

THE DODHH BULLETIN

Mission: The Division on Deaf & Hard of Hearing with the guidance of the Advisory Council shall affirm the indisputable right of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons to secure effective communication.

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Interpreter Bill Passes - House Votes Unanimously

After the House Regulatory Reform committee heard testimonies from the packed room of deaf, hard of hearing, deaf blind and hearing people from various groups, they voted to report House Bill No. 4208 out of the committee. On March 15, the House voted unanimously (108 - 0) to approve the proposed Interpreter Legislation, House Bill 4208

HB4208 was introduced in the Michigan House by Representative Dudley Spade. SB25 was introduced in the Michigan Senate by Senator John Gleason who originally introduced HB6087 in the House in the spring of 2006 but the bill died without action. The Senate Judiciary Committee heard testimony related to SB25 April 17, 2007 at 12:30PM and voted to pass SB25 out of committee to the Senate floor for vote.

HB4208 (same as SB25) would amend the Deaf Person's Interpreter Act (PA 204) to expand the requirement to appoint a qualified interpreter so that it would apply to employment, state and local governments and places of public accommodations (doctors office, banks, museums, hospitals, schools, senior citizen centers, health spa, etc.). A qualified interpreter is defined to include state and national certified interpreters. It means when

(Continued on page 3)



New State Interpreter Coordinator

DODHH is pleased to announce the new State Interpreter Coordinator, Joy Thomassen. Ms. Thomassen began her position with the State of Michigan in November 2006.

Ms. Thomassen is a nationally certified interpreter (NAD IV, RID CI/CT). She moved with her husband to Michigan in January 2005 from Minnesota, where she had lived for seven years. While in Minnesota she graduated with a bachelor's degree in Deaf Culture Studies from North Central University.

In Michigan, she has freelanced with various agencies in a variety of settings and been on staff with both Michigan video relay service companies.

In her current position as State of Michigan Interpreter Coordinator, she will have new opportunities to work with legislators, administer the Michigan Quality Assurance exam and sponsor QA unit activities, plan for the implementation of the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA), provide Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. (RID) Continuing Education Unit (CEU) sponsorship to any agency or individual, maintain Michigan's interpreter database, plan workshops, travel for statewide presentations about Deaf and interpreter community issues, participate in a variety of committees, interpret for state employees and events, and serve as a resource to citizens who call or email with concerns.

Please join us in welcoming her as the newest member of the DODHH staff.

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DODHH

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Director's Corner
By Chris Hunter

Newsletter: In 2007 we will discontinue printing THE DODHH BULLETIN because of the budget crisis within state government. We will email the newsletters to those we have on our mailing list and it will be posted on www.mcddc-dodhh.org. However, those who do not have access to a computer may call us (877-499-6232 TTY/Voice) to receive a printed copy. Those who wish to subscribe to it through email, please send to dodhh@michigan.gov with "Subscribe to DODHH Bulletin" in Subject box.

New Interpreter Coordinator: You will feel joyful in interacting with Joy Thomassen. Joy replaces Maureen Wallace who retired after 20 years. Since her hire in October 2006, she has re-organized her office, read 20+ years worth of documents, presented, proctored the QA test and engaged in production of new QA test videos. She has done a lot in a short time and is doing well even with commuting between Waterford and Lansing. We wish her the best!

Bulletin Editor: Janet Jurus, State Interpreter, is the new editor of THE DODHH BULLETIN. Send comments and suggestions to her at: jurusj@michigan.gov.

Student Intern: DODHH would like to extend best wishes to Melissa Yelland our student intern from the MSU School of Social Work. Ms. Yelland will graduate in May 2007 and plans to continue her work with the deaf/hard of hearing community and is exploring her employment opportunities.

Handbook: The new Michigan Handbook of Rights for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People is finally completed and is placed on www.mcddc-dodhh.org under publications. The 165-page publication can be opened and searched easier on the website. We are sorry that we do not have funds to print it. If you do not have a computer, we suggest that you use a computer at your local library or friends or family's home.

Silent Retreat: DODHH is known for running the famous Silent Retreat at Ralph McMullan Conference Center in Roscommon for many years. It is a place where hearing people go silent from Friday night until Sunday noon without talking. They are to use ASL only. It had helped many interpreters, professionals, deaf and hard of hearing persons improve their ASL expressive and receptive skills. Unfortunately, there will be no Silent Retreat in 2007 due to budgetary constraints. We hope that it will be revived in the future.

Retirement: It is official that I will retire on May 1, 2007 after 27 years with DODHH. April 27 will be my last official day in the office and I will be here for the Open House that afternoon. I plan to enjoy my hobbies, computer repairs and education, golf and some contract work. The Department of Labor & Economic Growth will not be able to fill the position until the budget problem is resolved. I want to thank all those staff and stakeholders for supporting DODHH for the past 27 years! Please continue the same level of support now and in the future.

