

SIGN of the TIMES E-NEWS

December 2010

Iowa Department of
Human Rights



Office of Deaf Services

ANNOUNCEMENT



*From Staff and
Commissioners!*

The Department of Human Rights established a board. Each commission will be submitting recommendations to help implement the department's strategic plan. Three years ago, November 2007, DSCI developed an issue paper called, "Critical Issues Facing Iowa's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Communities." The following five issues were identified by the Commission from past public forums and their advocacy work.

- Mental Health
- Legal
- Interpreters Competency Standards
- Youth
- Services for Hard of Hearing

Commissioners would like to hear from you about any of these five issues. There are three ways:

1. Come to our commission meetings and share your concerns or comments during public comment or
2. Contact DSCI's Commission Chair, Theresa Legg, C/O DSCI thr.dsci@iowa.gov must be 14 days in advance or
3. Contact Commissioners—their contact information is available on our commission webpage: www.deafservices.iowa.gov/commission/commi

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**Hearing Assistive Technology Workshop
November 12-14, 2010 at University of Iowa
Center for Development and Disabilities,**

"Martha Meyer, HLA-CI, was one of 12 participants in this workshop, sponsored by Gallaudet University, Hearing Loss Association of America, George Washington University, and the University of Iowa. This was the first time the workshop had been held in the Midwest region, but it has been conducted in other parts of the country in previous years, with funding provided by a grant. Participants were from Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, New Mexico and Ontario, Canada. They were selected after supplying detailed applications and letters of recommendation.

Presenting information on a wide variety of topics related to Assistive Technology for hearing issues were these individuals:

Dr. Matt Bakke, Gallaudet University Washington DC - workshop leader, alerting/signaling devices

Dr. Ruth Bentler, Au.D., University of Iowa – hearing aids

Dr. Carolyn Brown, PhD., University of Iowa - cochlear implants

George Khal, Iowa City - listening systems

Linda Kozma Spytek, Research Audiologist, Gallaudet University - telephone technologies

Audiology students from the University of Iowa – hands on demo of phones, listening systems, alerting devices

Lise Hamlin, HLAA, Bethesda, Maryland - advocating for technology in workplace and public

Jane Gay, director, Iowa Program for Assistive Technology (IPAT), Univ. of Iowa

Patricia Tomczyszyn, HLAA coordinator of the workshop and ongoing follow-up activities of participants

Heather Easterly, Registered Professional Reporter – real-time captioning for all of the HAT sessions

Visit DSCI website: www.deafservices.iowa.gov Questions or Comments? Email us: thr.dsci@iowa.gov

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A great deal of information was presented over the course of approximately 16 hours, and large binders with the presentations and additional information were sent home with each participant. In addition, the class has access to a web site for sharing information to aid in the 12-month follow-up period, when each class member is tasked with presenting information to various interest groups in their local communities.

That said, if you know of a group with an interest in or need for this type of information, please contact Martha at MarthaLMeyer@gmail.com. Martha can send information or present it in person, or refer to other participants if they are located closer to the group. The other four lowans involved in the workshop were Sheryl Butler, Glenwood; Brad Herring, Muscatine; Mary Heron Dyer, Glenwood; and Suzy Mannella, Des Moines – representation of Iowa from shore to shore, the Missouri to the Mississippi!

The **January meeting of HLA-CI** will feature Martha presenting selected information from the HAT workshop. If there is a specific topic from those listed above that you want to hear more about, or another related to hearing loss that isn't listed, please let Martha know by January 10 so that she has time to prepare – and then please plan to attend! It is **Jan. 22, Saturday, 1 p.m., at Scottish Rite Park Apartments in Des Moines.**



Upcoming HLA Webinars – Internet broadcast, captioned and audio

Dec.15 – Financing Your Hearing Aids

Jan.12 – Hearing Research – New Treatments & Remedies You Can Expect

Pre-registration is required. See

www.hearingloss.org/Community/schedule.asp

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



12/02: 6:30 pm: Deaf lowans Against Abuse Fundraiser—Come Spa with Us! located at Java Creek Café, Cedar Rapids.

12/03: 6:00 pm: American Sign Language Social hosted by Deaf Awareness and DMACC located at [ALL-Play](#), Des Moines.

12/04: 6:30 pm: Deaf lowans Against Abuse Fundraiser—Come Spa with Us! located at Country Inn & Suites at the Airport, Cedar Rapids.

12/04: 7:30 pm: Sign Language Interpreted Play called, “Mother Hicks” located at Strayer—Wood Theatre, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls.

12/05: 1:00 pm: Sign Language Interpreted Play called, “Mary Poppins” located at Civic Center of Greater Des Moines.

12/09: 7:30 pm: Sign Language Interpreted Play called, “Mary Poppins” located at Civic Center of Greater Des Moines.

12/09: 6:00 pm: Central Iowa Hearing Loss Association Holiday Get-Together located at La Hacienda Restaurant, 3121 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines.

12/18: 5:30 pm: Cedar Rapids Association of the Deaf invites you to the 29th Annual Christmas Dinner located at Hiawatha Community Center, Hiawatha.

To see more details of these events, see our events webpage:

<http://www.deafservices.iowa.gov/events/index.html>

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