

Signs of Mental Health

ODS's 10th YEAR!

Deaf World at Disney World

Recovery Means Living Life to Its Fullest



Volume 10 Number 4

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Alabama Department of Mental Health
Office of Deaf Services
P.O. Box 301410, Montgomery, Alabama 36130



Editor's Notes



We have been doing this newsletter for ten years. Hard to believe. Even harder to believe is how much has changed in those ten years. We started out with a simple MS Word template. Now you hold the 38th issue in your hand. Yeah, we missed a couple over the years. We are still pretty proud of our little newsletter in spite of that. Produced entirely in house by rank amateurs, we think it stacks up pretty well.

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On The Cover:

Residents and staff of the deaf group homes in Birmingham enjoy a trip to Walt Disney World. One of the major goals of all programs under Deaf Services, including the contracted group homes, is making it possible for Deaf consumers to experience life in a culturally and linguistically appropriate way. "Going to Disney World," that quintessential American experience, is best enjoyed when you are with people with whom a common language is shared. Consumers are identified with written permission.



We asked our readers a while back what they considered the best story in the whole ten years. There were almost as many different favorites as there were people responding. The clear leader, though, was "Sometimes the Story Ends Well" about one of our consumers. We confess that was pretty touching.



This issue we have focused again on consumers, chronicling a trip to Disney World. It kind of makes you wish you went along just to watch folks have a fantastic time. It also demonstrates how important it is to create an environment where American Sign Language and Deaf Culture are normal, not "accommodated." That story written by Malissa Galliher, manager of the deaf program at Jefferson—Blount—St. Clair Mental Health Authority, begins on page four.

Jackson Place, a deaf group home in Woodville operated by Mountain Lake Behavioral Health, is built on that very principle. Their work was recognized by the Council of Organizations Serving Deaf Alabamians, reported in the last issue of Signs of Mental Health, and the Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness, both of which awarded MLBHC with their respective "employer of the year" awards. See more beginning on page three.

We hope you enjoy this issue and the coming Holiday Season.

HOLD THE DATES!

February 6 AND 7, 2014

Sponsored by: Alabama Department of Mental Health—Office of Deaf Services and ADARA

Using Play Therapy and Other Non-Verbal Projective Approaches to Working with Deaf Children and Adults

<p>Intended Audience: Signing Audience: February 6 Hearing (non-signing) Audience: February 7</p> <p>About the Workshop: Play Therapy, Sand Tray and other projective techniques can be powerful tools to help clinicians be more effective with any consumer. They are especially helpful when working with deaf consumers who also may be language deprived or otherwise dysfluent. Ms. Greeves, a recognized expert in play therapy with deaf consumers, shares her expertise to audiences all over the country.</p> <p>About the Presenter: Alexis Greeves, LPC, RPT-S is a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Registered Play Therapist and Supervisor with a specialized training in work with children, adolescents and their families. She received her undergraduate degree from Wesleyan University and received her MA from Gallaudet University. Upon graduation, Alexis worked as a school-based mental health counselor at the elementary school on the Gallaudet University campus. She then worked in the training department where she presented nationally on using play therapy techniques with deaf and hard of hearing children. Alexis sees children of all ages in private practice and teaches the graduate-level Play Therapy class for the Department of Counseling and the Department of Social Work at Gallaudet.</p>	<p>Location: Alabama Public Library 6030 Monticello Drive, Montgomery, AL</p>
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Mountain Lakes Behavioral Health Center is SERID Employer of the Year



Cecil Bradley, VR Administrator Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services in Florida, (left) and Joyce Barrows, VR Counselor in Ormond Beach, FL (right) present the Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness' Employer of the Year award to Mountain Lakes Behavioral Health Center.

Myron Gargis, CEO of Mountain Lakes Behavioral Health, accepted the Employer of the Year award from the Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness at its annual conference, held this year in Orlando, Florida. The award was presented during a plenary session on October 30, 2013

Following the presentation, Gargis remarked that, "It was a great honor for us to receive the award."

Mountain Lakes, which is one of the 27 community mental health centers under contract with the Alabama Department of Mental Health, operates Jackson Place, a three-bed community living arrangement for mentally ill deaf people. The agency was previously recognized as the "Employer of the Year" by the Council of Organizations Serving Deaf Alabamians (COSDA).

The program was nominated for its awards by the Office of Deaf Services. Director Steve Hamerding cited several reasons why they were recognized. MLBHC sought special permission to hire a very skilled and experienced manager who is deaf, but did not have a college degree, which was one of the requirements of this position. They also refused to hire anyone to work who did not have at least Intermediate Plus on the Sign Language Proficiency Interview. This included the one hearing person they have on staff who was actually hired to be a case manager as well. This created an environment where the first language is ASL. From the moment you walk in the door, you realize you are in a unique setting, where deafness is not "accommodated." It is woven into the fabric of what the place is all about.

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B'ham Group Home Consumers and Staff Enjoy Trip to Disney World Recovery Means Living Life to Its Fullest

By: Malissa Galliher, Program Coordinator,
JBS Deaf Services

Ed.Note: Jefferson-Blount-St. Clair Mental Health Authority operates its Deaf Services Program under contract with ADMH. As part of that program, they also operate two three-bed group homes. This story is about a recent trip the residents and staff took to Florida.