Michigan CEPIN Training

First in Great Lakes Region

In these days of world conflict, potential pandemics, and abundant natural disasters, communication is vital to preparedness. People with hearing loss are often under-represented in emergency and disaster planning materials and activities.

In recognition of this fact, the Michigan Coalition of Deaf and Hard of Hearing People hosted presenters from the CEPIN (Community Emergency Preparedness Information Network) project for a workshop on August 28 2006, in Detroit. This all-day workshop was titled Emergency Responders and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community: Taking the First Steps to Disaster Preparedness. This workshop curriculum was approved and funded by the Department of Homeland Security, and Michigan was the first state in the Great Lakes region to host this workshop after final DHS approval!

Twenty deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind consumers joined with 20 emergency responders for a day of interactive discussions and activities. Likewise, these responders were also made aware of the unique challenges that people with hearing loss encounter in emergency situations. Consumers had the opportunity to learn about the



CEPIN Attendees in group discussion

many roles and responsibilities of firefighters, police officers, emergency managers, public health coordinators, and other emergency responders.

Both groups remarked that it was a wonderful learning experience, and that they hope for more opportunities to participate in similar workshops in the future!

Accommodations and resources to make this event successful were provided by CEPIN and members of the Michigan Coalition for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People; (Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Michigan Association for Deaf and Hard of Hearing, DB Central, Sign Language Services of Michigan, Connections for Deaf Citizens, and Deaf and Hearing Impaired Services.)

Interpreter Bill *(Continued from page 1)*

an appointing authority hires an interpreter as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, the interpreter must have state or national certification. Any person who knowingly represents him/herself as a qualified interpreter when they are not, will be subject to penalty. An appointing authority who intentionally hires an unqualified interpreter will also receive a penalty. The bill authorizes DODHH



Jill Gaus testifying before the House Committee

to make Rules.

DODHH and its Advisory Council have been working on introducing this bill since 1994 after receiving complaints from deaf people and interpreters that un-

qualified interpreters were employed statewide. It is hoped that this bill will now move through the Senate and receive approval by the Governors' office.

For more information and status on the bills, go to www.michiganlegislature.org and enter the bill number in the search box. To view the PowerPoint presentation on the bills, www.mcdc-dodhh.org



Director Chris Hunter speaking with Legislative Analyst

DODHH Conducts Interpreter Supply and Demand Study

A study of the, "Supply and Demand for Interpreters for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Michigan," has been conducted to provide background information for use in consideration of changes in federal law and associated state administrative rules that are intended to provide equal access for deaf and hard of hearing students to all educational opportunities through employment of qualified interpreters in Michigan schools. This study is available to download from our website:

www.mcddc-dodhh.org. Or, if you wish to receive a copy of this report please contact DODHH.

Findings:

- The demand for interpreters for the deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind in Michigan will continue to grow over the next 25 years despite a slow decline in the number of school-age deaf and hard of hearing children in Michigan.
- In the future, interpreters for the deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind in the future will need to be better educated, more experienced, and have more specialized knowledge and skills, and they will be required to meet more stringent certification criteria than in the past.
- Thirty percent (30%) of interpreters are not certified at all. (Figure 17)

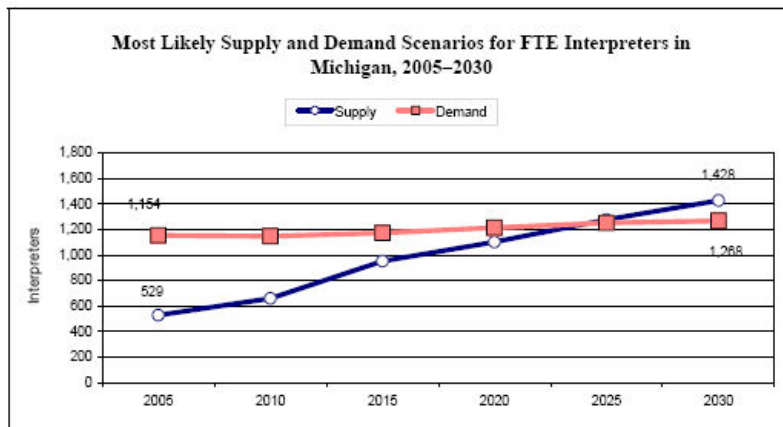


Figure 38

- There is a serious shortage of interpreters for the deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind in Michigan. It will take between 15 and 20 years for the supply of interpreters in Michigan to close the gap with demand. (Figure 38)
- Shortages of interpreters for the deaf and hard of hearing will continue to be greatest in the less densely populated rural and northern sections of Michigan.
- Educational programs for prospective interpreters for the deaf and hard of hearing will need to include more practical, "real world" experience as part of their training and their preparation for certification.

