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Maine-Lines: A Newsletter for People who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Late-Deafened, Spring 2009

Maine Department of Labor

Maine Bureau of Rehabilitation Services

Maine Division of Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing and Late Deafened

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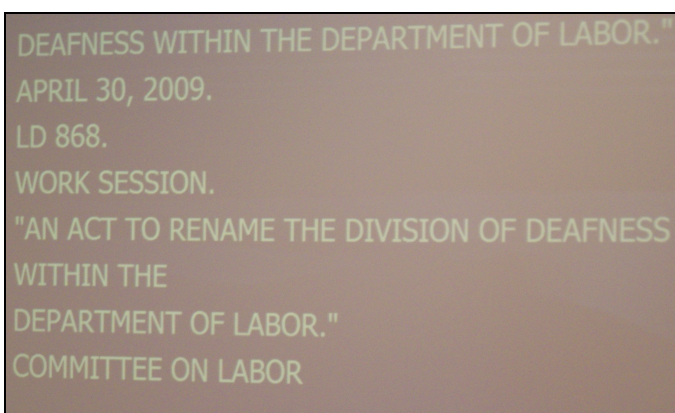
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THE DIVISION FOR THE DEAF, HARD OF HEARING AND LATE DEAFENED MAINE-LINES

A NEWSLETTER FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE DEAF, HARD OF HEARING OR LATE DEAFENED

The Division of Deafness has Changed its Name!



Communication Access Real-Time Translation (C.A.R.T.)
on the wall in the Labor Committee room

The Maine State Legislature has changed the name of the Division of Deafness. It is now called the **Division for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened (DDHHLN)**. The Division of Deafness Advisory Council's name has changed to the **Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened**.

These changes are taking place to make the Division visibly more diversified for hard-of-hearing and late-deafened people in Maine. Under the law, the Division of Deafness was housed within the Department of Education; that wording was changed due to the fact that the Division is now housed within the Department of Labor, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services.

The staff and the Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing & Late Deafened welcome this change and will continue to provide services to all Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, and Late-Deafened people in Maine.

Special thanks to Jonathan Connick, Amy Sneirson and Ann Banger for testifying on behalf of the bill.

Communication Access Real-Time Translation (C.A.R.T.) & American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreters at the Maine State Legislature



Representative Bruce Bickford, Maine State Legislature
Labor Committee and remote C.A.R.T. equipment

Accessibility is no longer an issue for Deaf, hard-of-hearing and late-deafened people attending the Maine State Legislature. The Legislature is making their public hearings and work sessions accessible with C.A.R.T. and ASL interpreters for people with a hearing loss and for people who are Deaf.



Mary Jane Grant, interpreter for the Maine State Legislature

C.A.R.T. is a word-for-word, speech-to-text translation service, using closed captioning technology, for people who need visual communication access. ASL interpreters are available for people who use ASL for Legislative Public Hearings on Wednesdays, Thursdays and other days upon request.

Public Video Phones at CareerCenters!



Joe Rocquebecil, Rehabilitation Counselor for the Deaf, using his video phone

Soon, videophones (VP's) will be installed for public use at the eleven Maine CareerCenters. The Maine Division for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing & Late Deafened (DHHLD) and the ADA Accessibility Coordinator, Eric Dibner, are leading this project. Sorenson Communications will install VP-200's so customers who use American Sign Language (ASL) can make business calls from the CareerCenters about employment, benefits, education, and State services. The goal is to provide equal access to communication for the Deaf.

Sorenson will start installing the VP's at the eleven sites during the summer. The locations will be:
Augusta CareerCenter, 21 Enterprise Drive
Bangor CareerCenter, 45 Oak Street
Bath CareerCenter, 34 Wing Farm Parkway
Lewiston CareerCenter, 5 Mollison Way
Machias CareerCenter, 15 Prescott Drive
Portland CareerCenter, 185 Lancaster Street
Presque Isle CareerCenter, 66 Spruce Street
Rockland CareerCenter, 91 Camden Street
Skowhegan CareerCenter, 98 North Avenue
Springvale CareerCenter, 9 Bodwell Court,
Wilton CareerCenter, 865 US Route 2E

The State already has worked with Sorenson to install VP's for Deaf employees of the State and for staff who frequently work with Deaf customers. Now, we are going public. The public VP's for CareerCenter customers will also help people connect with potential employers, schools, colleges, Social Security, Unemployment, and State offices. ASL-callers can call through Video Relay Service (VRS) and be assured of the best translation.

