

SIGN of the TIMES E-NEWS

September-November 2012



Iowa Department of Human Rights



Office of Deaf Services

Hope you are all enjoying the summer. Can't believe that fall is almost here. Where has the time gone? Have you wondered where DSCI E-news has been the last couple of months? Due to limited staff we got a little behind but DSCI will try its best to double up on the information so that we can provide you with as much information as possible. We apologize for any inconvenience.

New Deaf Services Staff and An Administrator with Community Advocacy & Services (CAS):

We are very excited to let you know that the Department of Human Rights has hired Lysie Crawford as the consultant for the Office of Deaf Services, and Heidi Smith as administrator for the Division of Community Advocacy and Services (CAS) as of June, 2012. When you are in our office please stop by and say "hello". Lysie and Heidi would like to share some background /bio information with you:

Lysie Crawford: "I graduated in 2011 with a major in Advocacy and Services for the Deaf and moved back to Des Moines as this is where my family and closest friends are. I started working for Eyerly Ball Community Mental Health Services as an advocate for a client who was Deaf. When I learned of the Consultant position, it fit the description of the job I've been working toward throughout my schooling career. I'm excited to begin this journey in empowering others and making a difference in the Deaf Community."

Heidi S. Smith, BA, CBIS: I have worked in disability services for 15 years and I have worked in management since 1997. My most recent role was Director of Services for People with Disabilities at Lutheran Services in Iowa. Some of my past roles include Director of Programs and Services at Brain Injury Association, Jasper County social worker, as well as several leadership promotions at Lutheran Services in Iowa. In these positions, I have led and mentored staff, built community collaborations on behalf of persons with disabilities, and created community programs through the Medicaid waiver (among other funding sources) to help individuals reach their highest level of independence. Through my work with persons with disabilities in these community settings, I have worked with a variety of diverse populations. I hold a bachelor's degree in both Psychology and Human Services from Buena Vista University,

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On a personal note, I have been married for 11 years. My son will be attending University of Nebraska at Lincoln, expecting to major in history with a teaching endorsement in history and special education. I love gardening, canning and reading as well as bike riding and traveling. I started as the Deputy Director/Division Administrator for CAS in June. Since I have started, the Division has been working on several projects together, including a new intake process, community assessment tool, and performance measures. Each office has been educating me on their current projects and needs.

Jill Fultano Avery is an Executive Office 3 with the Office of Deaf Services:

Jill Fultano Avery has spent most of her life advocating for all human and civil rights issues. Her career in state government began ten years ago when she was appointed by Governor Vilsack as the Administrator of the Division of Persons with Disabilities. In 2009, she also became the Administrator of the Division of Native American Affairs. Recently, she became the Executive Officer of these two Offices (former divisions) and the Office of Deaf Services. She looks forward to working more closely with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. Ms. Fultano Avery has been hard of hearing since childhood and has undergone several ear surgeries. She enjoys spending time with her husband and two adult daughters, as well as her dog, a Weimaraner named Mardi.



Deaf & Hard of Hearing Visual Smoke Alarm Promotion:

As of August 1st, 2012 all 171 visual smoke alarm units have been distributed. There were over 500 requests for the specialized smoke alarms. The State Fire Marshal's Office is trying to secure additional funds to supply more for those still awaiting this equipment. As the result of the overwhelming response to the promotion, they will not be taking additional names for the list at this time. We ask that you bear with us until another grant has been secured and funds become available. The State Fire Marshal's Office is hoping to have more of the units available by the first part of 2013. It has been a pleasure working with the State Fire Marshal and State Farm Insurance on this project.