This study provides possible changes in the demographic characteristics of Michigan's deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind population, the emergence and adoption of new technologies within the deaf and hard of hearing community, and acknowledged the efforts of Michigan's officially recognized interpreter training programs. Interpreters have been important for full and equitable participation by deaf and hard of hearing people throughout American society for decades, and they will continue to be more significant than ever in the years to come; particularly for deaf and hard of hearing students in K-12 education.

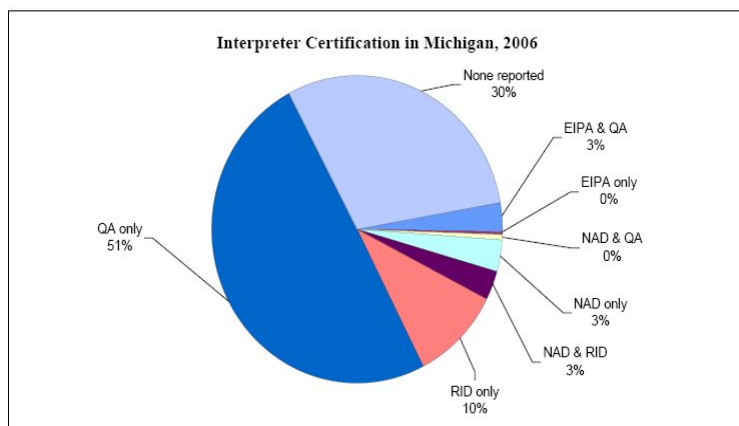


Figure 17

Chris Hunter Retires and Celebrates 27 Years as DODHH Director

Hunter began as the first director under the newly revitalized Division of Deaf and Deafened in March 1980. Governor Miliken signed the Executive Order in 1979 to transfer DDD back to the Department of Labor under the Michigan Commission on Handicapper Concerns (now called Commission on Disability Concerns) after DDD was inactive for five years. He hired three staff members, Aggie Howes as deputy director, Francine Lauer as field agent, and Rose Smith as secretary to his team. DDD was founded in 1937 with only one staff member Director.



Hunter's first office at the old Market Square building in 1980

The major accomplishments under Hunter's leadership are as follows:

TTY Purchase Program (1980): Allows Michigan telephone companies to lease or sell TTY at cost lower than retail price.

Hearing Dog laws (1981): Recognize trained hearing dogs used by deaf and hard of hearing and permit access to the public places:



Market Square (above) was the first DDD office in 1980 and Victor Center (below) is the present office.



Quality Assurance Screening (1982): Evaluates interpreters who do not have national certificate.

First TTY Directory (1981): Contains businesses with TTYs in Michigan in 1981.

Deaf Person's Interpreter Act (1982): Requiring courts and administrative hearings to use qualified or certified interpreters.

First Interpreter Directory Published (1983): Contains list of qualified and certified interpreters with contact information.

Hearing Requirement Removed from MIOSHA Rules (1983): Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Act no longer requires one to hear to operate industrial trucks (forklifts, etc.)



Police Training: A state police recruit with wooden gun gives speeding ticket to Hunter in the field training.

First Interpreted Governor Inauguration Ceremony (1983): Interpreter was provided by DDD at Governor James Blanchard's inauguration ceremony.



American Sign Language bill signed into law in April 1987. L-R: Don Brown, Lawson McNally, Francine Lauer, Governor James Blanchard, Rep. Jim Barcia, Chris Hunter, Maureen Wallace.

Director Retirement Continued



50th Anniversary 1937-1987: L-R Rose Smith, Francine Lauer, Maureen Wallace, Gail Partridge, Chris Hunter

First State Police Training (1983): The staff provided 2-hour training at the Michigan State Police Training Academy for the first time. The training continues annually. In 2005, the staff began to train Dept of Natural Resources Conservation Officers at the academy.



Town Hall Meetings : Hunter leads presentation with Darlene Watson listening. Over 600 individuals participated in eight meetings statewide.

First Town Hall Meetings (1983): The meetings were open to deaf and hard of hearing community to learn of new laws and rules and services and to make public comments.

Tax Exemption for Hearing Loss (1984): Allows Deaf/HH to claim extra exemption on Michigan tax to cover expenses related to hearing loss.

Direct Interpreting Services for the State Government (1986): A full-time staff interpreter position was created to provide services in Lansing area.

Special Education Rules Amended (1986): Requires qualified interpreters and teachers of deaf/hh in the public schools.