This phase of Maine's VP project adds to the accessible services already available at CareerCenters. The next phase will be to start putting VP's in other public places – such as the Capitol, airports, and hospitals – after the current phase is successful. The DHHLD hopes the CareerCenter VP sites are well-received and the new VP's will help Deaf customers use the many career-related services.



ASL Films "The Legend of the Mountain Man"

On March 28, 2009, the Deaf Women of Maine (DWM) hosted an ASL movie showing of "The Legend of the Mountain Man" rated PG at the Jewett Hall Auditorium, UMA, sponsored by Sprint Relay. The actors in the film were Deaf, and they used American Sign Language (ASL) with no voice or captions showing throughout the movie. Approximately 160 Deaf and hearing people came, and the audience's responses to the movie were "emotional, beautiful and awesome."

The proceeds went to the Convention Fund for Deaf Women of Maine, who will be hosting the National Conference for Deaf Women United at Wyndham Hotel, South Portland in June of 2011. If you are interested in getting more information about the national convention, please email to Mainedeafwomen@yahoo.com.

Deaf Culture Tea

The Deaf Culture Tea hosted by the Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened will be taking place on September 24, 2009, 2 to 4 PM, at the State House, Hall of Flags in Augusta. The Deaf Culture Tea celebrates Deaf Culture Week with awards given to recipients selected by the community. This issue of Maine-Lines has a one-page invitation to attend the Tea and a ballot to nominate candidates for the awards. Please e-mail or mail in your nominations by August 15, 2009 and RSVP's before September 15, 2009.

The categories are:

Promoting American Sign Language, Deaf Culture and Deaf People Award

Outstanding Citizenship Award

Outstanding Advocate for the Needs of the Deaf Community Award

Special Commendation Award

Citizenship Youth Award



THE DEAF COMMUNITY OF THE STATE OF MAINE
INVITES YOU TO THE GOVERNOR'S TEA
IN CELEBRATION OF DEAF CULTURE WEEK

ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2009

FROM 2:00 TO 4:00 IN THE AFTERNOON

AT THE STATE HOUSE HALL OF FLAGS

(ACROSS THE STREET
FROM THE BLAINE HOUSE)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
JONATHAN CONNICK

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

ALICE CRANDALL JOHNSON
ALICE.C.JOHNSON@MAINE.GOV
(207) 623-7964 (V)

OR

NANCY A. MELANSON
NANCY.A.MELANSON@MAINE.GOV
(888) 755-0023 (TTY)

PLEASE RESPOND BY SEPTEMBER 15, 2009
Deaf Culture Awards

Nomination Form

I nominate: _____

For the Promoting ASL, Deaf Culture and Deaf People Award

This award is given to a person who worked to improve Maine's deaf community through leadership by promoting ASL, Deaf Culture or Deaf People.

Because: _____

I nominate: _____

For the Outstanding Citizenship Award (new)

This award is given to a person who is a leader in the deaf community.

Because: _____

I nominate: _____

For the Citizenship Youth Award (new)

This award is given to a student who is a leader in school and the deaf community.

Because: _____

I nominate: _____

For the Outstanding Advocate for the Needs of the Deaf Community Award

This award is given to a person or organization that advocates for the needs of the deaf, hard-of-hearing and late-deafened citizens of Maine.

Because: _____

I nominate: _____

For the Special Commendation Award

This award is given to an individual or agency whose activities in and with the deaf community deserves recognition.

