

MCDHH NEWSLETTER

Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

From the Executive Director

Spring has been a whirlwind of activity here at MCDHH with the Legislative session which ended on Friday, May 15th. MCDHH has been watching several pieces of legislation as they made their way (or didn't) through the legislative process. We have been hyper-focusing on two; **HB2408 (Rep. Brenda Shields)** and **SB1637 (Sen. Patty Lewis)/SB1062 (Sen. Jill Carter)**. In the end, language from both bills was added to **HB1840, sponsored by Rep. Sherri Gallick** allowing for the removal of the language limiting the DeafBlind Support Service Program to \$300K **and** establishing a Communication Access Services program and fund at MCDHH! House Bill 1840 will be sent to Governor Kehoe's desk for his signature! Wow, it was incredible and mind-boggling to see the senators and representatives at work trying different angles to get legislation voted on. We will keep everyone informed as soon as we hear more.

STRATEGIC PLANNING: COMMUNITY SURVEY (<https://mcdhh.mo.gov>) CLICK HERE!

COMMUNITY SURVEY



TAKE THE SURVEY HERE!

Help MCDHH serve you better!

MCDHH is partnering with Innivee Strategies, LLC to take an overall look at our agency and the communities we serve to develop a Strategic Plan based on the lives, the needs, of our community. We hope you will consider clicking on the ASL or English version of the survey and give us your feedback! THANK YOU!



👤 ASL

🗨️ ENGLISH

Please take 10-15 minutes to fill out a survey! Your input into Missouri's future!

And, a special SHOUT-OUT to those who participated in the Focus Groups and SURVEY already, THANK YKOU!!!

MCDHH STAFF INTERPRETER POSITION VACANCY

Ready to put your ASL skills to work and make a real impact? At MCDHH, you're not ONLY INTERPRETING — you're helping build access and connections across the state. This is a place where your skills are valued, and your work makes a difference.

LINK: <https://mocareers.mo.gov/hiretrue/ce3/job-board/5effe9b2-4b89-494b-ac76-c45e25190768>

Keyword: MCDHH

MCDHH Spotlight: MCDHH Commissioner Wendy Jensen



Wendy Jensen was appointed to the Commission in 2013. We have always admired how Wendy looks at a challenge and asks, 'How will this affect our people?' For thirteen years, she has balanced big-picture decisions with that essential personal touch. She came on board in 2013, and through every change in our community, she has been a constant champion for what is right. We are losing a fantastic commissioner, but I hope she enjoys a well-earned, relaxing summer and a bright future. Please join me in thanking Wendy Jensen for her dedication. She will be missed.

Q: What is your favorite hobby, activity, or creative outlet?

A: My favorite activity would probably have to be the simple act of getting outside for a nice long walk whether it's around the neighborhood, in the woods, or in a peaceful park. Bike rides are also good.

Q: Where would you most like to travel to and why? Favorite travel spot?

A: My best travel experience was a family trip to Ireland in 2024. The country is absolutely beautiful, and the people are incredibly warm and welcoming. One of the highlights was meeting some Deaf people at a restaurant after a national hurling championship—it was fascinating to chat with them and notice the differences in sign language. I also loved visiting Denmark and Sweden when I picked up my Volvo through the overseas delivery program. In Denmark especially, it was amazing to see how commonly people use bicycles as part of their everyday transportation. For my next trip, I'm thinking it might be time to explore Italy or France.

DEAF TRIVIA: WHO WAS THE FIRST DEAF PILOT?