D/HH Population Study (1986): A study funded by the state general fund to publish a 100-page report on deaf and hard of hearing population, their status of hearing loss, income, and employment.

Deaf Identification on Drivers License (1986): Allows deaf/hh person to place an international deafness symbol sticker in the back of driver's license.

Barrier-free Rules Amended (1987): Requires new construction or remodeled building to install TTY in the pay phone bank and visual smoke alarm signals.

American Sign Language as Foreign Language (1987): Recognizes ASL as a language and allows the public high schools to teach ASL courses to fulfill foreign credits for graduation.



Michigan Relay Center Opening Day: Hunter looks at relay representative's work station. 1990

50-Year Celebration (1987): DDD celebrates its golden anniversary of service.

First Silent Retreat (1987): The first one was called "Silent Weekend" and was held in Lake Orion. After this, it was held annually at Higgins Lake in Roscommon.

DDD Renamed to DOD (1988): Renames DDD to DODHH, establishes 13-member Advisory Council to be appointed by the Governor, and

Director Retirement Continued



First Relay Call: Hunter receives the very first relay call from Governor John Engler in the history of Michigan. (1990) Michael McDonnell represents Michigan Bell.

changes the duties of DOD to provide variety of services.

Michigan Relay Center (1990): MRC opened in May 1990 as a result of the efforts of DOD.

Court Judges Receive Training (1990): DOD staff travel to six separate conventions in Michigan to train more than 600 district, circuit, probate court judges and personnel on use of sign language interpreter and other accommodations.

Handicapper Civil Rights Act Amended (1990): A section on interpreters was added

ASL Teachers Seminar (1992): The first state-wide seminar for teachers of ASL was held at Ralph McMullan Conference Center in Roscommon in December for the weekend. More than 80 participated. This later led to formation of ASLTA-Michigan Chapter in 1993.

Hard of Hearing Specialist (1993): The position was created to focus on the needs of the hard of hearing people. Rose Smith was the first HHS.

New Computers in Office (1994): This was the first year DOD staff received new computers. Good bye typewriters!

Rest Area Pay Phone TTYs (1995): First 12 rest areas received pay phone TTYs.

Stadium Access (1995): Oldsmobile Park, new Lansing LugNuts baseball stadium was made accessible with TTY payphone, captioned score-board, and food menu sign. The stadium opened in 1996. DOD later served on design advisory committees for Lions' Ford Field and Tigers' Comerica Park.

RID CMP Sponsorship (1995): DOD became approved certificate maintenance Program sponsor for interpreters who earn continuing education units.

Emergency TTY Call Tests (1996): DOD with State Emergency Telephone Services Committee began TTY call tests to 9-1-1 centers to make sure that they are accessible.



Hunter teaches Big Lug ASL.

Website (1997): DOD created its first website providing news and information.

First DeafBlind Workshop (1997): Along with Michigan Commission for the Blind, DOD sponsors the first workshop to train DeafBlind interpreters and to educate DeafBlind persons about their rights, communication devices, and daily activities.

DOD Renamed to DODHH (2002): Governor signed the executive order to change the name after petition from staff and Advisory Council.

Teacher Certification Test (2002): Assist Michigan Department of Education to review tests for Michigan teacher certification to make sure they

Director Retirement Continued

they do not contain questions that rely on normal hearing to answer.

VRS Booth Opened to Public (2003): DODHH and Communication Access Center for the Deaf opened booth for deaf people to make video relay calls.

E-Michigan Website (2000-2003): DODHH and the Coalition for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People began to develop the first statewide website that contains general information about deaf and hard of hearing people.

Police Visor Card (2003): DODHH, Deaf CAN!, four police organizations and the Governor developed the card to establish communication between deaf/hh and police officers.

Police Video (2003): A 11-min video was developed and distributed to more than 600 police departments in the state for the purpose of educating the officers on how to communicate effectively with deaf and hard of hearing citizens.



Visor Card Project: A scene from police communication video.

Rights Handbook (2005): This book represented many years of hard work by DODHH staff and Ann Liming, who finalized it after her retirement. It contains information on laws and rules and resources that benefits deaf and hard of hearing people.

CapTel (2006): It provided full telephone access for people who can benefit from it.



Director Hunter and DODHH Staff: Twyla Niedfeldt, Janet Jurus and Joy Thomassen

Interpreter Bill (2007): The work began back in 1994. This bill was finally introduced in both houses. This bill requires the use of qualified interpreters in such situations as legal, medical, financial, employment, and education.