Everyone says you must take time to nurture yourself in order to keep a positive attitude about life and the individuals in the JBS Deaf Services program are no different. So, on September 30, 2013, we loaded up the vans and headed to Disney World. Hello, Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck!

After an extended road trip due to *many* bathroom stops, we finally arrived in Orlando, Florida and were ready to paint the town. Well, really we just wanted to get unpacked and moved into the condos that would be our home for the next week. After eating dinner, a few decided to go to bed so that they would be well rested to enter the "Happiest Place on Earth" the next morning. However, some of us could not wait to get the party started so we headed off to Downtown Disney to shop 'til we dropped. Four parks in four days would definitely be a challenge, so we wanted to make sure we got our shopping time in on the first night.

Our first stop took us into the wild at Animal Kingdom. "Lions and tigers and bears, oh my!" We spent the day seeing the various animals from across the world and riding the roller coasters and other attractions. One of the true highlights of the day was being able to enjoy the live 'Circle of Life' show with interpreters added for our benefit.



The Fairy Godmother signs to consumers and staff visiting the Magic Kingdom

Later in the afternoon, we decided to cool off by riding the Kali River Rapids. We were definitely grateful for the soaking we received on both of our trips down the river! Thoroughly soaked and cooled off, we quickly headed to get in line for Mt. Everest. Most of us had enough nerve to go on Mt. Everest once, but the truly brave at heart jumped on line for the second, third, and fourth time!

(Continued next page)



Left to right: Ronnie Carter, Barbara Sandridge, Tommy James, Mary Hunt, Chalmers Moore, Ismael Rivera, Buni Kelley, Mark Dupre, LaTonya Gordon Delisa Simmons

After a night of rest and relaxation at the condo, we were up early and headed to the Magic Kingdom. We arrived just in time to join in the Move It! Shake It! Celebrate It! Street Party on Main Street.

Once we had finished dancing in the streets, we made our way to Tomorrowland to challenge each other in Buzz Lightyear's Space Ranger Spin. Some of us had better shooting aim than others, but we all had a great time on the ride. The day passed quickly as we rode Space Mountain, Splash Mountain, Mad Tea Party and other rides full of heights, scares, and thrills. For a few of us, those roller coasters were too big of a temptation as we were desperately seeking another ride to get our hearts racing. We took time out to watch the "Celebrate a Dream Come True" Parade with our front row spots and even got the Fairy Godmother to wave the "I Love You" sign to our group. As evening approached, we caught a glimpse of the Main Street Electrical Parade as we made our way through the shops in search of the coveted Vera Bradley Disney Collection bags. As the final hours approached, we geared up to watch the fireworks grabbing favorite sweet treats and soda for the show. We were not disappointed with the "Wishes" nighttime



Chalmers Moore seeks relief from the heat and a brief rest in one of the few shady spots in Epcot

spectacular show and it was a beautiful way to end our second day in the parks.

We were beginning to lose sleep, but the thrills awaiting us at Hollywood Studios could not keep a single one of us in bed. During day three we entered the life of movie stars as we explored the Studio Backlot Tour, and joined the casts of many popular movies such as Star Wars, The Muppets, and Toy Story through the rides. The Toy Story Midway Mania ride was a favorite of the entire group and we definitely made time to engage in this 4-D shooting game again. We took a break from the heat to sit in the classroom of The Magic of Disney Animation to learn how to draw a Disney character. While some were better artists than others, we all emerged with our own rendition of Minnie Mouse. One of the highlights of the day had to be the Lights, Motors, Action!® Extreme Stunt Show®. The cars were fast and the stunts were definitely extreme as we witnessed the production of a car chase scene.



Above: Latonya Gordon posing with the characters from The Incredibles movie after obtaining their autograph at Hollywood Studios. The Left to right: Mr. Incredible, Latonya Gordon and Frozone. Right: Buni Kelley and Mary Hunt waiting on the Wildlife Express Train to take them back to the Animal Kingdom park after visiting Rafiki's Planet Watch.

We were all left with our mouths hanging open at the scene and how those dangerous stunts are actually performed. Although the park centered on allowing us to enter the world of movies, the thrill seekers in the group found a way to get a little extra excitement. Between the Rock 'n' Roller Coaster and the Twilight Zone to take an unforgettable elevator ride on the Tower of Terror, there were plenty of thrills. Some of us who made it back with all of our parts intact, took the chance and rode the elevator one more time. Some are still debating if we made it back intact the second time! The night ended with the absolute **best** fireworks and laser show, 'Fantasmic!,' a visual delight to us all.

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Student Workers Gain Valuable Insight at the Interpreter Institute

At the 2013 Interpreter Institute, the role of Student Workers was formalized for the first time. Austin Community College Interpreter Training program, in Texas, sent two students and they came away impressed. Suzanne Bush and Emily Perzan joined two Troy University students, Lauren Cash and Erin Groomes. Here are their stories...