Nellie Zabel Willhite, who lost her hearing at age four, overcame many challenges to become a pioneer in aviation. Inspired while working at the Sioux Falls airport, she pursued flight training and, in 1928, became the first Deaf female pilot in the United States and the first woman pilot in South Dakota. With support from her father, she completed training and flew solo after just 13 hours. She later bought her own plane, "Pard," and earned a living by performing stunts, racing planes, and giving rides. Despite the risks and limited technology of early aviation, she flew successfully and continued flying for many years. Willhite never saw herself as limited by her deafness. She was also a founding member of the women pilots' organization, the Ninety-Nines, and received numerous honors for her achievements. She lived a long life, passing away at age 98, leaving behind a legacy of courage and determination. (Nov. 1982 – Sept. 1991)





MCDHH is planning their **2nd DHH Family Camp**. This year it will be held at Pin Oak Park at the Lake of the Ozarks (<https://mostateparks.com/page/lake-ozarks-state-park/pin-oak-facility>). Families of DHH children up to the age of 18 are welcome to join us. Dates are June 5-7. The area has separate cabins for each family this year. Amber

Carter is working with different organizations to bring in resources with which families can become connected. She is also working diligently to make sure it is a weekend of fun and networking. We have almost double the number of families this year compared to last year and are looking very forward to seeing our returning families as well as meeting our newest ones!

Advisory Committee on Interpreting: It has been so great to get the response from the interpreting community regarding nominations for the Advisory Committee!

Nominations have been collected as of May 15th, and results will be shared as soon as things are processed and approved by the Commission at the July meeting. There was a comment about consumer representation on the committee. This committee, which can include both Deaf and Hearing interpreters, will be focused on the interworkings of the profession and provide counsel based on this prerogative. There will not be consumer representation on the committee, but all meetings will be open to the public, and minutes will be taken and shared. All committee items requiring a vote will be reported on at the Commission meetings and approved by the Commission. There are several avenues for interested individuals to stay in touch with the progress on the Advisory Committee

MCDHH JULY COMMISSION MEETING

the next meeting will be

July 23, 2026 10:00am-2:00pm

Compass Health Building-Dogwood Room

3515 Amazonas Drive

Jefferson City, MO 65109

****Commissioners and Staff will be eating lunch during the meeting, please feel free to bring something in for yourself.**

DEAF EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM & INTERPRETER CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT:

We're excited to share a fresh and energizing update to our event lineup! As we continue to grow and strengthen our community, we're introducing a new rotating schedule for our two signature events: the Deaf Education Symposium and the Interpreter Conference. Moving forward, the Deaf Education Symposium will be held every two (EVEN) years, with the Interpreter Conference taking place on the alternating (ODD) years—creating a fun, steady rhythm of something to look forward to each year. This approach allows us to focus our time, creativity, and passion into one major event at a time, making each experience more engaging, impactful, and memorable for everyone involved. We're so grateful for your continued support as we build stronger connections, spark new ideas, and celebrate our amazing community together—stay tuned for what's coming next!

BEI TEST SCHEDULE: CHANGE IN FORMAT AND IN HOURS

Summer schedule beginning June 1-August 15, 2026, will mean TEP and Performance testing will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

CHECK OUT THE NEW SCHEDULING LAYOUT...

TEP (Test of English Proficiency): Mondays Only

Search				
Date	Time	Open/Closed	ID #	Notes
Tuesday, June 2, 2026	9:00 AM	Open		
Tuesday, June 2, 2026	11:00 AM	Open		
Tuesday, June 2, 2026	1:00 PM	Open		
Tuesday, June 2, 2026	3:00 PM	Open		
Thursday, June 4, 2026	9:00 AM	Open		
Thursday, June 4, 2026	11:00 AM	Open		
Thursday, June 4, 2026	1:00 PM	Open		
Thursday, June 4, 2026	3:00 PM	Open		
Tuesday, June 9, 2026	9:00 AM	Open		
Tuesday, June 9, 2026	11:00 AM	Open		
Tuesday, June 9, 2026	1:00 PM	Open		