Background: Before Chris Hunter became the Director in 1980, he was the coordinator of the Hearing Impaired Program at the William Rainey Harper College in Palatine, Illinois for five years. He served as teacher, media specialist, scoutmaster and dean of students at the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind in Gooding, Idaho for seven years. He received a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Gallaudet University in 1967 and master's degree in Education, Administration and Supervision from California State University. He graduated from California School for the Deaf in Riverside. He is married 40 years to Annella Salzer who went to Minnesota School for the Deaf and Gallaudet University. They have six grown hearing children, Kim, Charles, Brent, Jason, Leeann and Tina. Retirement plans? Chris plans to pursue his long neglected hobbies including genealogy, photos, model flying airplanes, computer repair, computer instruction and computer games.

Director Hunter will be greatly missed by the staff of MCDC-DODHH. We wish him the best during his much deserved retirement.

Open House: There will be an open house celebrating Director Hunter's retirement on April 27, 2007 from 2PM-5PM at the DODHH office in Lansing.

Michigan DeafBlind Workshop: A Model for the Region

In August, the Holley Family Village at the DeSales Center in Brooklyn, MI hosted the 10th annual DeafBlind Workshop. This program is unique in its two tracks approach: one for DeafBlind adults and one for interpreters. DeafBlind adults begin the program by participating in activities designed to teach strategies for independence and skills for self-advocacy. For interpreters, the program begins with the basics of working with people who have hearing and vision loss. They experience sensory deprivation exercises and orientation and mobility training. These activities help the interpreters understand and appreciate how individuals who are DeafBlind experience the world. It also provides them with valuable background information on the conditions and experiences of people who are Deaf-Blind.



Group photo of Deaf Blind workshop participants, interpreters and staff

DeafBlind individuals are then paired with the interpreters for hands-on teaching and learning. The DeafBlind individuals practice self-advocacy by telling the interpreters exactly how to best meet their communication needs. The interpreters apply their newly acquired skills and knowledge in a safe environment. The result is powerful, as both groups learn and succeed with each other's help and support.

The Michigan DeafBlind Workshop is a collaboration of the Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns; the Michigan Commission for the Blind/DeafBlind Unit; Self-Help for Independency in Michigan Equalizing the DeafBlind (SHI-MI=DB); and DB Central: Michigan Services for Children and Young Adults Who Are DeafBlind.



Participants riding in hot air balloons.

Additional support provided by the CATIE Center at the College of St. Catherine and the Helen Keller National Center (HKNC) -North Central Region.

This unique program has been closely watched by HKNC North Central Region and the CATIE Center, with hopes of bringing it to other states in the Midwest. HKNC and SHI/MI=DB have already been working with groups in Ohio to offer the program there. In 2007 HKNC and the CATIE Center will work with representatives of the Chicago Lighthouse and other key organizations to offer this program in Illinois. After that, Indiana has also expressed interest in a similar program for their state.

The 2007 Deaf Blind workshop will take place August 16-19 2007 at the DeSales Center.



Participants and interpreters during a workshop.



**State Interpreter Coordinator
Corner**

Joy Thomassen



QA Updates

QA Packet Revised:

Please print the latest edition (January 2007) of QA procedure and informational packet from our website for your reference. QA changes will be effective for the 2007-08 cycle. The QA committee met in January to clarify some of the information in the packet that has caused us to receive numerous calls—namely reapplication, maintaining a QA level, and how to obtain QA units. Answers to many of your questions can be found on our website www.mcddc-dodhh.org under the green tab “For Interpreters.” Please select, “QA Process Informational Packet.”

QA Readiness Workshop:

The QA readiness workshop is being revived. The DODHH office will be hosting QA readiness workshops in the Lansing area May 11-12 (Friday evening-Saturday), and September 14-15 (Friday evening-Saturday), 2007. Registration forms are available on the DODHH website.

QA Unit Sponsorship:

If you are planning to host an event for which you want Quality Assurance (QA) unit sponsorship, please contact me at thomassenj@mi.gov. I will need to see a copy of your outline or agenda and flyer. Then, we will need to discuss how many QA units will be awarded for the event. A sign-in sheet, signed agenda, or certificate of attendance will need to be available for participants to take home to record documentation for QA accrual.

EIPA: DODHH to Proctor Test

We now have all the test dates and current Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) application online at our website (www.mcddc-dodhh.org). Please scroll down to the

bottom middle of the page to the green tab called “For Interpreters.” You will find a link called “EIPA: Announcement, Application, and Test Dates.” We are very excited to be able to proctor this exam and provide opportunities for educational interpreters to advance their skills. Please keep in mind that the Michigan Department of Education will only be contributing towards the fee of the EIPA for a limited time. It would be wise to take advantage of this great opportunity.



