



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF THE
DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

ODHH Monthly Bulletin

August 2010

A message from Director Lisa Kornberg

At the 20th Anniversary of the ADA event at Camden Yards, Governor O'Malley talked about moving the State forward and not back. This message truly resonated with me as I reflected on all of the positive changes we are witnessing in Maryland and around the country. Things like the Department of Justice examining the accessibility of movie theatres for people with hearing or vision loss and H.R. 3101 passing in the House of Representatives. Through ongoing legislative, training, and program initiatives at ODHH, we too are working to move Maryland forward and not back. As always, if you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

-Lisa

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Governor O'Malley Celebrates 20th Anniversary of the ADA



On July 26, 2010, Governor Martin O'Malley joined over 300 individuals with disabilities, families and friends, elected officials and other special guests at the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) at Camden Yards. Twenty years ago, guided by the higher truth that we are all in this together, we achieved the justice of ADA- giving 54 million Americans a chance at a better future. In Maryland, we have continued to hold true to our belief that there is no such thing as a spare American. Together, we have dramatically decreased the

wait lists for people needing disabilities services and provided new protections for student athletes with disabilities. Together, we have passed legislation that allows anyone who requests closed captioning in public places to receive it. And together, we have given Marylanders with disabilities the opportunity to go back to work.

"I was honored to have been uplifted by so many inspirational individuals and reminded of the progress we've made both as a nation and as a State.,," said Governor O'Malley, "but we still have more work to do. Today, our fight for equal opportunity for all Marylanders continues. Working together, we can continue to give



As part of the administration's commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), President Barack Obama announced the publication of two final rules that will amend the Department of Justice's regulations implementing Title II and Title III of the ADA. These two rules will be published concurrently in the Federal Register. Among the changes that will affect both rules are:

- Adoption of the Revised Design Standards
- Element by Element Safe Harbor
- Ticketing
- Service Animals
- Reservations at places of lodging

Highlights of the Final Rule to Amend the DOJ's Regulation Implementing Title II:

<http://tinyurl.com/374rxbu>

Highlights of the Final Rule to Amend the DOJ's Regulation Implementing Title III:

<http://tinyurl.com/37hjy9>

Quick Links

[ODHH Website](#)

Marylanders with disabilities the better future they deserve."

Public Comments Wanted on Captioning in Movie Theatres



The Department of Justice (Department) is considering revising its regulation implementing Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in order to establish requirements for making the goods, services, facilities, privileges, accommodations, or advantages offered by movie theater owners or operators at movie theaters accessible to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing or who are blind or have low vision by screening movies with closed captioning or video description. The Department is issuing this Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) in order to solicit public comment on various issues relating to the potential application of such requirements and to obtain background information for the

regulatory assessment the Department may need to prepare in adopting any such requirements. Comments are due by January 24, 2011. For more information, visit: <http://federalregister.gov/a/2010-18337>.

H.R. 3101 Passes in the House



One year ago, Governor Martin O'Malley sent a letter to the entire Maryland delegation to the United States Congress asking them to support H.R. 3101 - the Twenty-first Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2009 and asked the members to work for its swift passage. H.R. 3101 would ensure that individuals with hearing loss have access to emerging Internet Protocol-based communication and video programming technologies. Governor O'Malley was the first governor in the nation to give his support to this important and historic bill.

On July 26, 2010, this bill passed in the House of Representatives by roll call vote. The vote was held under a suspension of the rules to cut debate short and pass the bill, needing a two-thirds majority. The totals were 348 Ayes, 23 Nays, 61 Present/Not Voting.

The bill now must be passed by the United States Senate.

DC Police Install Software for Deaf Community



By Nafeesa Syeed, Associated Press Writer

Police in the District of Columbia are seeking to improve communications with the city's large deaf and hard of hearing population through new software in police cruisers -- a move believed to be among the first nationwide.

The Metropolitan Police Department installed the software in 15 police cars this week under a pilot program. It provides a video link that allows people to communicate with police through American Sign Language interpreters.

Police spokesman Officer Eric Frost said the department already has a special unit for deaf and hard of hearing residents and officers who translate sign language. But the software allows officers to gather information from the scene more rapidly, he said.

"We have a very large deaf and hard of hearing community in this city," Frost said. "It's allowing us to serve that community with much more efficacy and efficiency."

The region is home to Gallaudet University, the nation's premier university for deaf and hard of hearing students, and thousands of federal government workers who are deaf.



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Mark Your Calendar

**Maryland Advisory Council
on the Deaf and Hard of
Hearing Meeting**

Wednesday, September 8

11 AM - 2 PM

Maryland School for the Deaf -
New Elementary School

Frederick, MD

Police said three of the cruisers are in the district where Gallaudet is located. The software also is installed at each of the department's seven police stations and three substations.

For the full article, visit <http://www.myfoxdc.com/dpp/news/dc/dc-police-install-software-for-the-deaf-community-061810>.

Recession Hits National Deafblind Advocacy Organization

Unfortunately, as is happening with other nonprofits in this difficult economy, the American Association of the Deafblind's (AADB) projected 2010 revenues have gone down, necessitating layoffs of all staff effective July 16, 2010.

Please note that AADB is not closing; it will just be running on a smaller budget for now. All of AADB's programs will still be intact. The AADB 2011 National Symposium is still being planned. AADB is still an active collaborator on the National Task Force on Deaf-Blind Interpreting. Support Service Provider and deaf-blind technology programs are still being developed. The summer issue of The Deaf-Blind American magazine will be sent out to current members in August. Other publications, AADB Today and AADB Symposium News, will be sent out as scheduled.

AADB is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) national consumer organization of, by, and for deaf-blind Americans and their supporters. Its headquarters are located in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Randy Pope will provide direction and management of AADB without pay and will run AADB's office and programs until finances are stable enough to hire staff. Randy will be delegating a lot of the work to other volunteers to make sure the business of AADB is done in a timely and effective manner.

For more information about AADB's programs and services, visit www.aadb.org.

NASADHH Establishes Six Goals at Biennial Meeting



On July 6, 2010, the National Association of State Agencies of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NASADHH) held its biennial meeting in Philadelphia, PA. Maryland's ODHH attended this important meeting and contributed to the development of six goals to focus and guide the NASADHH. They are:

1. Set standards throughout US for accessibility in health care situations.
2. Collect consistent, accurate, meaningful data and demographics
3. Sustain agencies, programs and services provided.
4. Develop and promote more local grassroots advocacy.
5. Establish minimum standards to ensure quality, licensed, better trained, teachers of ASL.
6. Collaborate to defragment deaf education and vocational rehabilitation services.

The purpose of NASADHH is to function as the national voice of state agencies serving deaf and hard of hearing people and to promote the implementation of best practices in the provision of services.

Questions? Comments? Feedback?

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