

**Martin O'Malley**  
Governor

**Anthony G. Brown**  
Lt. Governor



**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF THE  
DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING**

**Lisa H. Kornberg**  
Director

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Assistant Director

## FACT SHEET

### Our Mission:

ODHH represents the Governor and his goal of promoting equal access for all Marylanders –by providing expertise that enhances the general welfare of Maryland's deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind residents.

### Our Vision:

All Maryland citizens who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind will have equal and full access to resources, services and opportunities for participation in all aspects of community life.

### Our Responsibilities:

- Promote the general welfare of deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing individuals in Maryland
- Serve as a coordinating agency that reports directly to the Governor's Office
- Work with various state and private agencies to ensure appropriate delivery of services to all of Maryland's diverse citizens
- Supports the development of public policies, regulations and programs that will benefit the community
- Work to improve access to communication to existing services and programs
- Advises State government and the General Assembly on the needs of deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing individuals
- Coordinates with other units of the State and the federal governments about the services provided to deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing Marylanders

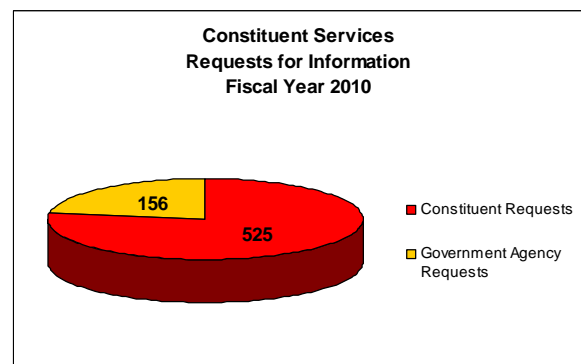
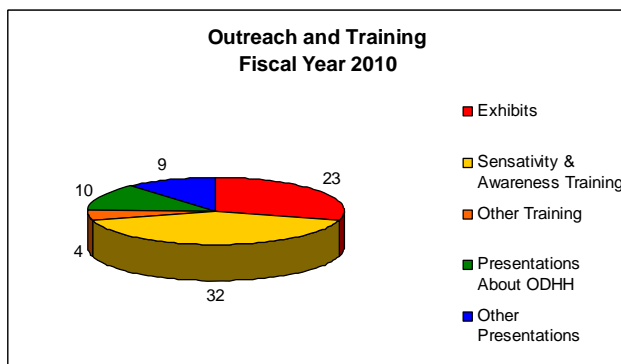
### Our Goals:

- to provide information and support to the deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind community;
- to serve as a resource for federal, state, and local government agencies; and
- to assist in the development of policies and programs that improve the lives of Marylanders who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind.

### Community Services

ODHH provides information and referral services to the community. ODHH operates three programs:

- Awareness Training and Technical Assistance
- Constituent Services (Information & Referral and Advocacy)
- Community Outreach and Education



## State and Local Agencies

ODHH provides information to state and local agencies to improve the quality of life of Marylanders who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind. Information provided includes:

- Technical assistance which includes communication accessibility assessments and the review of policies, procedures and practices in comparison with effective services for deaf and hard of hearing individuals
- Trainings on a variety of topics including, but not limited to, ADA compliance, the use of adaptive equipment and sensitivity and awareness trainings
- Individualized responses to inquiries received in person, via email, telephone or fax

ODHH helps develop new programs and policies to meet the needs of our community. ODHH is working with the following agencies and projects:

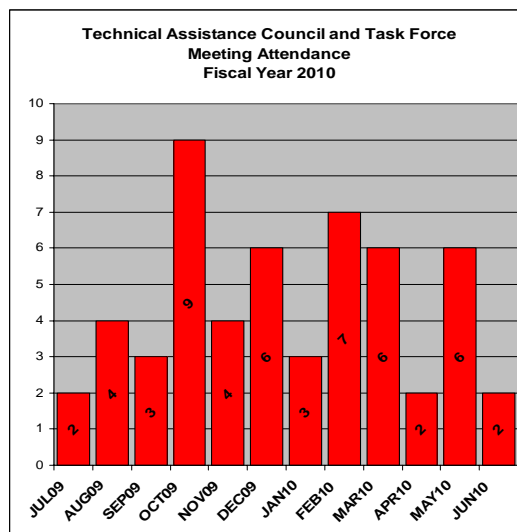
- 1. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation**
  - a. Employment – to increase employment opportunities for deaf and hard of hearing Marylanders by providing training at State One-Stop Centers
  - b. Captioning of the DLLR Unemployment Video
- 2. Maryland State Department of Education**
  - a. Team Maryland – to develop a comprehensive state plan for the education of deaf and hard of hearing students
- 3. Maryland Emergency Management Agency**
  - a. Emergency Preparedness – videos for deaf and hard of hearing on the MEMA Website
- 4. Maryland Department of General Services/State and Local Police Departments**
  - a. Law enforcement – to increase sensitivity and awareness among first responders and officers to the communication needs of Marylanders with hearing loss

ODHH also attends and participates in a number of committee and taskforce meetings to make sure these committees include information on issues of importance to the deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing community. Examples of task force and committee meetings attended by ODHH staff include:

- ODHH Advisory Council
- Universal Newborn Hearing Screening
- Alliance/County Commissions on Disabilities
- Interagency Council on Aging
- Transformation Workgroup (DHMH)
- Maryland State Steering Committee for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students
- Governor's Advisory Board for Telecommunications Relay
- Community Provider boards and councils

### How to contact us:

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