Before heading to Mental Health Interpreting Training (MHIT), I had recently finished my American Sign Language Internship in mental health at a facility in another state. I was intrigued by the program as my mentor told me about her experiences with the weeklong workshop. I was excited to meet interpreters from around the country with varying levels of experience in the field and knowledge of the subject. The MHIT program had come up on my radar a year before my internship and piqued my interest because of my passion for the topic. I was ready to learn more about such a multi-faceted subject. I had read about the presenters and my curiosity of the participants, their “in the field experience” knowledge would also broaden my perspective on mental health interpreting. I knew I was going to be in for a long week of intense training, and I was thrilled.

During sessions, we learned about the layers of mental health and the variance of approaches. The need for interpreters for some areas in the country was a topic that was emphasized, as well as the knowledge for more medical-based decisions to help with the translation. How to work through situations with safety and planning was also a topic touched upon at the training. Throughout the week I spent lunch hours with different groups of interpreters from all over the country learning about how they work through situations as well as their perspective on the field itself. It was a lot of material to take in but I wouldn't trade a second. Materials and knowledge were provided by some of the top experts in the mental health field. Their information and support for our work as novice interpreters was valued every moment I was there. The presenters gave broad and specific knowledge for all levels of interpreters and made the material very accessible to all learning styles through the different workshops. ✍



Emily Perzan

I was thrilled to be chosen to attend the 2013 Mental Health Interpreter Training (MHIT) in Montgomery, Alabama. Knowing that I was attending as a volunteer, I didn't have too many expectations. I was simply excited to be going on an adventure: a new town, new people, and new ideas awaited me.

To my surprise, our work as volunteers did not interfere with the workshops much at all. It was indeed an intense week of back-to-back workshops, but it was an enjoyable experience due to the wonderful personalities of everyone involved, combined with a delightful approach to the material. The attendees were all accepting, inviting, and encouraging of one another. I was in awe of the presenters. Their level of knowledge was astounding, and their passion for learning and teaching about their specialties left me wanting more. (It's a good thing they brought books and other resources!) The training structure provided a good balance of information and activities in a professional and fun environment.

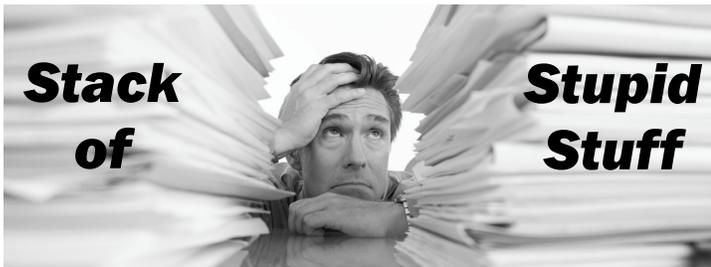
Going through this training has shown me the numerous factors that come into play while interpreting in mental health settings. This means that in order to provide effective interpreting services, there are many more factors for interpreters to consider while in this specialized setting. We must not only think about WHAT is at stake, but WHO is at stake. What you think is important may only be an illusion (or delusion!) I realize that we must understand all the idiosyncrasies of mental health settings in order to wrap our minds around such a complex experience. Understanding the therapeutic process, and staying true to this process while simultaneously navigating the interpreting process, requires a lot of work, experience, and self-exploration. ✍

Suzanne Bush

Applications for Student Workers at the 2014 Institute are Now Available

Full-time students of recognized interpreter training/preparation programs are invited to apply for one of the four student worker positions available. Slots will be awarded based training, experience and future plans. Applications can be downloaded from the [MHIT website](#). Faculty Recommendation is required. Those selected will have their registration waived. Transportation, lodging and meals will be the responsibility of those selected.

Please address any questions to applications@mh.it.org.



This issue introduces what we expect to be a regular feature of SOMH. The staff will select news from around the country and the work that reflect how sometimes hearing people can do really stupid stuff! If any of you dear readers have something to contribute, send the item or link to the Editor at newsletter@mh.it.org.

Tell Your Wife You Can Interpret

Donald Boilard and his wife, Ruth Boilard, had several signs complaining about discrimination and mishandling of the case. Boilard said his wife was not given a certified interpreter, as the law requires, while testifying as a witness in a third-degree assault case where he was the alleged victim. Alabama law makes provisions for hearing interpreters in Alabama Code section 12-21-131, and spells out related qualifications.

Boilard says he was slapped by a neighbor in a dispute over the neighbor's dog in July. The neighbor was found not guilty Oct. 17, after a bench trial presided over by Madison County District Judge Schuyler Richardson.

Boilard said the case's prosecutor Shauna Barnett and the judge violated the couple's rights by having Boilard serve as the interpreter for his wife's testimony. Boilard said he asked for a certified interpreter, but was advised that he could serve as his wife's interpreter.

<http://blog.al.com/breaking/2013/10/hearing-impaired-couple-protos.html>

Police Under Fire For Arresting Deaf Man For Signing

Police officers who mistook a deaf man's frantic signing for rude gestures have been criticized by magistrates for arresting both him and his brother.

Shaun Phuprate, 22, had raised two of his fingers to his ear in the internationally recognized sign for 'I am deaf'.