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Deaf Iowans benefit from special smoke alarm project (May 22, 2012) interview by Pat Curtis:

An effort is underway to install special smoke alarms in the homes of deaf and hard of hearing Iowans. Report from Radio Iowa's Pat Curtis:

Iowa State Fire Marshal Ray Reynolds was on hand Tuesday as electricians installed one of the alarms, equipped with a strobe light, in the Des Moines home of Dale and Donna Kern. "There are a number of different systems on the market for hearing impaired people...but the strobe has been scientifically designed so if a person is sleeping, the strobe light will awaken them," Reynolds said. A grant from State Farm Insurance has allowed the Fire Marshal's office to purchase 171 strobe light alarms, which cost \$150 per unit. Reynolds says they'll be installed in homes across the state, but there's a waiting list of roughly 630 homes with deaf or hard of hearing people who also need one of the special smoke detectors. Donna Kern, through an interpreter, said the unit installed in her home could be a life saver. "Right now, I have a smoke alarm that you can only hear," Kern said. "People came here and said they heard a 'beep, beep' sound and that the battery was dead. Now, we have a new smoke alarm and it will alert me if there's a fire and I'll feel safe in my home." Electricians are donating their time and supplies to install the specialty smoke alarm. The effort is part of Fire Marshal Reynolds' goal of making sure smoke detectors are in all Iowa homes that include children. To date, through federal grants and corporate donations, more than 28,000 smoke alarms have been supplied to mainly low-income Iowa households by 200 participating Iowa fire departments. The Kerns are among the first Iowans to benefit from the project.

The Kern Family :

Deaf Services asked the Kern family to share their experience and to share their inspiration when they received their smoke detector on our E-News and they agreed:

"When we heard about the flashing light smoke alarm provided by State Farm Insurance and the State Fire Marshal through a \$40,000 grant, we signed up immediately. We soon received word from the State Fire Marshal that the alarm was in and we were one of the first people in the Des Moines area to have it installed. We asked who would be coming?"



The State Fire Marshal informed us that she would be there along with Stephanie Lyons, Office of Deaf Services, a Representative from State Farm Insurance and State Representative, Tom Latham, and a Bakers Electric employee along with Channel 13 TV and two sign language interpreters. We said “PAH!” Yes, we would be happy to have them over as we have never had a fire alarm that was deaf friendly. Stephanie mentioned that all these people were coming to see the new installation of the flashing light smoke alarm. For the first time we feel comfortable sleeping at night, because this new alarm will wake us if there is a fire in our home. We hope that another insurance company will follow what State Farm has done in helping protect the lives of all Iowa Deaf and Hard of Hearing people. Congratulations to Deaf Services in the Department of Human Rights, Stephanie Lyons and the State Marshal in working hard to get this grant.

36 IOWA COUNTIES REMAIN IN A BURN BAN

The State Fire Marshal reminds Iowans a little over one-third of Iowa remains in a burn ban. State Fire Marshal Ray Reynolds states, “The most common questions our office receives involves questions on camp fires, community fireworks displays and questions from police and fire officials on issuing citations.”

“We are asking for people to use a little common sense when striking the match,” says State Fire Inspector Dan Woods. “The adage only you can prevent forest fires holds true even more with these dangerously dry conditions.” Law Enforcement and Fire Officials have issued citations throughout Iowa for violations of Iowa code 100.40. Violating a state issued burn ban is a simple misdemeanor requiring an appearance in court. Reynolds states, “We have received several calls from fire and police agencies with questions about issuing citations to violators of the burn bans. We have not seen this duration of burn bans and to this extent for some time so I anticipate more citations as the duration continues. It is my hope to get a warning out to Iowans ahead of a citation that this is not the time to burn in Iowa”

Common sense advice during burn bans:

1) Camp fires are permitted if supervised and contained in an enclosed area with brick, metal or grate lining to prevent fires from escaping the confines of the fire pit. Again, direct supervision is the key! Even if you think the fire is extinguished when done, add water or sand to be sure.

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2) Community fireworks are permitted with added safety precautions. Things like wetting a hillside or establishing a fire watch with extinguishers is a good preventative step. However, cities and fireworks blasters hold 100% of the liability for fires.

3) Just because a person “wants” to burn and has years of experience burning brush doesn’t mean they “need” to burn. Very little controlled burning is an absolute requirement. If a permit has been issued by the local Fire Chief, all fire prevention precautions should be implemented to avoid a controlled fire from becoming uncontrolled.