Performance Test: Tuesdays & Thursdays Only

Search				
Date	Time	Open/Closed	ID #	Notes
Tuesday, June 2, 2026	9:00 AM	Closed	3990	
Tuesday, June 2, 2026	11:00 AM	Open		
Tuesday, June 2, 2026	1:00 PM	Closed	3782	
Tuesday, June 2, 2026	3:00 PM	Closed	3751	
Thursday, June 4, 2026	9:00 AM	Open		
Thursday, June 4, 2026	11:00 AM	Open		
Thursday, June 4, 2026	1:00 PM	Open		
Thursday, June 4, 2026	3:00 PM	Open		
Tuesday, June 9, 2026	9:00 AM	Open		
Tuesday, June 9, 2026	11:00 AM	Closed	3796	
Tuesday, June 9, 2026	1:00 PM	Closed	9005	

After August 15th, TEPs will be proctored on Mondays and Performance exams will be proctored on Tuesdays and Thursdays as planned.

When your testing appointment is confirmed, you will be able to see your appointment on the site. If you are looking for dates to test, any 'Open' slot can be chosen as a possible date. Please read the site for further directions.

<https://mcdhh.mo.gov/test-scheduling-calendar/>

ATTENTION: LOCAL PRESENTERS

The Missouri Interpreter Certification System (MICS) Coordinator is seeking local presenters interested in providing workshops throughout the year. MICS Coordinator can assist with scheduling, location arrangements, and workshop coordination. Presenters will be compensated for approved workshops.

If you are interested in presenting, please contact Shanda Miller, MICS Coordinator at Shanda.Miller@mcdhh.mo.gov.

We look forward to partnering with presenters and creating additional professional development opportunities for interpreters across Missouri.

THESE HANDS: Professional Development

Save the Date! Second Annual These Hands Conference & Social

We are thrilled to announce the dates for our **Second Annual These Hands Conference!** This event will also feature our Quarter 2 Member Social.

Friday, **May 29 – Saturday, May 30, 2026**

Two days of exceptional workshops, networking, and opportunities to earn CEUs!

Location and registration details coming soon.

Want to shape our future workshops? Let us know what topics you'd like to explore or if you're interested in leading a workshop yourself! Contact us at

thesehands@strideinterpreting.com

SPACE LIMITED---CHECK FOR AVAILABILITY---SPACE LIMITED



St. Louis Lambert International Airport Accessibility Survey



Did you know that St. Louis Lambert International Airport (STL) is preparing for major long-term improvements and construction? A large-scale \$3 billion modernization project is underway, including a new airfield maintenance facility, major terminal construction beginning in 2027, and a new single terminal expected to open by 2032.

DEAF, Inc. is partnering with St. Louis Lambert International Airport to gather feedback from Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind travelers about their airport experiences.

We want to know:

- What works well?
- What challenges have you experienced?
- What would help make airport travel more accessible and inclusive?

Whether your experiences at STL have been positive, frustrating, or somewhere in between, your feedback matters. Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts and help shape future accessibility improvements at the airport.

Thank you for helping make St. Louis travel more accessible for everyone!

BEGIN SURVEY

AIRAASL

Traveling Through Kansas City Airport? USE AIRA ASL! beneath this, it states, No appointment. No waiting. No cost. A list of airport services covered by the app includes Security, Car Rental, Check-in, Gates, Shuttles, Food, Shops, and Baggage.

Want Aira ASL in more places in Missouri? The text explains that Aira partners with businesses and organizations to provide free ASL interpreting. It provides contact information for Stephanie Clemens, including a video/text number 314-609-3453 and her email

stephanie.clemens@aira.io.

[Aira | On-Demand ASL Interpreting](#)

<https://aira.io/aira-asl-app/>

SUMMER YOUTH VOCATIONAL PROGRAM

(SYVP) 2026

EMPOWERING YOUTH THROUGH STEAM, SURFING, AND
SELF-DISCOVERY

DATES: July 6-July 31

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 22, 2026

LOCATION: HELEN KELLER NATIONAL CENTER, NEW YORK

Ready to discover what you're capable of? HKNC's SYVP will host up to 8 participants (age 16-24) to explore careers through hands-on work experience at multiples job sites. You'll dive into STEAM projects, experience activities like adaptive surfing, and develop self-advocacy skills, all while discovering your strengths. SYVP is about exploration and possibility, giving you the confidence and skills to shape your own future. Please check with your regional representative regarding an optional two-week extension.