But the infuriated constables, Steve Hawkins and Richie Smith, were convinced he was giving them a V-sign.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-131518/Police-arresting-deaf-man-signing.html>

Build it, and They Will Come, but Not Too Many of Them or They Will Violate the Law

Five years ago, officials in Tempe, Arizona, said they needed more housing for deaf senior citizens. So with the aid of \$2.6 million from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, Cardinal Capital Management and the Arizona Deaf Senior Citizens Coalition built a 75-room apartment building just for the elderly deaf. The apartments have lights that flash when the doorbell rings and other amenities designed for the hearing-impaired. But now HUD says the building it helped fund violates federal civil rights law because management markets it to and prefers to rent to deaf tenants. The agency has demanded that the owners take steps to make sure that 75 percent of residents of the building are not deaf. <http://reason.com/brickbat/2013/10/31/i-cant-hear-you>

Give Deaf Children a Choice

Lee Larson, a deaf single mother of two deaf boys ages 2 and 4, a petition was filed in court claiming it was "in the children's best interest ... that they receive cochlear implants in order for them to realize their full potential in life." The state prosecutor argued in court that Larson's refusal to allow her children to be implanted with cochlear devices "was a form of medical neglect." When the prosecutor asked Larson in court, "How will they (the children) get along without the implants?" Larson replied, "I'm deaf, and I get along!"

In the end, the judge begrudgingly ruled in favor of Larson, on the grounds of parental rights. What was concerning about the judge's ruling, however, was her statement that "the court has no doubt it would be in their best interest" to have the cochlear implants.

http://m.fredericknewspost.com/news/education/article_82b4a941-7aaf-5e90-935d-cffdf24215dc.html?mode=iqm

Serving People who are Deaf in Hospitals

This video presents tips and guidelines which are important when providing services to consumers who are Deaf. Two health consumers share their recent hospital experience.

<http://healthbridges.info/?p=427>

Healthbridges website offers information about social services, advocacy and behavioral health topics and resources available in Pennsylvania to persons who are Deaf, Deafblind and Hard of hearing.



As I See It

Paul Hambrick

It's Holiday Season again and people begin to think about family get-togethers and general merry-making. This is supposed to be the joyous, happy time of year.

For a lot of deaf people, however, it is anything but happy. Those same family get-togethers that spark such nostalgic comments from hearing people often generate negative feelings that are just as intense for deaf people.

At these family gatherings the burden of communication usually falls on the deaf person. So few family members know sign language that coming across someone who actually tried to learn is an occasion for rejoicing. By and large, the deaf relative will be left to stare at the ceiling.

Amy Cohen Efron recently had an interesting post on her blog, [Deaf World as Eye See It](#), about just this phenomenon. Hearing people really don't get it. They really cannot see how infantilizing most hearing gatherings are for deaf relatives.

The deaf experience at holiday gatherings is well captured in Susan Dupor's picture, "[Family Dog](#)". We are expected to show up and act as if there is no place in the world we would rather be, all while being essentially treated as, well, the dog under the table. And sometimes we are not even treated that well. Yet, all the while, those same hearing family members are just positively sure there is nothing on Earth we would rather do than to sit there and be part of the furnishing.

The same mindset is glaringly on display anytime a hearing person, especially one in social "services" uses the catchphrase "Least Restrictive Environment." To hearing people, the LRE is that setting where deaf people are removed from people who are like them and forced to live among people with whom they have nothing in common except the fact they are living breathing humans - maybe. (Zombies are excepted from the previous statement.) And they actually think we prefer it. To a deaf person, this is the most isolating place there is. But time and again, when surveyed at our training events, hearing audiences overwhelming will say that deaf people prefer to be in a hearing environment. As the young folks would text, "WTH?"

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Important Articles You Must Read

Deaf Epistemology: Deafhood and Deafness (2010). P.C. Hauser, A.O'Hearn, M. McKee, A. Steider, & D. Thew. *American Annals of the Deaf*, v. 154, no. 5, pp.486-492.

Deafness causes individuals to orient and rely on visual information in a world of people who primarily rely on auditory information. The majority view of deaf people impacts on their identity whether they are defective or different. "Deafhood" is described by P. Ladd as a process of deaf individuals experiencing and explaining to themselves and to each other their own existence in their world. "Deafness begets unique additional experiences for deaf individuals that go beyond auditory sensory input. By the virtue of their biology, deaf individuals live their lives in a visual reality, which leads to the acquisition of a knowledge base that is different from that of hearing individuals" p. 487. Furthermore, development of language abilities tend to be the same for deaf children born to signing deaf parents as for hearing children. Other deaf children born to hearing parents lag behind in language abilities due to comparatively less exposure to visual information. "Almost all deaf education systems in the United States, if not all, place a greater value on the acquisition of spoken or written English than on the acquisition of American Sign Language (ASL)" p. 488. For example, deaf individuals understand less than 50% of what is said through speechreading of speakers' lips. These deaf children born to hearing parents do not have full access to everyday communication so they often do not see how adults express their feelings, resolve their conflicts with others, and how they cope with stressors. They also lack access to their family history of health issues so they can not reliably give it to physicians or other professionals for accurate diagnosis and treatment in health settings in general. Deaf children of hearing parents are more likely to have insecure relationships leading to higher rate of abuse than their hearing counterparts. The authors concluded, "Deafness should then be viewed in regard to the entire scope of the individual, not merely as a medical condition. A focus not on the deficit but on the difference (e.g., visual orientation vs. auditory orientation) would likely result in better outcomes" p.491. ✂