If a person has questions on the issuance of a burn ban in a particular region of the state, they can go to the State Fire Marshal website (www.dps.state.ia.us) and click on “burn bans” to locate the person requesting the burn ban in your area or contact the State Fire Marshal at 515-725-6145. There may be delays in returning your call due to high call volume during this burn ban period.

Important Information about The Video Relay Service, VRS, Toll-Free Phone Number (866, 800 etc)

We are sure many of you already know that the Federal Communication Commission, FCC, has announced to VRS providers that they will no longer provide free 800 numbers beginning November 21, 2012. Some of you might have two numbers (800 # and local numbers). If you want to keep your 800 # please contact your VRS provider for assistance. For detailed information about the Federal Communication Commission, check its website at <http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/use-toll-free-numbers-video-and-ip-relay-service>. Please start using my local number, 515-598-7326 as my primary number. My toll-free number (866-990-2429) will stop working on November 21, 2012. The same goes for Lysine. Her VP number is 515-598-7327 as her primary #. For the Deaf or Hard of Hearing who use their videophone, call Lysine or me as point-to-point, it won't charge you a long distance fee. This change doesn't impact the Deaf Service's standard toll-free number which hearing and Deaf user may call. That number is 888-221-3724.

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That's what I'm talking about



May 30, 2012

Lucinda Hollingshead selected for Hamilton Relay 2012 Better Hearing and Speech Month Recognition Award for the State of Iowa

As an advocate for individuals with hearing loss, with an emphasis on newborns and children, Lucinda works hard to assure that - at any age - individuals with hearing loss have the appropriate resources to support them. Having experienced her own hearing loss for over 30 years, Lucinda shares her knowledge with others - whether it's parents and families of newborns whose hearing screenings show results of hearing loss or young children whose hearing loss is a result of a sudden illness.

For 36 years, Lucinda has worked as a Registered Nurse in the Pediatrics department at Mary Greeley Medical Center (MGMC) in Ames. Her work with children and newborns has been described as "passionate, embracing, dedicated and reliable". She ensures that all newborns are screened and given the appropriate follow-up and attention needed and that young children keep a positive outlook on life as they learn to manage their hearing loss.

Lucinda has been involved in the Neonatal Hearing Screening Program at Mary Greeley Hospital where she spends two mornings a week completing hearing screenings with the newborns. Through her patience and dedication, she has contributed to ensuring that 100% of babies born at MGMC have their hearing tested before going home. MGMC was rated as highest in the state for the lowest percent of rescreens.

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Additionally, Lucinda was instrumental in securing a grant for the purchase of an Algo 5 hearing screening machine at MGMC. As there are only just a few of these machines throughout the state, newborns are referred to MGMC from other hospitals to have their hearing tested with the Algo 5.

Lucinda is a positive individual who displays a strong work ethic. She does not allow her hearing loss to deter her from being successful in her career; in fact, she takes pride in the work she achieves. The communities in Iowa are fortunate to have such a caring and passionate individual.



This leadership recognition has been brought to you by Hamilton Relay.

About Hamilton Relay

Hamilton Relay offers a variety of services including Traditional Relay Services, Captioned Telephone and Internet Relay services. Hamilton provides Traditional Relay and/or Captioned Telephone services to 17 states, the Island of Saipan and the Virgin Islands. More information is available at www.hamiltonrelay.com.

If you have questions about Hamilton Relay contact Lori Sporrer, Relay Iowa Project Manager at 712-653-2440 or lori.sporrer@hamiltonrelay.com

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Deaf Services Commissioner

We mentioned in a previous newsletter that we have asked the Deaf Services Commissioners to take turns writing an article for E-News. These articles are written to share information with you, the community, and other interested individuals or even ask the community to share with us. An article appears below from Commissioner Jennifer Keaton.

DSCI Commissioner, Jennifer Keaton's Report:

As a DSCI commissioner, my mission is to assist community and government to build supports that are responsive to the aspirations and preferences of Deaf individuals in Iowa that rely on human services to lead self-directed lives. It is my great concern that those supports to the Deaf individuals or communities are inadequately or insufficiently due to a lack of interdisciplinary knowledge base. In order to improve the overall quality of life, it is important that we, Deaf individuals, are reminded that we have an imperative duty to address our concerns regardless of how small or large they are to our community and government. We, DSCI commissioners, would like very much to hear your concerns

Why is it important to Vote as Deaf Individuals?