[Youth Programs – Helen Keller Services](#)

<https://www.helenkeller.org/hknc/youth-programs/>

MOAD



FUTURE DATES FOR MEETINGS

GENERAL MEETING

April 25th - ST LOUIS

Delta Center for Independent Living (St. Louis Area)
3837 McClay Road, St. Louis, MO 63376

10 AM - 2 PM

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

August 15th - SPRINGFIELD

Library Center - Annie Bush Community Room
4653 S Campbell Ave, Springfield, MO 65810

10 AM - 2 PM

GENERAL MEETING

October 17th - KANSAS CITY

The Whole Person (Kansas City Area)
3710 Main St, Kansas City, MO 64111

10 AM - 2 PM



The poster for Deaf Youth Camp 2026 features a collage of images showing campers and staff engaged in various activities like kayaking, swimming, and group photos. The central text reads "JUNE 21-26, 2026" and "Warsaw, MO Baptist Ridge". It also includes a "\$100" tag, a "For Ages: 9 - High School" banner, and contact information for online registration and contact. A QR code and a Zelle logo are also present.

JUNE 21-26, 2026

**Warsaw, MO
Baptist Ridge**

**For Ages:
9 - High
School**

**Online Registration:
www.deafyouthcamp.com**

**Contact us:
deafyouthcamp1982@gmail.com**

\$100

Zelle

MT & Associates is currently hiring for the following positions in St. Louis, Missouri:

- Staff Sign Language Interpreter & Outreach Coordinator
 - Scheduling & Administrative Coordinator
- Applicants can learn more and apply using the QR code or through our Careers [page](#).

CLICK HERE!

<https://mt-associates-llc.careerplug.com/jobs>



MT & ASSOCIATES
SIGN LANGUAGE PRACTICE

Job OPENINGS:

Tennessee: Full-time Staff Designated Interpreter within the Deaf Studies Program at the University of Tennessee.

University of Tennessee Deaf Studies is hiring a designated staff interpreter. Link to the job posting is here: <https://tinyurl.com/utk2026>

Summary of job description

The Department of Theory and Practice in Teacher Education (TPTE) is seeking a full-time Staff Interpreter. This position works closely with faculty and staff to facilitate communication access via ASL and English across a wide variety of situations. Responsibilities involve interpreting, decision making related to interpreting services, coordination with multiple stakeholders, and oversight of service delivery.

Learn more about the Deaf Studies Team here: <https://tinyurl.com/utfaculty>

Why choose UT?

The university holds a strong commitment to its land-grant mission of learning and engagement, with a tradition of service and leadership that carries that Volunteer spirit throughout the state and around the world. It has been ranked nationally as “Best Employer for New Graduates,” “One of America’s Best Large Employers,” and “Best Workplace for Women,” and has been designated as “Best Place for Working Parents” by Forbes Magazine.

Knoxville is ranked as one of the best places to live. Explore the city here: <https://www.visitknoxville.com/things-to-do/>

- Anticipated hiring range: \$60,000-\$65,000
- Comprehensive benefits are available. This includes access to TCRS, one of the best managed defined benefit plans in the country. It provides lifetime retirement, survivor and disability benefits for employees and their beneficiaries.

Ready to apply?

To express interest, please submit an application and attach your resume, a cover letter and a list of three professional references. Apply today here:

<https://tinyurl.com/utk2026>

Supplemental Health Care is a national hiring partner for schools across the United States. We work with districts nationwide to hire thousands of school professionals every year. Currently, we’re hiring a Sign Language Interpreter to work at a school located in Arnold, Missouri and St Louis, Missouri

Qualifications:

Sign Language Interpreter Missouri license/certification. Previous experience working in a school setting or pediatric experience preferred. American Heart Association BLS

Sign Language Interpreter Contract Details:

Schedule follows the school district calendar

Join SHC and experience award-winning support for school professionals. With top-rated service, great benefits, and career growth opportunities, we make your success our priority.

