the Senate.

DeafBlind Taskforce: The taskforce had its second meeting on February 23, 2024. The group set forth areas of concern and information they needed to move forward. There were 5 visitors at our meeting. The current program provider for the SSP program was involved for a short time. MCDHH will plan to follow up with the provider after each taskforce meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for May 16th.

MCDHH discussed developing sign language classes for the community. We have interested staff members who have begun working on the project. Classes are planned for the summer.

MCDHH has sponsored several upcoming community events:

- Deaf Visual Art Festival hosted by DEAF, Inc occurring April 17th-20th
- DeafBlind Emergency Planning workshop, TBA
- Governor's Council on Disability's Youth Camp occurring July 16th-20th

BEI Update: As reported, DESE got involved with the contract between MCDHH and Texas last October and wanted to see if the contract could be flipped so that Texas would become a vendor of Missouri and our contract could be handled within the DESE system for contracts. The intent was to provide some safeguards for Missouri. A draft was written and sent to Texas. Upon receiving feedback, DESE concluded that this particular contract would need to be handled outside that system. MCDHH has been in contact with the Attorney General's (AG) office who consulted with the Office of Administration to make sure the contract from Texas did not conflict with any of Missouri's laws. Consultation was received and MCDHH is currently working with the AG office to see what things need to be tweaked, see if Texas will accept them, and then we will go from there. We know this is a hindrance and that interpreters having to go elsewhere for testing is far from ideal. We are working to resolve this issue as soon as possible and will widely announce any change in testing status.

Smart 911 App: Check out Amber Carter and Amy Sue Guinn's video on the Smart 911 app located on our Facebook page. It's easy and can save time in case of an emergency.

MICS Coordinator's report included that MCDHH is working on changing some things with the application for certification and the renewal business. MCDHH hopes to make payment changes to move to online payment. This will help in payment tracking and refunds when needed. MCDHH will also begin work to remove notary requirements. Rule change is a process, so we will start working on that and will let you know when it goes into effect.

The Deaf Community Advocate reported on events attended, contact with the community, and future projects. One includes MoDYL (Missouri Deaf Youth Leadership). This would support and provide opportunities for D/HH/DB youth across the state. The first event is hoped to happen this fall with details to come. Another project Sonya Smith has been looking into is Apprenticeship Programs and opportunities for our community. MCDHH also met with the Missouri Association for the Deaf officers to discuss planning for legislative issues. More information will come as that progresses. We hope to align the work towards the Communication Access Fund with that effort. AND...Look for her newest Spotlight episode coming soon.

Amber Carter reported on the Hearing Aid Distribution Program. They are still working on individuals under the FY24 money and are planning their committee meeting to look at applicants for FY2025. Amber has become more involved with the DeafBlind Taskforce, doing research, and working on the planning for meetings. Amber Carter also reported that she and Shanda Miller would be attending and presenting at the Missouri Assistive Technology conference the week after the conference.

MCDHH has been adding to our Community Calendar. If you have an event that you would like to post, please contact us and we will plug in the information for you. We can add links and maps so people can find your location as well.

Amusing Trivia

Deaf LEAD
988 IN
AMERICAN
SIGN
LANGUAGE
AVAILABLE 24/7
ASL NOW.
DIAL 988 ON YOUR VIDEOPHONE OR GO TO
WWW.988LIFELINE.ORG AND CLICK "ASL NOW" TO
CONNECT TO A TRAINED CRISIS COUNSELOR FLUENT IN ASL
988 SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE
Picture of a person signing "videophone" with curly short hair with dark polo shirt

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

The 988 Lifeline provides support for those people who are in distress- their line is 24/7, free and confidential. The 988 Lifeline also provides prevention and crisis resources for you and your loved ones.

There are different networks of crisis centers that offer many services, especially to deaf and hard-of-hearing people. Anyone can videophone, call, text, or chat online with a crisis counselor, who is trained to listen and support you without judgment.