Consumers and Staff Enjoy Trip to Disney World

(Continued from page 5)

Our final day in the parks found us taking a leap into the future at Epcot as the hot Florida sun beat down on us. We enjoyed exploring the development of various inventions across time and experiencing a taste of what the future could possibly hold for us in healthcare, recreation, and transportation. The group headed off to the Soarin' ride to experience flying over the beaches, mountains, and vineyards of California. We enjoyed the World Showcase and were thrilled to mark off our visits to various countries. The highlight of all this was definitely tasting the different cuisine from each country. We enjoyed the comical street shows in France of the waiter and wine steward and were mesmerized by the amazing acrobatic stunts of The Jeweled Dragon Acrobats in China. By this time, the sun was beginning to drain us of our energy as there is not a lot of shade in Epcot. The group voted to make our way to Test Track for a much needed break from the heat and to design our very own race car to test against each other for capability, responsiveness, efficiency, and power. Thrill seekers jumped on line for this high speed roller coaster, and it was the perfect end to the day and our time in the parks.

With Saturday quickly approaching, we were all exhausted from the fun and excitement. But we were sad to know that our time in the "Happiest Place on Earth" was coming to an end. We all had a wonderful time and it was a trip we would never forget. However, the trip back home was much shorter as most of the group slept and we were all anxious to get home to the comfort of our individual beds. Luckily, the drivers endured another 10 hours before closing their eyes so that we arrived safe and sound! 🌀

Notes and Notables

Vyron Kinson was awarded the Golden Hand Award during the 47th Biennial South Carolina Association of the Deaf Conference on August 10, 2013, in Charleston.



He was recognized for his efforts in increasing awareness of the needs of the Black Deaf/ Hard of Hearing in South Carolina by bringing the South Carolina Black Deaf Advocates back and leading the organization into an active presence once again.

The Golden Hand Award is a National Association of the Deaf project operated in collaboration with various state chapters to recognize individuals or groups, who have demonstrated exemplary service efforts to better the lives of the Deaf people in South Carolina. Vyron joins Director **Steve Hamerdinger** as ODS staff who have won this honor. Hamerdinger was recognized by the Alabama Association of the deaf in 2005.

The hit TV show, *The Walking Dead*, comes to life every year in Montgomery, AL when the town hosts its annual Zombie Walk. It's also one of the activities that ODS staff enjoy and help make accessible to deaf consumers. This year was no different as several of the staff dressed up as various undead creatures seeking to find protein.

Consumers from the Bryan Street VOA home in Montgomery, which serves deaf people with developmental disabilities,

(Continued on page 10)

Current Qualified Mental Health Interpreters

Becoming a *Qualified Mental Health Interpreter* in Alabama requires a rigorous course of study, practice, and examination that takes most people nearly a year to complete. It involves 40 hours of classroom time, 40 hours of supervised practica and a comprehensive examination covering all aspects of mental health interpreting. (Alabama licensed interpreter are in *Italics*)

Charlene Crump, *Montgomery**
Denise Zander, Wisconsin
Nancy Hayes, *Remlap*
Brian McKenny, *Montgomery**
Dee Johnston, *Talladega*
Lisa Gould, *Mobile*
Gail Schenfisch, Wyoming
Dawn Vanzo, *Huntsville*
Wendy Darling, *Prattville*
Pat Smartt, *Sterrett*
Lee Stoutamire, *Mobile*
Frances Smallwood, *Huntsville*
Cindy Camp, *Piedmont*
Lynn Nakamoto, Hawaii
Roz Kia, Hawaii
Jamie Garrison, Wisconsin*
Kathleen Lamb, Wisconsin
Dawn Ruthe, Wisconsin

Paula Van Tyle, Kansas
Joy Thompson, Ohio
Judith Gilliam, *Talladega*
Stacy Lawrence, Florida
Sandy Peplinski, Wisconsin
Katherine Block, Wisconsin*
Steve Smart, Wisconsin
Stephanie Kerkvliet, Wisconsin
Nicole Kulick, South Carolina
Rocky DeBuano, Arizona
Janet Whitlock, Georgia
Sereta Campbell, *Tuscaloosa**
Thai Morris, Georgia
Lynne Lumsden, Washington*
Tim Mumm, Wisconsin
Patrick Galasso, Vermont
Kendra Keller, California*
June Walatkiewicz, Michigan

Teresa Powers, Colorado
Melanie Blechl, Wisconsin
Sara Miller, Wisconsin
Jenn Ulschak, Tennessee
Kathleen Lanker, California
Debra Barash, Wisconsin
Tera Vorpal, Wisconsin
Julayne Feilbach, New Mexico
Sue Gudenkauf, Wisconsin
Tamera Fuerst, Wisconsin
Rhiannon Sykes-Chavez, New Mexico
Roger Williams, South Carolina*
Denise Kirby, Pennsylvania
Darlene Baird, Hawaii
Stacy Magill, Missouri
Camilla Barrett, Missouri

*Denotes QMHI-Supervisors

Mountain Lakes Behavioral Health Center Is SERID Employer of the Year

(Continued from page 3)



Jackson Place Home in Woodville, Alabama has been recognized by both the Council of Organizations Serving Deaf Alabamians and the Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness for its commitment to hiring deaf staff to work with deaf consumers.