To vote is give a voice in playing a role in positive changes such as education approaches, human services and healthcare issues. Even though these issue may not affect you right now, the day will come when they will. We need to be proactive to make a change for our children and future generations to come. The Deaf individuals fall in the category of " minorities and " disable", these groups are often overlooked by governmental agencies. We, U.S. citizens, have certain rights and privileges which come with certain responsibilities. The Deaf individuals are responsible to see that our children, friends, families and neighbors are properly cared for and protected. There are many counties today that are run by government that do not allow their people to vote. These rights are even less available to the women of the word who are still struggling to obtain equal rights. Let that be our reminder that government represents the people and they are employed by the people.

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In other words, we need your input by voting! You can register to vote at your local county auditor's office & they can be found on your county website or phone book on the government page.

Deaf Services New Commissioner:

Congratulations to Jennifer Upah of Cedar Rapids, who has been appointed by the Governor to become a DSCI Commissioner. She is serving a term of three years and replaces August Cordero. We are looking forward to working with Jennifer and all of the Commissioners as well.

Our next Commission meeting will be: **Saturday, November 3, 2012, 10:00 A.M.– 1:00 p.m.—Pleasant Hill Public Library, 5151 Maple Drive, Pleasant Hill Iowa, IA 50327-** Deaf Services and Commissioners are open to receiving the general public's feedback and comments.

Application for Gubernational Consideration

If you are interested in becoming a Board or Commission member, check to see what current board or commission openings are out there and then complete the form and send to Office of the Governor. Check it out at <https://openup.iowa.gov/application> for detailed information. You can apply to become a Deaf Services Commissioner in the future too.

Deaf Services Website:

We will try to update the Deaf Services website so that we can provide you with current information as soon as possible. We apologized for the inconvenience.

Deaf Service E-News:

If you are interested in receiving E-News, please email your request to dhr.dsci@iowa.gov Please share with your friends or families who might be interested in receiving E-News, have them let Deaf Services know.

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Need speaker/Booth Exhibitors/ Workshops:

Does your school, club, Human Resources person, doctor's office, hospital or organization have any interest in bringing in a speaker from the Office of Deaf Services to provide training on a wide variety of topics, including Deaf culture, Auxiliary technology, interviewing and hiring Deaf and Hard of Hearing, interpreter & senior citizen issues? Call Deaf Services at 515-281-3164 to set up a date for a presentation. We can provide booth exhibit materials to your organization. We travel throughout the state and provide you with information on a variety of opportunities to Deaf and Hard of Hearing available with in the community.

Mark your Calendars

October 6, 2012: Iowa School for the Deaf, ISD, Homecoming at ISD, Council Bluffs IA

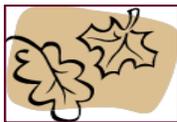
October 19, 2012 : Central Iowa Center for Independent Living is hosting International Disability Awareness Month, President of Gallaudet University, Dr. T Alan Hurwitz to promote disability advocacy, Iowa Capitol Building, Old Supreme Courtroom, Des Moines Iowa from 1:00 —2:00 P.M.

October 20, 2012: Iowa Association of the Deaf, Board meeting, hosted by North Central Club of the Deaf, 617 Central Ave, Fort Dodge IA, 50501. Door opens at 8:00 A.M. The meeting starts at 9:00 A.M.

October 20, 2012: Cedar Rapids Association of the Deaf is hosting a 13th annual Halloween Party, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, 3109 Old Highway 218 S, Iowa City, IA. Time 6 to 11 P.M.

November 3, 2012 : 10 A.M.–1 P.M. ,DSCI Commission Meeting, Pleasant Hill Public Library, 5151 Maple Drive, Pleasant Hill, IA 50327.

March 5, 2012: Deaf Capitol Day, Des Moines Iowa, 50319 (will be announced soon)



Happy Fall

If you would like to post your events on our calendar, please send an e-mail to dhr.dsci@iowa.gov.

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