



## GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF THE DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

# ODHH Monthly Bulletin

October 2010

## A message from Director Lisa Kornberg

As the leaves begin to change, it is important to be aware of the other important changes happening around us. For example, on October 1st, a new captioning law takes effect in Maryland. Also, Governor O'Malley announced the launch of the Maryland Workforce Exchange, a new and innovative way to help Marylanders looking for jobs. These are tough, but exciting, times for Maryland as we in State government work to enhance the quality of life for the citizens we serve. As always, we are open to your feedback to learn ways we can better serve you.

-Lisa

P.S. Don't forget! October 12th is just around the corner, so if you haven't done so, please make a commitment to register to vote in the General Election on November 2nd.

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## Captioning Law Goes Into Effect October 1st



Did you know that there is a new law in Maryland about closed captions in public places? This new law requires that public places turn on the captions on their televisions when you request it.

Examples of public places include - but are not limited to - bars, restaurants, gyms, train/bus stations, hotels, and sports venues.

Public places are excluded from this requirement if (1) no television receiver of any kind is available in the public area or (2) the only public television receiver available in the public area is not a closed-captioning receiver.

If a public place refuses to turn on the captions, you can file a complaint with the Maryland Commission on Human Relations (MCHR).

For more information about this important new law, including videos about how to file a complaint, [visit the ODHH Website](#).



For the general election, early voting centers will be open starting Friday October 22, 2010 through Thursday, October 28, 2010, except for Sunday, October 24th when early voting centers are closed.

For more information on early voting, visit the [State Board of Election Website](#).

## Quick Links

[ODHH Website](#)



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[Maryland.gov](#)

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## ODHH on the Move

### Deaf Culture Fair

Thursday, September 30  
6 PM - 8 PM  
Southern Maryland  
Electric Cooperative  
Hughesville, MD

[World of Possibilities  
Expo](#)

## Register to Vote in General Election

Wednesday, October 6  
9 AM - 5:30 PM  
MD State Fair Grounds  
Timonium, MD



The deadline to register to vote in the November 2, 2010 general election is October 12, 2010.

A voter registration application may be submitted to your local board of elections or the State Board of Elections at any time. However, an application must be postmarked by October 12, 2010 to vote in the General Election.

For more information on registering to vote, visit the [Voter Information Page](#) on the ODHH website or contact [Julie Anne Schafer](#). If you are not registered to vote, there's no better time to register than now!

## Mental Illness Awareness Week is October 3-9



By: Nicole Dzienkowski

The first week of October is Mental Illness Awareness Week (MIAW). Established by congress in 1990, MIAW has become a way for anyone suffering from a mental illness to seek help in order to treat their illness. Any medical condition that disrupts a person's mood, behavior, or thinking can be categorized as a mental illness. These medical conditions diminish the way a person can cope with demands of everyday life; sometimes affecting their ability to function in daily situations. There are more than 200

mental illness conditions, some of which include schizophrenia, major depression, obsessive compulsive disorder, and borderline personality disorder.

Approximately 10.6 million adult Americans reported that their health care needs were unmet as of last year. MIAW is a great time for those with a mental illness to contact service providers to treat these specific conditions. Some possible resources to contact, concerning mental health illnesses are:

- [Alternative Solutions Center](#)
- [Arundel Lodge, Inc.](#)
- [Family Service Foundation, Inc.](#)
- [Jewish Community Services](#)
- [Mental Hygiene Administration](#)
- [National Alliance on Mental Illness \(NAMI\)](#)
- [National Suicide Prevention Hotline](#)
- [People Encouraging People, Inc.](#)
- [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#)
- [Deaf Wellness Center - Depression PSAs](#)

These organizations and service providers focus specifically on enhancing the quality of life for those who have a mental illness. You can find more in-depth information on the [ODHH Resource Page on Behavioral Health](#).

For more information on MIAW, visit the [National Alliance on Mental Illness Website](#) and help support Mental Illness Awareness Week.

## Lifeline Across America

It may be hard to believe, but many people in the United States do not have phone service in their homes. Often this is because they do not have the money to pay for the initial installation or to keep up with monthly bills. According to the Federal Communications Commission, as of July 2006, approximately 6.3 million households across the country-or 5.4 percent of the entire U.S. population-did not have telephones. So while most Americans are using their phone lines to connect to the

Internet and order items such as books, CDs, and even pizzas, some residents do not even have the ability to call their family, their next-door neighbor, or 911.

But federal and state governments are working together with telephone companies to promote programs aimed at helping eligible customers get and keep phone service in their homes with Lifeline and Link-Up discounts.

The Link-Up program provides up to a \$30 discount on new telephone service connection charges, while the Lifeline assistance program offers eligible customers measurable savings through discounts on monthly phone bills.

To heighten awareness, the FCC and state officials are launching a "Lifeline Across America" outreach campaign to help educate eligible consumers, local media, local government officials, and social services agencies on the availability of Lifeline and Link-Up discounts. The FCC is also looking for new ways to increase general public awareness of these programs.

Consumers may be eligible if they participate in any of the following assistance programs: Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance, Federal Public Housing Assistance, food stamps, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, the National School Lunch Free-Lunch Program, or Bureau of Indian Affairs Program. Consumers may also be eligible for these benefits based on household income. Since income and other eligibility requirements vary by state, contact your local telephone company for additional information, or contact the state public utility commission at 1-800-492-0474 (toll-free) to check Maryland's current eligibility requirements for these programs.

Consumers eligible to receive discounts under these programs should contact their local telephone companies to apply. If additional assistance is needed, they should contact the utility commission or the Federal Communications Commission. The FCC's toll-free number is 1-888-CALL-FCC. If you have Internet access, please visit the FCC's Web site for additional information: [www.lifeline.gov](http://www.lifeline.gov).

## Governor O'Malley Announces Maryland Workforce Exchange



This week, Governor Martin O'Malley announced the launch of an innovative new web tool on the Maryland Workforce Exchange program for Maryland job seekers. The new feature harnesses the use of web "spidering technology" which aggregates every job search website, every employer website, and every job posting in Maryland creating a real-time, web-based, one-stop shop for Maryland jobs seekers.

"I share the frustration of many Marylanders whose hope for a quick recovery process is met with slower than expected job growth. Today's jobs report is further indication that while Maryland is moving past this national recession stronger and more quickly than other states, there is still work to," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "That's why we're launching a new innovative program to connect Marylanders to employment opportunities. Job seekers in Maryland can now search 80,000 presently open and active, real-time jobs across our State."

The Maryland Workforce Exchange identifies every advertised Maryland job in real-time by industry, location, and how to apply. Job seekers can not only search job postings, but can also view which areas of the state are hiring in most for a particular industry, where to get training for these jobs, and assess skills for potential careers. Employers can specify a hiring preference for job seekers who are currently unemployed or who have exhausted unemployment benefits within the last 12 months in order to qualify for Governor's O'Malley's HIRE tax credit.

For more information, visit the [Maryland Workforce Exchange Website](http://MarylandWorkforceExchangeWebsite).

### Questions? Comments? Contact:

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