Because: _____

Please Return to: Alice Johnson
Division for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing & Late Deafened
150 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333

E-mail: Alice.C.Johnson@maine.gov
FAX: 287-5292

By August 15, 2009

Name (optional) _____

Meet Meryl Troop Maine Center on Deafness (MCD)



Meryl Troop, MCD Civil Rights Advocate & Staff Interpreter

DDHHLD: How long have you been working with the Deaf community?

Meryl: Since 1982, my first job was interpreting and substitute teacher of the deaf.

DDHHLD: Did you work with the Deaf community in other parts of the United States?

Meryl: Yes, the first job was in Mississippi. I lived there for 6 months and worked in Moss Point School.

DDHHLD: Where are you currently working?

Meryl: I'm thrilled to be working at MCD.

DDHHLD: What is your current job title & what does it consist of?

Meryl: Staff interpreter and Civil Rights Advocate.

I interpret for MCD functions, like Deaf Rights Group and ASL News, in-house events such as staff meetings and trainings, and for clients coming to consult with our Civil Rights Program attorneys, Amy Sneirson and Beth Gallie, who are both still learning sign language. I also do some advocacy work in the Civil Rights program – things that don't need a lawyer but that I may be able to solve with a phone call or two.

I also do the monthly MCD Newsletter and a weekly E-vents email listing of accessible (signed, interpreted, C.A.R.T. or C-Print) public events. Let me know if you want to receive either one, I'll add you to the list. If anyone has an event coming up, I'll be happy to add it to the E-Vents listing.

DDHHLD: What projects are you currently working on?

Meryl: Wow, some fun events are coming up: The 21st Annual Maine Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing/Late-Deafened

Conference on June 26th at Colby College in Waterville; an interpreting workshop on car mechanics and car racing, combined with access for Deaf racers at Oxford Speedway. A possible Deaf Awareness Day in September as part of Deaf Culture Week, and working with a group to create a state-of-the-art curriculum to train those who provide services to senior citizens – medical, residential, public safety, etc. – to better serve Deaf, hard-of-hearing and late-deafened elders.

DDHHLD: What other types of work do you do?

Meryl: I'm also a freelance interpreter. I view interpreting as a radical act of civil rights work in itself.

DDHHLD: I understand you're a legal interpreter as well and that it takes special training. Could you explain what you had to do to get that special certification?

Meryl: In addition to being licensed with the state, which is required to work as interpreter here in Maine, I hold 3 national certifications, including my Specialty Certificate: Legal (SC:L). To prepare for the SC:L, I relied on my 20+ years of interpreting, some of it in legal settings here in Maine. I already had a Certificate in Transliteration (CT), and I took 4 college classes with the DO IT Center – Distance Opportunities for Interpreter Training, an on-line web-based college program, studying with the national leaders in legal interpreting. Who knew you could learn so much in an on-line course? Then I had to take the second national certification test – Certificate of Interpretation (CI), wait "a million years" to get the results, take the written Legal test, pass that, then take the "performance" legal test, and actually demonstrate interpreting on videotape, which is then evaluated by a panel of national raters. All together, from taking the first legal class on line to getting the SC:L it took 4 years and about \$2,600.

DDHHLD: What was your prior employment and what connection did you have to the Deaf community?

Meryl: I recently ended my job of 20 years working at the Department of Health & Human Services, as the Language Access Coordinator, which included Deaf Services. Some of the other odd jobs in my background include taxi driver in Buffalo, NY, selling produce, teaching Hebrew School, and working at a boat yard here in Maine.

DDHHLD: What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

Meryl: Outside of work? I am in a crazy knitting jag, crafts of many kinds, just getting back into yoga, and, oh yeah, my 2 teenage sons and ever-patient husband.

21st Annual Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late Deafened Conference

Change is. What we make of it is up to us.