Hamerdinger said, "I have had numerous conversations with the CEO and have come away impressed with his compassion and desire to not just 'serve' deaf people, but to create an environment where deaf people can serve deaf people."



Mark Moore with the practice fire extinguisher made by Randy Smallwood

Group Home Manager Mark Moore also echoes the praises. In an interview with *Signs of Mental Health*, Moore, who has been with the group home since it opened, discussed how the staff of Mountain Lakes has accepted having the program and its mostly deaf staff. "They make us feel welcome. The new residential program manager, Carrie Bucklin is starting to learn ASL. I am impressed."



Randy Smallwood, one of the mental health technicians, is and avid handyman and puts his talents to use at Jackson Place.

One of the things that is impressive is the amount of latitude Jackson Place staff have for teaching skills needed to be independent. In some cases, staff hand built props and teaching aids. For example, using a live fire extinguisher for practice can be expensive. Mental Health Technician, Randy Smallwood, built a prop that looks and operates like a real fire extinguisher and the residents drill with it regularly.



Signs of Mental Health

Notes and Notables

(Continued from page 9)



ODS staff and contractors zombify themselves for fun and charity. Left to Right: Wendy Darling, Aley Konesky, Charlene Crump, and Shannon Reese

also dressed up and joined the festivities also joined in the festivities.

Charlene Crump, the Statewide Mental Health Interpreter Coordinator is battling cancer. In a show of support, her fellow workers at the Department of Mental Health decided to have a special event for her on November 5, 2013. Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services staff throughout the state participated. The entire Executive staff had teal shirts and wore them at the morning E-staff meeting. A large number of the division's staff members as well as nearly all of the ODS staff participated, either in person or in their regions.



Support for Charlene also poured in from around the country from people whose lives have been profoundly influenced by her.



Charlene was extremely touched by the occasion, which was coordinated by members of the Communication Access Team. "Thank you, DMH folks, for that incredible display of caring and support,"



You are most welcome, Charlene. 

Above right: ODS Regional staff also participated. Below: Some of the Central Office MHSA staff gathered around Charlene.



State Tech Group Ensures Captioned Videos for State Employee Training

I was setting in church a few months back and was watching a member sign to a group of our worshipers that are deaf or hard of hearing. For some reason, it came to me that there are State employees who are deaf or hard of hearing and possibly don't get the same training opportunities that the rest of us get. I was sure this could be very frustrating and would create a huge learning curve and a lag in employee productivity. I was positive that there was a need and something needed to be done.

My job is to create training videos for the Department of Finance's Internet Services Division and make them available for all State employees. These videos cover a range of topics from MS Word, and Excel, to Outlook, to a How Do I series and a lot more. The problem is that only a very few are Closed Captioned.



David W. Frazier, Information Services Division IT Trainer/Ala Web Connect Administer took it upon himself to begin captioning training films because of the deaf ministry in his church.

The video editing software that I use, Camtasia Studio, has the capability to insert Closed Captioning into a video and it is relatively easy to use. Of course, I have to plan for CC use by creating a script for voice over narrations (which I do anyhow) then copy and paste the script into the video, then sync it up to match. It's a little more complicated than that but in reality, it's not difficult to do and not that time consuming.

I approached my supervisor Jimmy Parish and assistant director Rita Allen, on my idea to add closed captions to the training videos and they agreed whole-heartedly that this is a much needed feature. Now ALL employees should be able to get, at the very least, the necessary training on the MS Office products so they can do their job proficiently.

Since Windows XP is on the way out, Windows 7 and 8 and 8.1 are now the preferred operating systems, so everyone will need to learn how to navigate around them. As of now, there are training videos on Windows 7 and 8 with Windows 8.1 being put together, all Closed Captioned. Go to www.isdtraining.alabama.gov and click on the Free Training Videos button to get started. ✂

Ed. Notes: Mr. Frasier first asked ODS for feedback on captioning training videos several years ago. At the time, ISD was making these videos widely available to state employees, but they were not accesible to deaf and hard of hearing people. Your editor compalined to ISD. It was one of those fortunate times when advocacy efforts resulted in finding someone who was in a position to make a difference and wanted to do so. Mr. Frasier has been held in high regard by us since. Thank you !



AS I See It...

(Continued from page 8)

One of the things that Alabama has done well these past 10 years is creating opportunities for our consumers who are deaf to experience something close to "normal" life. It has not always been an easy thing to achieve. Overcoming a system bias to "integrate" deaf people with hearing people is an ongoing battle and one that is getting worse the more we shift toward capitated care. It just not cost-efficient to have deaf services, you see..."

A major barrier to recovery is that our consumers are not usually part of the larger deaf community for various reasons and do not participate in activities of the community. This means that the programs that do provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services also need to think about creating events so our consumers can experience life in its fullest.

In the [Winter 2009](#) issue of Signs of Mental Health, one such effort was chronicled. Deaf Coffee Night, a monthly event in Montgomery has sparked several "me too" efforts around the state. These are events our consumers are able to participate in fully. Compare that to the "Family Dog" and you will begin to appreciate the value of deaf-specific programming.