RID CEU Sponsorship

For those seeking Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) Continuing Education Units (CEU) sponsorship through the Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DODHH), please e-mail me at thomassenj@mi.gov. Keep in mind, the RID workshop approval process needs to be commenced at least 45 days prior to a workshop to earn CEUs. I have created a word document to help lead you or your agency/organization step by step through the RID CEU sponsorship process. All of the latest forms (Summer of 2005) may be sent to you via fax or e-mail. Our office also provides sponsorship for Participant Initiated Non-RID Activities (PINRA), Academic Coursework, statewide conferences, and Independent Study activities. Please watch for RID CMP/ACET CEU updates including the addition of fees in the near future. Also we hope to have RID CMP/ACET CEU materials on our website this summer for members to download.

QA Renewal Time is June!

A reminder that your QA units and QA renewal fee are due soon!

Watch for renewal information in the mail.

Michigan's Newly RID Certified Congratulations!

Delores Gariepy	CI
Susan Harris	CT
Robyn LeClerc	CI
Colleen Olson	CT
Helene Stankus	CT
Sandra Maloney	CT
Kimberly Wolbers	CI



Interpreter Insights
State Interpreter
Janet Jurus

Interpreters Make a Resolution!

My first year working in state government has proved to be an exciting one. A year not only filled with rich new interpreting opportunities but also a year that has moved our profession of interpreting into the limelight of the legislative eye.

Government interpreting presents a linguistic repertoire filled with syntax and acronyms that take on a meaning of their own. I have often encountered the word "resolution." Typically, when used within government, this term represents having a formal expression of opinion. I ask you to consider some synonyms for the word resolution: aim, energy, decision, steadfastness. Have you made your resolutions for skill development? There are many positive changes occurring in our profession, are you ready?

I know that I am gearing up for a spring and summer filled with conferences, workshops and educational opportunities.

There are many wonderful events related to our profession that can be found on the E-Michigan Deaf and Hard of Hearing website at www.michdhh.org. Take the time to look at the events being hosted in and around our state and take advantage of the rich skill development choices that are available.

We should all be resolving to aim for skill development. Set goals,, be steadfast in your path to skill improvement and exert positive energy while applying your new skills.

I look forward to seeing all of you at future events!

EIPA Representative Brings Discourse Mapping to Michigan

On March 9, 2007 KVCC hosted a Discourse Mapping workshop presented by Frances Beurivage from Boy's Town EIPA Diagnostic Center in Omaha, NB.

DODHH representatives, Janet Jurus and Joy Thomassen were in attendance. Not only did they fine-tune their skills of discourse development, but they also meet with Ms. Beurivage as a representative of the EIPA testing center. DODHH will be working closely with the EIPA diagnostic center as EIPA testing begins in Michigan this Spring.

The workshop proved to be a success with approximately 65 interpreters in attendance. Ms. Beurivage challenged interpreters to consider discourse as related to their daily interpreting venues. Ms. Beurivage also discussed the 3 levels of interpreting that cover the pragmatic, prosodic and lexical styles of interpreting. Her presentation focused on the discourse analysis of interpreters who work primarily in the educational settings of K-12.

Ms. Beurivage also discussed the 37 different prosodic categories that are part of the EIPA evaluation process as well as EIPA test basics.



Yemaya Sharp

The First Junior Deaf Miss Michigan

The Division on Deaf and Hard of hearing is thrilled to announce that Ms. Yemaya Sharp is the first Jr. Deaf Miss Michigan.

Ms. Sharp was crowned at the pageant held at the Michigan School for the Deaf in September 2006. We congratulate all of the contestants for their participation in this historical event. We wish all of you the best of luck. Ms. Sharp comments on her recent achievements:

"I had a great experience for Junior Miss Deaf Michigan. I made a lot of new friend during retreat before the pageant. I love all of the girls who were involved in the pageant. All the girls are really nice and I hope to keep in contact with them. Now that I have been crowned queen I will encourage little kids to think positive and not negative. I want all deaf children to succeed their dream. I think if they believe in themselves it is really important to their life. So if you need any help you are free to contact me and I would love to help my community.



Workshops Local, State and National

May 5, 2007	SCMRIID—Spring Workshop
May 11-12, 2007	DODHH—QA Readiness
May 18-20, 2007	MIRID-VI—Spring Workshop
August 3-8, 2007	RID National Convention San Francisco, CA



**Hard of Hearing
Corner**
Twyla Niedfeldt
Hard of Hearing
Specialist

HARD OF HEARING PERSON

The term “hard of hearing” refers to persons with hearing impairment who have any degree of hearing loss ranging from mild to profound and who generally use their hearing ability assisted by hearing aids, speechreading, cochlear implants and/or assistive technology to aid communication.

Source: *(Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, Inc.)*

Walkman Generation

It started with the Walkman radio and loud headphones. Now we see the vast majority of teens and young adults using iPods and MP3 players with earbuds stuffed tightly in the ear. Studies are proving that loud noises from these devices are causing hearing loss at younger ages.