If you'd like more detail on this Sign Language Interpreter opportunity or are ready to get started, please contact Melissa Blount at msblount@shccares.com

What We Offer:

- Full medical, dental, vision, life, and even pet insurance!
- Round the clock support. No matter where you are or what time it is, Supplemental Health Care is standing by.
- SHC's Share the Care referral program is the most dynamic, profitable referral program in the industry.
- 401(k) Retirement Savings Program with a wide range of investment options.
- Discounted and free online access to CEU courses through Supplemental University.

The Special Health Care Needs Family Partnership

Why you'll love this position:

Are you the parent of a child or youth who is deaf or hard of hearing? Are you a caring individual who strives to help others? Then come join our team! The Special Health Care Needs Family Partnership strives to enhance the lives of individuals and families impacted by special health care needs. We do this by providing resources and information to empower families to live their best lives. Special Health Care Needs Family Partnership is for families by families. The Special Health Care Needs Family Partnership hosts regional and statewide events to benefit families through shared experiences, and peer to peer outreach.

What you'll do:

- Develop informational materials focusing on issues relevant to families of children and youth who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Develop a parent/family network comprised of families who have children and youth who are deaf or hard of hearing to provide a statewide system of support and engagement to families with children and youth who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Offer family perspective at committees/workgroups involving deaf or hard of hearing related issues, as requested.
- Serve as the statewide contact person for families of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing by providing peer support and resource information.
- Work closely with the Newborn Hearing Screening Program located within the Department of Health and Senior Services Bureau of Genetics and Healthy Childhood.

Minimum Qualifications:

- The applicant must be a parent or family member of a child or youth who is deaf or hard of hearing.
- Must be able to work a minimum of 80 hours per month.
- Must have home internet access.
- This position requires minimal statewide travel and could include some overnights. Out-of- state may be required at least once per year.
- Must have a positive attitude, exceptional organizational skills, and the ability to work well with others.
- Must possess the ability to respect, understand, communicate with, and effectively interact with diverse populations.

Lack of post-secondary education will not be used as the sole basis denying consideration to any applicant.

More reasons to love this position:

The State of Missouri offers an excellent benefits package that includes a defined pension plan, generous amounts of leave and holiday time, and eligibility for health insurance coverage. Your total compensation is more than the dollars you receive in your paycheck. To help demonstrate the value of working for the State of Missouri, we have created an interactive Total Compensation Calculator. This tool provides a comprehensive view of benefits and more that are offered to prospective employees. The Total Compensation Calculator and other applicant resources can be found [here](#).

Job Location: This position will be located at a domicile within the state that is determined by the selected applicant's location and available space. This is a statewide position with remote work privileges.

Part time hourly : 20 hours/week

\$24.00 Per hour

Interested applicants may apply [here](#): on Mo Careers website.

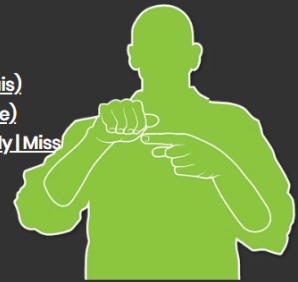
If you have questions or require any accommodations to participate in the application or interview process, please contact: Tonda Lain at Tonda.Lain@health.mo.gov or 573-751-6246

The State of Missouri is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to developing and maintaining a talented workforce.



We're Hiring!

- [Scheduling Coordinator - Communication Access](#)
- [ASL Interpreters \(Contract Basis, In-Person | On-Site Only | St. Louis\)](#)
- [Realtime Captioner \(Contract Basis, In-person | St. Louis / Remote\)](#)
- [DeafBlind SSP Providers \(Contract Basis - In-Person | On-Site Only | Miss\)](#)
- [Substitute Janitor \(Contract Basis, In-Person - St. Louis, MO\)](#)



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