Here's a mind game for you. Imagine a deaf person going to Disney World in an all hearing group where no one can communicate with her. It would not be as much fun. Compare that mental picture to the story in this issue about the JBS Deaf Services trip there. [As I See It](#), if we really believe in fostering recovery, we will find continue to develop ways to expend "Deaf-World" in mental health services. ✂

Are you a Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or Deaf-Blind person who is in recovery from Mental Health issues?
Are you interested in helping others with their recovery process?

Here's your opportunity! Learn more about becoming a Certified Peer Support Specialist!
[Click here for ASL Version](#)



Training Dates: January 13-18, 2013 (40 hours)
Location: St. Paul, MN
Training times: Monday-Friday 9am-6pm (2 hour break mid-day)
Saturday 9am-1pm

Trainer: Alison L. Aubrecht, M.A., DCC, LPCC

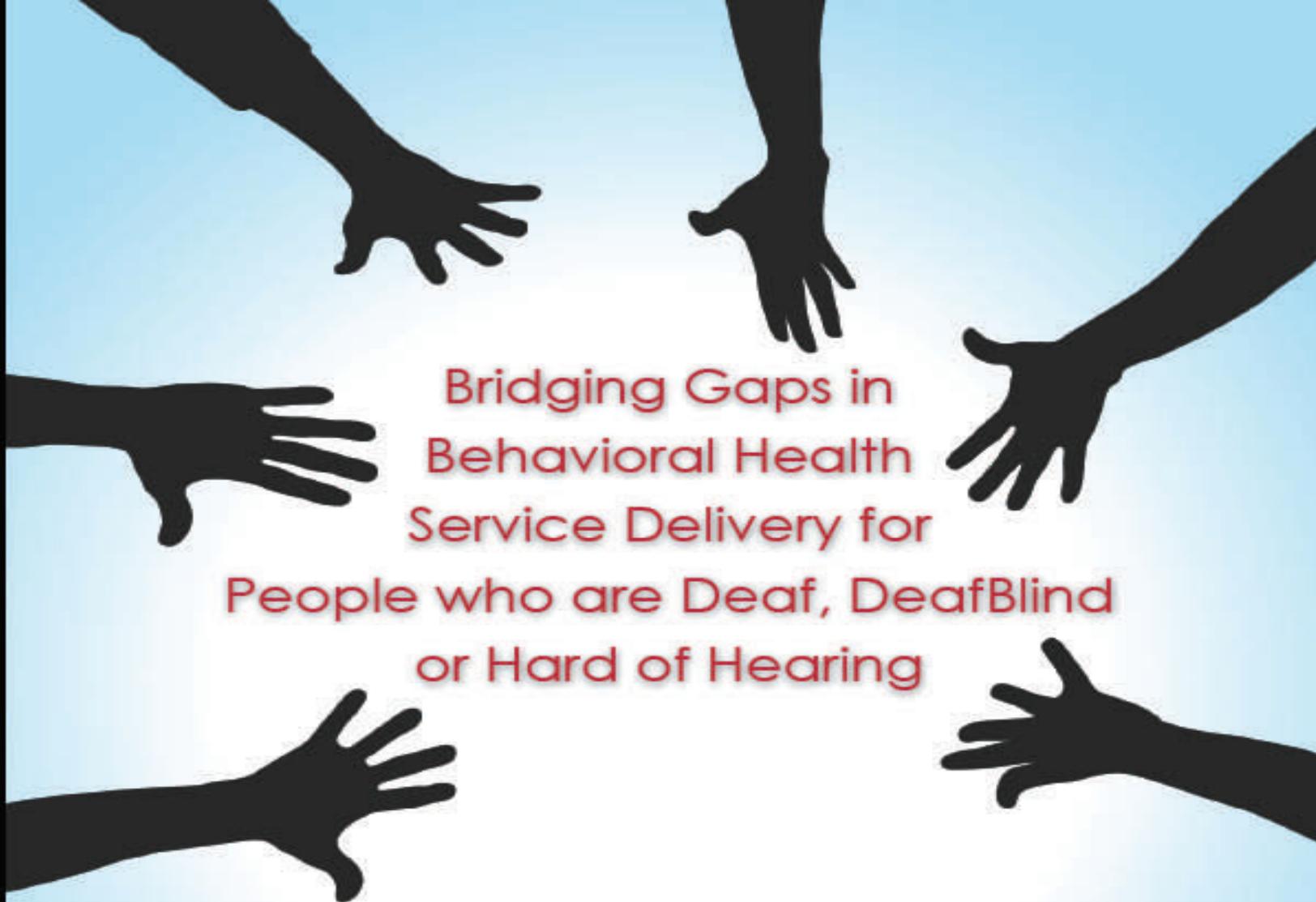
This training is free for those who are accepted into the program. Hotel mileage will not be covered for those who live out of state. Trainees will have the opportunity to develop skills in supporting other Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind folks in recovering from mental health issues.

Interested? Want to apply? Contact the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division Mental Health Program Director, Dr. John Gournaris at John.Gournaris@state.mn.us today!

Completed application & letter of recommendation must be sent in by November 29, 2013. Those who complete the training and pass the exam will become a Certified Peer Support Specialist!