For more information:

www.cnn.com/2005/HEALTH/09/12/early.hearing.loss.ap/index.html

HLAA National & State Upcoming Events

May 5 - Walk4Hearing 5K
Grand Rapids MI

May 5—Walk4Hearing 5k
Milford MI

June 21-24—HLAA America
National Convention,
Oklahoma City OK

Michigan CapTel Update

Time flies! It has already been more than six months since CapTel became available to Michigan residents! The service started on July 1st, and the kick-off celebration was held in Detroit on July 18th. The first 100 orders were filled quickly, and 25 more customers are being added to the service every month. The CapTel phone is still available for the \$99 price, courtesy of Hamilton Relay. There is a short waiting list for orders to be filled.

Many questions and concerns have arisen since the introduction of CapTel here in Michigan. The CapTel website can often provide answers to these questions.

<http://www.captionedtelephone.com/faqs.phtml>

Specific questions that cannot be answered on this website can be directed to CapTel customer service;

<http://www.captionedtelephone.com/contact-us.phtml>

Captioned Telephone Technology is evolving!
(Stay tuned for updates)

Solar Hearing Aid Battery Now Available in U.S.

A solar rechargeable hearing aid battery that was originally designed for developing countries is now available in the United States through [SoundBytes](http://www.soundbytes.com), a Hicksville, N.Y. company specializing in equipment for deaf and hard-of-hearing people. SolarAid battery kits include Ni-MH batteries and chargers that work with both solar and AC power. They are manufactured in Botswana by hearing aid manufacturer Godisa – an African word meaning “to do something that will help someone else grow.” The batteries were previously available only through humanitarian groups. Each battery can be recharged up to 300 times, lasting up to two years. A kit with charger, AC adapter and four batteries sells for \$75.

EAR3 Technology

DODHH has recently purchased a sound level monitor to test the decibel level of these devices. The EAR3 is a miniature, personal hearing threat detector that can immediately signal the user when a sound source exceeds safe listening levels. Ear3 can be used with iPods, MP3 players, boom boxes, stereo systems, automobile audio systems, rock concerts, discos, orchestras and other sound

sources. When used properly, Ear3 can dramatically reduce opportunities for sound induced hearing trauma. Ear3 is approximately the size of an iPod and does not require any electrical connections to the sound source for its operation.” <http://www.ear3.info/>

Day at the State Capitol May 16, 2007

You are invited to the second annual DAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL on Wednesday, May 16, 2007 by the Hearing Loss Association of Michigan (HLA-MI) and the Michigan Deaf Association (MDA). This is an annual event to create awareness of the communication needs of Michigan citizens with hearing loss. The event provides you the opportunity to attend Senate and House sessions and to schedule appointments with your legislators to make your views known about issues that relate to communication difficulties. You will also have the opportunity to attend committee meetings and, in general, to advocate for improved communication access in our state.

Hearing Loss Awareness Month

May 2007 will be proclaimed Hearing Loss Awareness Month in Michigan with resolutions being read in both the House and Senate on the day of this annual event.

2007 Issues to Address with Legislators

Insurance coverage for hearing aids
Interpreter standards
Medicaid funding
Equipment distribution program

Enforcement of civil rights
Emergency notification procedures
Audiological evaluations for seniors entering nursing homes.

Cost of Event

Registration is free. Your only cost is transportation and parking.

Event Sponsors

Many organizations partner with HLA-MI and MDA to make this event possible at no cost to participants. Sponsors who assist the planning process include: the **Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DODHH)**, **Henry Ford Health System, Division of Audiology and Hearing Aid Centers; Michigan Academy of Audiologists (MAA) and Michigan Association of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MADHH) and Voice, Inc.** M.A.A. will conduct hearing screening for legislators and their staff.

Event Access

Interpreters will be provided for scheduled sessions, committee meetings and appointments. **Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART)** will be provided in the House session and during the welcome and lunch presentation. **Induction loop and FM system** will be available for the welcome and lunch presentation. **FM system** will also be available in the House and Senate.

REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT NOW!

Complete the form below and return by U.S. Mail or call: 586-247-4053 V; FAX: 586-247-3968; Email: ngibben1@hfhs.org. Upon receipt of your registration, you will receive confirmation that you are registered. Within two weeks of the event, you will receive an information packet that will include directions, where to park and "Fact Sheets" regarding issues.

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS MAY 1, 2007.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone/TTY: _____ Email: _____

FAX: _____

Senator/Representative (if known): _____

To learn who your Senator/Representative is, visit: www.vote-smart.org.