The crisis counselors are trained to guide the caller develop a safety plan- it's a step-by-step plan ready when one feels depressed, suicidal, or in crisis. They can start at step one and continue through the steps till they feel safe- and there are no wrongs or rights on how to develop a safety plan.

You can chat with a 988 Lifeline Crisis Counselor by:

- Videophone: dial 988
- Text: Send any message to 988 to start a conversation
- TTY: Use your preferred relay service/711 then dial 988
- Online Chat: <https://988lifeline.org/chat/>

MCDHH's Upcoming Events



APRIL 24, 2024
TIME: 5:00 PM- 7 PM

Missouri Interpreter Certification: It's ALL in the Details Webinar Series: Part 4: April 24th (0.2 CEUS GS) (Renewals, Complaints against you, Lapses of certification)

Come join MCDHH for the last 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=m246e256926ef50bbfe0a13e6c9d1e800>

Part 4 of 4

0.2 RID GS

Online via Webex

Cost: Free

**MCDHH is an
approved RID
Sponsor**

MCDHH

3216 Emerald Lane Ste. B
Jefferson City, Mo 65109

Amy Sue Guinn; Staff
Interpreter

Amysue.guinn@mcdhh.mo.
gov
573-526-5206
573-298-6791 (VP)

MCDHH's Upcoming Occasions

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



Image 1: a white person with pink shirt and teal lanyard at the exhibit talking to another person.

Mainstream News

STL Black Deaf Advocate (STLBDA) will host a meet and greet event for the Black Deaf community. This event will provide a great opportunity for the community to come together and get to know the STLBDA board members. Additionally, the community will have the chance to discuss future plans and share their thoughts on how STLBDA can best serve them. The event will occur on Saturday, April 27th at 4 PM CST at Westport Social. We are excited to meet everyone and celebrate us. Feel free to spread the word!



Hello Hearing Interpreters!

Are you a hearing working interpreter looking to earn CEUs and gain valuable experience working with Deaf interpreters in mock interpreting practice sessions?

We're excited to invite you to our upcoming event:

Deaf-Hearing Interpreter Teaming: Feeding Fundamentals

Webinar & Mock Interpreting Opportunity

Earn RID CEUs

Date & Time:

- **Monday, April 15, 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM MT**
 - o 1 Hour Online Prework
 - o 3 Hours Webinar Session
- **Mock Interpreting Sessions:**
 - o Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday (April 22-24), 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM MT
 - o Choose one or more days to team with DIA Deaf Interpreter Trainees.

Event Overview: In this workshop, Deaf and hearing interpreters collaborate to co-construct accurate interpretations. We focus on addressing the key question: "What works best for message transference and monitoring in a D-H team?" Participants will practice key strategies for tandem interpreting, building "swift trust" for effective teamwork.

Who is Welcome: Hearing interpreters seeking training and mock experience with Deaf-Hearing interpreter teams.

Event Highlights:

- Hearing interpreters will learn alongside Deaf interpreters.
- Priority will be given to hearing interpreters who join the training for mock interpreting experiences.
- Limited Seating: Please note that seating is limited, so secure your spot soon!

Registration Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/WAhh844tDz>

Contact Us: For any questions, please email DIAcademy@Sorenson.com.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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!

Starring

Antines (NuNu) Davis

Renca Dunn

Muzzarelli Theatrical Deaf Puppets

Registration required for admission.

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

AVOID LONG LINES, REGISTER EARLY!

INTERPRETERS WILL BE PROVIDED.

FOOD & BEVERAGES AVAILABLE AT THE FOOD COURT!



CAMP BISON

JOIN OUR TEAM: SUMMER CAMP POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT CAMP BISON!

HELP SHAPE MEMORIES AND FOSTER GROWTH

We are accepting applications for the following positions:

- Camp Director
- Assistant Program Director
- Team Leader
- Volunteers

To apply, send summary of interest and/or resume to either.
DEADLINE: April 15, 2024

Contact either: Robert.cooper@ks.gov or Marcy.barnesmaelzer@ks.gov

Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing – kcdhh.ks.gov
555 S Kansas Ave
Topeka, KS 66603
(785) 368-8034



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April 15, 2024

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or Marcy.barnesmaelzer@ks.gov

Course begins April 4th, 2024!