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**



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Behavioral Health
Service Delivery for
People who are Deaf, DeafBlind
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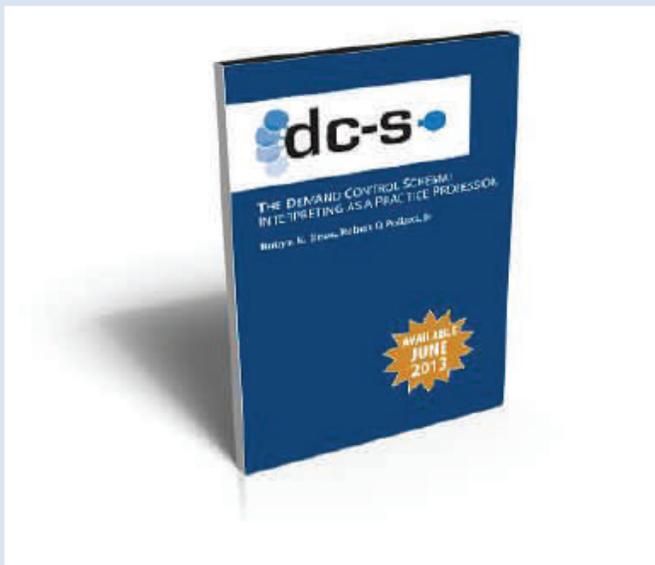


Professionals Networking for Excellence in Service Delivery
with Individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

AVAILABLE NOW!

*The Demand Control Schema:
Interpreting as a Practice Profession*

by
Robyn K. Dean
and
Robert Q Pollard, Jr.



Dean and Pollard have been developing the demand control schema (DC-S) and their practice-profession approach to community interpreting since 1995. This textbook is the culmination of nearly two decades of work, as it evolved over the course of 22 articles and book chapters and nine DC-S research and training grants. Designed primarily for classroom use in interpreter education programs (IEPs), interpreting supervisors, mentors, and practitioners also will find this book highly rewarding. IEPs could readily use this text in introductory courses, ethics courses, and in practicum seminars. Each of its ten chapters guides the reader through increasingly sophisticated descriptions and applications of all the key elements of DC-S, including its theoretical constructs, the purpose and method of dialogic work analysis, the schema's teleological approach to interpreting ethics, and the importance of engaging in reflective practice, especially supervision of the type that is common in other practice professions. Each chapter concludes with a class activity, homework exercises, a check for understanding (quiz), discussion questions, and an advanced activity for practicing interpreters. The first page of each chapter presents a list of the chapter's key concepts, preparing the reader for an efficient and effective learning experience. Numerous full-color photos, tables, and figures help make DC-S come alive for the reader and assist in learning and retaining the concepts presented. Formal endorsements from an international panel of renown interpreter educators and scholars describe this text as "aesthetically pleasing," praising its "lively, accessible style," its "logic and organization," and referring to it as an "invaluable resource" with international appeal to "scholars and teachers." Spoken language interpreters also are proponents of DC-S and will find the material in this text applicable to their education and practice, as well.

CONTENTS:

- | | |
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| Chapter 1: Demands of Interpreting | Chapter 6: Teleology and Practice Values |
| Chapter 2: Controls of Interpreting | Chapter 7: Demand Constellations |
| Chapter 3: DC-S Rubric | Chapter 8: Consequences |
| Chapter 4: EIPI Categories | Chapter 9: Dialogic Work Analysis |
| Chapter 5: D-C Interactions | Chapter 10: The Reflective Practice of Supervision |

To order, visit our website:
www.DemandControlSchema.com

2014 Mental Health Interpreter Institute August 4 - 8, 2014 Montgomery, Alabama



A collaborative effort between the
Alabama Department of Mental
Health's Office of Deaf Services
ADARA and Troy University Interpreter
Training Program

A 40-hour course designed to provide a sound basis for interpreters to work effectively in mental health settings as part of a course associated with Mental Illness and Treatment, Interpreters' Roles, Tools, and Resources, Severe Language Dysfluency and Visual Gestural Communication/CDIs/Interpreters who are Deaf, Psychiatric Emergencies, Confidentiality Ethics and Laws, Support Groups and Community Mental Health Services, Psycholinguistic Errors and Demand Control Schema for Interpreting Applied to Mental Health.

PRESENTERS INCLUDE:

Bob Pollard, Robyn Dean, Roger Williams, Steve Hamerdinger, Charlene Crump, Brian McKenny, Shannon Reese, et. al.

Full Details at <http://www.mhit.org/>

COST OF TRAINING:

	Thru Feb 15	Feb 16 - April 13	April 13 - May 31	After May 31	Day Rate
Participants	\$290	\$340	\$390	\$425	\$100
Alumni/ Students	\$165	\$215	\$265	\$310	\$85

**A MINIMUM OF 4.0
RID CEUS WILL BE OFFERED.**



Shannon E Reese

LeAnn Stuebner, Jr.

Kathleen Allen

Lance Ralston

Don Vay

Yvon M. Wilson

Samuel Wedgwood

Charles J. [unclear]

Bonnie [unclear]

Sereta Campbell

James M. [unclear]

Joylee Canara

Heidi [unclear]

Paul Hambrick



Happy Holidays from
the Office of Deaf Services