June 26, 2009

Colby College Diamond Building, Waterville, ME

- 8:30 Arrival, registration, networking and snacks
- 9:00 Welcome: Muriel Littlefield, Associate Commissioner DHHS
- 9:30 Humorous Hazards of Deafness and Hearing Loss:
Shell Moore, Sculptress, Cochlear Implant story
Bald Man Group: Glenn Shelton and Mark Grant, Goodwill Industries
- 10:00 Hamilton Relay Update
- 10:15 Student Perspectives
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 Yoga
- 11:00 Keynote: Mike Harvey, Ph.D., Coping with and Benefiting From Change
- 12:20 Lunch in Cafeteria
- 1:40 Break out sessions:
1. Interpreters and Signing/Deaf Staff: "Fishbowl Discussion" of Interpreting VS Deaf interpreting VS support staff Communication Roles *in ASL only*
 2. Technology and Communication - What Works Where? A collaborative workshop with John Dunleavy. Bring your equipment to show and share! *in ASL, with Interpreters*
 3. Mike Harvey: Coping and Thriving with Change in Hearing, *C-Print*
 4. VG for Health, Safety and Vocational services: Mike Cousins & Tracey Frederick *in VG!*
 5. Ask Attorney Amy: Bring your civil rights hearing loss-related questions and issues to MCD's Civil Rights Program Director for advice and intake - *English with Interpreters and/or Ubi Duo (type English back and forth)*
- 3:45 Evaluations, Certificate of Attendance, Adjourn

THANK YOU to our Sponsors: Maine Center on Deafness, Division for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened, Mobius, Lutheran Social Services, Alpha One, Community Counseling Center, Goodwill Services of Northern New England, Hamilton Relay.

About our Keynote Speaker Michael Harvey:



Dr. Harvey provides training and consultation on deafness/hearing loss, vicarious trauma and mental health issues. In addition to a private practice in Framingham, Mass., he is an adjunct faculty at Boston University and a consultant faculty at Pennsylvania College of Optometry, School of Audiology, where he teaches on-line courses relating to the psychosocial aspects of hearing loss. Dr. Harvey writes a regular column, "What's On Your Mind?", in Hearing Loss, the journal for Self Help for the Hard-of-Hearing.

In addition to over 40 articles, his publications include The Odyssey of Hearing Loss: Tales of Triumph, Psychotherapy with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons: A Systemic Model (second addition), and a co-edited book entitled Culturally Affirmative Psychotherapy with Deaf Persons. His most recent book is Listen with the Heart: Relationships and Hearing Loss.

Dr. Harvey is Co-Director of a private, non-profit organization, Dialogue Toward Change, dedicated to providing research, training and consultation services to alleviate the potentially negative impact of witnessing oppression.

Directions: Colby College, 4000 Mayflower Hill, Waterville, ME 04901
http://www.colby.edu/college_cs/visitor_center/directions.cfm

Campus map to Diamond Building: http://www.colby.edu/college_cs/visitor_center/campus-map.cfm

Credits and Costs: Conference is **FREE**, thanks to our generous sponsors. Interpreters: .6 RID CEUs have been applied for; 6 contact hours for state licensure. Social Workers can show proof of attendance to apply for CEUs.

Please dress in layers – air conditioning in use.

Tables for information and book sales: you are welcome to bring brochures and information about your program, services, job openings, etc. If you would like a full table, please contact: Mtroop@mcdmaine.org or phone: 797-7656, or VP: 774-7777.

Please bring: unwanted **hearing aids** to be delivered to the Warren Center for rehab and reuse; gently used, clean **baseball caps**, to be donated to migrant farm workers.

21st Annual Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late Deafened Conference

Change is. What we make of it is up to us.

June 26, 2009

Registration:

Name: _____

Agency or company, if any: _____

Email address: print clearly! _____

O Please add me to the MCD E-Vents Email listing of ASL and captioned events.

Other Contact information: _____

Afternoon Workshop session: Check ONE

- ☐ Interpreters and Signing Support Staff (ASL only)
- ☐ Technology and Communication - What Works Where? A collaborative workshop (in ASL w/Interpreters)
- ☐ Mike Harvey: Coping and Thriving with Change in Hearing (C-Print)
- ☐ VG for Health, Safety and Vocational services (VG for everybody!)
- ☐ Ask Attorney Amy (English with Interpreters and Ubi-Duo typed English)

Special needs? _____

Display table? Free to non-profits, \$50 for-profit _____

Send form to:

Samantha Clark

MCD

68 Bishop St,

Portland, ME 04103

Fax: 207-797-9791

sclark@mcdmaine.org (don't forget to say which workshop you will attend in the afternoon)

Did You Know?