Starkloff Disability Institute's
**STARKLOFF
CAREER
ACADEMY**

Are you an adult who is Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or Deaf-Blind?

Are you ready to learn the skills to take your career to the next level?

Starkloff Career Academy has been leveling the playing field for professionals with disabilities since 2012. Come learn from experts in career development and disability.

Join us to translate your knowledge, skills, and experiences into new opportunities as you explore new industries, specialties, and career paths. Dive deeper into foundational job searching skills and master:

- Matching Personal and Workplace Values
- Job Research Best Practices & Critical Thinking
- Negotiating Salaries, Raises, and Benefits
- Telling Your Disability Story with Confidence
- Interview Techniques to Showcase Your Skills

Whether you are changing careers/industries or responding to newly acquired disabilities, you will leave Starkloff Career Academy with the skills and confidence to rise to the top of the talent pool and successfully transition into new opportunities.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Karyn Houston
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Outreach Coordinator

Voice or Video Phone (VP): 314-766-4636
Email: KHouston@starkloff.org



**SELF-GUIDED
LEARNING +
WEEKLY LIVE
CHECK-INS**

Work with resources in our online classroom and meet informally for weekly support sessions with career advisors

8 weeks: April 4-May 23

Check-Ins: Thursdays
6:30pm - 8pm CST



Starkloff Works.org

Course begins April 4th, 2024!



Starkloff Disability Institute's

**STARKLOFF
CAREER
ACADEMY**

Are you an adult who is Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or Deaf-Blind?

Are you looking to start your career?

Starkloff Career Academy is the program for you! In the Starkloff Career Academy, you learn from experts in career development and disability. You will master:

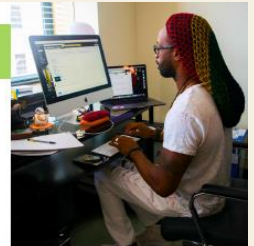
- Writing Resumes that Stand Out
- Making Unforgettable First Impressions
- Being Confident telling Your Story as a Person with Hearing Loss
- Interview Techniques to Showcase Your Skills
- Asking for accommodations

If you have gaps in your resume or can't find a career that matches your skills, you will leave Starkloff Career Academy with the skills and confidence to rise to the top of the talent pool and land the job of your dreams!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Karyn Houston
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Outreach Coordinator

Voice or Video Phone (VP): 314-766-4636
Email: KHouston@starkloff.org



ONLINE LIVE CLASS

Tuesdays and Thursdays
10am - 12pm CST

**2 hours
2X week
4 weeks**

**BUILD SKILLS
with career experts**

Independent online lessons between classes mean you get personalized feedback during class meetings



Starkloff Works.org

List of Links Resources

Event Dates:

Amy Sue's Webinar: *Missouri Interpreter Certification: It's ALL in the Details Webinar Series: Part 4: (Renewals, Complaints against you, Lapses of certification)*

APRIL 24, 2024

TIME: 5:00 PM- 7 PM

Come join MCDHH for the last 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=m246e256926ef50bbfe0a13e6c9d1e800>

Part 4 of 4 -- 0.2 RID GS

Meet & Greet: STL Deaf Black Advocate

Saturday, April 27th at 4 PM CST at Westport Social STL

Starloff Career Academy

<https://starkloffworks.org/>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Karyn Houston

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Outreach Coordinator

Voice or Video Phone (VP): 314-766-4636

Email: KHouston@starkloff.org

Camp Bison

DEADLINE: April 15, 2024

Accepting applications for the following positions:

- Camp Director
- Assistant Program Director
- Team Leader
- Volunteers

Contact either: Robert.cooper@ks.gov or Marcy.barnesmaelzer@ks.gov

Deaf, INC

1904 Deaf Film Festival: <https://1904dff.festivee.com/>

Deaf Visual Arts Festival: <https://www.deafinc.org/dvaf>

Job Openings

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.



Redefine communication access with us today.