**Check here if you plan to meet with your legislator and will need an interpreter.

If box above is checked: Appointment time: _____

Tentative Agenda

8:30 am – 9:00 a.m.
Welcome and Continental Breakfast

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Appointments:
9-10 Senators
9-11 Representatives

11:00 – 11:15 a.m.
Michigan Senate Session

11:30 – 1:00 p.m.
Luncheon & Presentation

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Senate Health Policy Committee

2:00 – 2:30 p.m.
Michigan House Session



Michigan Deaf Association, Inc.
State Organization for, of and
by Deaf People



Radisson
PLAZA HOTEL & SUITES
100 West Michigan Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI



51st BIENNIAL CONFERENCE
July 25 thru July 28, 2007

THEME: **DEAF ADVENTURE TO THE FUTURE**

Tentative Schedules

Wednesday July 25	Thursday July 26	Friday July 27	Saturday July 28
Conference Committee Meeting 12 pm	Opening Ceremony 10 am	Exhibition (all day)	Lois Van Broekhoven and Lindy Browne "Interpreter Workshop" 9 am-12 pm
Registration 2 pm	Mr/Ms Deaf Senior Michigan Pageant 1 pm	Dale Ford "Financial Budget" 9 am	Dr. Daniel Burch 1-3 pm
MDA Board Meeting 3-5 pm	Euchure After Senior Pageant	Twyla Niedfeldt and Nan Asher "Emergency Procedures" 10:30 am	*QA CEU; RID CEU ⓐ Pending* ⓓ
General Meeting 7-11 pm	General Meeting 7 pm	Dr. Daniel Burch Keynote Luncheon Speaker 12 pm	Miss Deaf Michigan Pageant and Miss Deaf Teen Michigan Pageant 7 pm
	President's Reception 9 pm	Ella Lentz "Deafhood" 1:30 pm	After Glow Reception
		Mindy Moore and Theron Parker "Deaf Comedians" 3:30 pm	
		Banquet Awards/Prizes 6:30 pm	
		John Maucere "Deafywood" 8 pm	

Hotel Information

<p>Room Rates Per Night: \$124.00 Reservation Deadline: July 4, 2007</p> <p>Contact Hotel for Reservation (269) 343-3333 (269) 381-1560 (888) 201-1718 www.radissonkz.com Promo Code: MIDEAF</p>	<p>Local Attractions: Downtown Kalamazoo Mall Gilmore Car Museum Kalamazoo Valley Museum State Theatre RAVE Movies Kalamazoo Library Air Zoo Restaurants</p>
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**MDA 2007 Conference does not include Miss Deaf Michigan Pageant.
For more information, check for Miss Deaf Michigan Pageant's flyer/ticket.**

Check Out Our MDA Website for Updates: www.mideaf.org



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MICHIGAN

THE DODHH BULLETIN
Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Department of Labor & Economic Growth
201 N. Washington Square, Suite 150
Lansing, MI 48913

2007 DODHH Advisory Council Meetings	2007 Calendar of Events	
<p style="text-align: center;">Tenataive Date October 5, 2007 LOCATION MPHI Interactive Learning Center Okemos, MI 48933</p> <p style="text-align: center;">For information, contact DODHH or see our website at www.mcdc-dodhh.org</p>	<p>This schedule of events is related to DODHH and MDCDC. For additional information related to Deaf and Hard of Hearing events, see website: www.michdhh.org.</p>	
<p><i>The DODHH Bulletin is produced up to two times a year. Persons interested in deafness or hard of hearing may subscribe at no cost by contacting DODHH.</i></p>	April 27, 2007	Michigan Coalition for Deaf and Hard of Hearing DODHH Offices, 3rd floor Conference Room A & B Lansing, MI 9:00AM-2:00PM
<p><i>Opinions expressed in articles appearing in THE DODHH Bulletin are those of the author. Mention of goods and services does not mean DODHH endorsement, nor should exclusion suggest disapproval.</i></p>	April 27, 2007	Retirement Open House: Director, Chris Hunter DODHH Conference Room, Lansing, MI 2:00PM-5:00PM
	May 5, 2007	1st Annual Walk4Hearing 5K 2007 MI 2 Locations— http://www.mi-shhh.org/
	May 11-12, 2007	DODHH QA Readiness Workshop (Fri 5-8pm)(Sat 9am-4pm) Interactive Learning Center, Okemos, MI
	May 16, 2007	Day at the State Capitol for Deaf/HH Capitol, Lansing MI 8:30AM-3PM
	July 25-28, 2007	MDA Conference HQ Radisson Hotel & Suites Kalamazoo, MI
	August 16-18, 2007	SHIM=DB Deaf-Blind Workshop DeSales Center, Brooklyn, MI
	September 14- 15, 2007	DODHH QA Readiness Workshop Location TBA Lansing, MI

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