♦ **Camp Sign-A-Watha will be at Camp Cobbossee in Monmouth August 24-28, 2009.** This experience is cabin camping on a lake for adults with developmental disabilities who are Deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened, or hearing/non-verbal for whom signing and gestural communication are good communication modes. For more information see the web site <http://campsignawatha.googlepages.com> or contact Willie Tarr, Lutheran Social Services willietarr@aol.com.

♦ **Maine Center on Deafness (MCD)** has been traveling to various areas throughout Maine to explain the Civil Rights Program, Telecommunications Equipment Program and Peer Support Group. They will be going to the Down East area on July 8-10, 2009. For more information contact MCD at 1-800-639-3884.

♦ **Signed Storytime at Wilton Free Public Library,** Hands On PAH is sponsoring storytimes presented in American Sign Language at the Wilton Free Public Library on the first Saturday of each month, from 10:30-11:30. All Deaf and hearing children are invited to participate. The story will be signed by Darleen Winship, a Deaf storyteller who works at the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf, and the morning will include an activity focused on Deaf culture.

Hands on PAH, a service of the Wilton Free Public Library, is dedicated to meeting the information and accessibility needs of the deaf and hard of hearing communities of western Maine, as well as meeting the information needs about hearing loss to the general public. For future signed and interpreted storytimes, contact the library 645-4831 or the library website www.wilton-free.lib.me.us. Contact person: Lori Lewis 645-3945 E-mail: lorilewis@myfairpoint.net

♦ **Video Remote Interpreted (VRI) Workshops at Lewiston & Wilton CareerCenters.** The Department of Labor (DOL) would like to invite American Sign Language (ASL) users to VRI interpreted workshops at the Lewiston and Wilton CareerCenters. This is a pilot program that DOL is sponsoring to encourage ASL users to participate in these beneficial workshops during difficult economic times. Please notify Nancy Melanson at the Division for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened (see last page of newsletter for contact information) if you're interested in attending and VRI will be arranged.

CareerCenter Employment & Training Orientation
Lewiston CareerCenter
Tuesdays 9 AM-11 AM

Thursdays 1 PM-3 PM

Job Search

Lewiston CareerCenter

Every other Tuesday 10 AM-12 PM

Resume Writing

Wilton CareerCenter

Mondays 1:30 PM-3:00 PM

♦ **Contact numbers for the Department of Labor, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors for Deaf and Hard of Hearing:**

Joe Roquebecil.....624-5111 (VP)

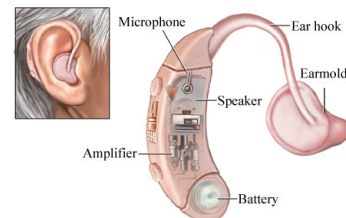
Rod MacInnes.....822-0410 (VP)

Ginny Pelletier.....624-5109 (VP)

♦ **The Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing & Late Deafened** invites you to visit the DDHLD web site www.maine.gov/rehab/dod and view the 5-Year Plan that has been created by council members. The Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing & Late Deafened meetings are open to the public and take place at the Central Maine Commerce Center, Department of Labor, in Augusta, in the Frances Perkins conference room, 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM. The next meeting date is October 8, 2009.

♦ **ALDA-Maine (Association of Late-Deafened Adults-Maine)** is an all volunteer group for the empowerment of over 100,000 people in Maine and more in neighboring states who are deafened, hard of hearing, or have a hearing loss of any kind. New members and visitors to all events are welcome. Come talk with us. Read the new "*Hearing Loss Herald*" publication and join us soon for timely on-line information and discussions, whether you have a hearing loss, are hearing, or interested in equal rights for all people with disabilities. See www.alda-maine.mysite.com.