Start or enhance your career path with Deaf Empowerment Awareness Foundation, Inc. (DEAF, Inc.). Be affiliated with a nonprofit organization in the St. Louis Metro area that 100% completely supports and benefits the deaf, hard of hearing, and DeafBlind community! Be a part of an organization that nurtures your career and appreciates you.

POSITION: COMMUNITY ADVOCATE – YOUTH & FAMILY PROGRAM
CLASSIFICATION: FULL-TIME, NON-EXEMPT
REPORTS TO: COMMUNITY PROGRAM DIRECTOR
LOCATION: ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI
SALARY: COMMENSURATE WITH EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS
OPENING DATE: APRIL 01, 2024
CLOSING DATE: UNTIL FILLED

POSITION SUMMARY:

DEAF, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit providing vital community and 24/7 interpreting services for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind (DDBHH) communities in the St. Louis metropolitan area. This position is instrumental in advancing DEAF, Inc.'s mission by delivering direct support, community advocacy, education, and outreach through the Youth & Family program.

Essential Functions and Responsibilities

- Program and Event Coordination: Organizing and overseeing Youth and Family program events, such as workshops, support groups, peer-social activities, and educational sessions.
- Community Building: Fostering a sense of belonging and community among deaf youth and families, encouraging participation in social and recreational activities.
- Mentorship: Serving as a mentor and role model for deaf youth and young adults, providing guidance, encouragement, and a supportive presence.
- Advocacy: Advocating for the needs and rights of deaf youth and families, both within the organization and in the broader community, to ensure they receive appropriate services and resources.
- Communication: Maintaining regular communication with deaf youth, young adults, and parents, addressing their concerns, providing information, and facilitating effective two-way communication.
- Resource Referral: Developing and maintaining a network of community resources and referrals to connect deaf youth and families with necessary services, such as counseling, healthcare, and educational support.
- Training and Education: Offering workshops, seminars, and training sessions on topics relevant to deafness, sign language, and youth and family issues such as communication skills, parenting strategies, or mental health awareness.
- Collaboration: Collaborate closely with team members and other professionals to provide comprehensive support and resources.
- Documentation: Keeping accurate and timely records of interactions, services provided, and progress.



Redefining Communication Access

For more information: visit www.deafinc.org

- Program Evaluation: Assessing the effectiveness of Youth & Family program activities, gathering feedback, and making necessary improvements.
- Continuous Learning: Staying updated on best practices, new research, and emerging trends in deaf youth and family support.
- Other Duties: Perform other duties as assigned.

Minimum Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in a related field such as social work, psychology, counseling, education, or a relevant human services discipline. Or a HS degree or equivalent education and a minimum of five years in the human service field working with youth plus additional documented relevant training or coursework may be considered.
- Strong American Sign Language (ASL) proficiency skills
- Previous experience working with youth and families, particularly those from diverse backgrounds
- Experience in program coordination, preferably in a non-profit or community-based setting.
- Familiarity with deaf culture, its history, values, and community dynamics
- Passion and Commitment – A genuine passion for education, community engagement, and promoting understanding
- Understand and support the mission of DEAF, Inc.
- Flexible schedule
- Valid Driver's License and Vehicle Insurance

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience in non-profit organizations
- Experience in planning events

Key Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Knowledge and ability to use various computer applications (Microsoft Office, iCloud, and SharePoint)
- Experience with virtual platforms (Zoom)
- Working knowledge of office equipment such as projectors, printers, scanners, etc.
- Strong expressive and written communication skills
- Excellent phone etiquette, customer service, and interpersonal skills
- Excellent organization and time management skills
- Ability to work under pressure, multi-task and prioritize work
- Ability to promote an atmosphere of cooperation and mutual support
- Ability to work both independently and as a core team member
- Punctual attendance and availability for last-minute tasks to meet the needs of the organization
- Foster an inclusive and supportive learning environment for all
- Foster cultural awareness and respect for the deaf community

We are an equal employment opportunity employer. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability or any other status which may be protected by Federal, State or local law



Redefining Communication Access

For more information: visit 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!