♦ **WANTED, USED HEARING AIDS**



Do you have a pair of hearing aids in a drawer?
Want to put them to good use? Mail them to the Warren Center. We will fix them, and pass them along to an individual in need.

Warren Center
175 Union Street
Bangor, Maine 04401
941-2850 (V)
Web site: www.warrencenter.org/

If you attended the Maine School for the Deaf or Governor Baxter School for the Deaf (GBSD), counseling is available at no cost to you.

Signing mental health counselors are listed in the Division for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened Resource Guide www.maine.gov/rehab/DDHHLD/resource_guide/clinical.shtml and are trained to help deaf people who were abused. If you prefer **nonsigning** counselors with a qualified interpreter it can be arranged at no cost to you. Insurance or MaineCare will be billed first (if you attended the Maine School for the Deaf or GBSD, no money will be charged to you for co-pay or deductible).

For more information, please contact:

Department of Health and Human Services - Office of Immigrant & Multicultural Services
Noel Bonam
1-866-241-8639 (Toll free TTY)
287-4272 (V)
E-mail: Noel.Bonam@maine.gov

Department of Labor-Division for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened
John Shattuck
623-7957 (V)
1-888-755-0023 (Toll free TTY)
E-mail: John.G.Shattuck@maine.gov

Maine Center on Deafness
797-7656 (V/TTY)
1-800-639-3884 (V/TTY)
24.97.54.29 (VP)
E-mail: info@mcdmaine.org

Do you...
...have trouble sleeping?
...have bad dreams?
...still think of bad experiences from the past?
...pass along the hurt to your children, partner, wife, girlfriend, boyfriend or husband?
...find it hard to keep intimate (close) relationships?

You Can Feel Better. You are not alone.

Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing/Late-Deafened Tenants Smoke Detectors Law

If you rent an apartment or rent a house you have a legal right to ask the landlord for FLASHING OR VIBRATING SMOKE ALARMS so you will know if there is a fire, even if you're asleep at night.

If the landlord does NOT do it in a reasonable time, you may buy and put in the right smoke alarm for you and deduct costs from your rent.

The landlord cannot charge you, evict you, or cause any problems for the cost of the alarms.

Maine State Law:

25 MRSA §2464 Smoke detectors

1. Definition. "Smoke detector" means a device that, when activated by the presence of smoke, provides an alarm suitable to warn the occupants within the individual dwelling unit in which it is attached and that has been listed for use by a nationally recognized independent testing laboratory.

[1997, c. 728, §27 (amd).]

8. Smoke alarms for persons with disabilities. Upon the request of a deaf or hard-of-hearing occupant, the owner of the dwelling unit shall provide an approved smoke alarm suitable to warn the occupant within the dwelling unit. If the owner does not provide a suitable smoke alarm, the occupant may purchase, install and maintain a suitable smoke detector, or arrange for proper installation and maintenance of a suitable smoke detector, and may deduct the actual costs from the rent for the dwelling unit. An occupant or tenant may not be charged, evicted or penalized in any way for failure to pay the actual cost deducted from the rent for the dwelling unit.

[1997, c. 95, §2 (new).]

Lutheran Social Services Deaf Services of Maine Is Hiring!!



We Are Seeking Direct Service And Management Staff Who Are Competent In ASL To Join A Growing Deaf Program!!!

Earn Up To \$10 Per Hour Assisting Deaf Consumers Who Are Residents of LSS Homes Located In Standish, North Gorham, Westbrook, and South Portland.

LSS employees who regularly work 20 or more hours per week are eligible to receive agency benefits, including:



- Health Insurance Blue Cross/Blue Shield HMO (85% of premiums paid by employer for both Individuals and families!)
- Dental Insurance
- Vision Insurance
- Long Term Disability Insurance
- Fidelity 403B Retirement Plan
- Flexible Spending Accounts
- \$1000 Tuition Assistance
- 27 Paid Days Off Per Year
- Employer Paid Training....All trainings are done by ASL competent instructors! No interpreters are used!
- Life Insurance

We are the largest employer of Deaf people in Maine! Come check us out!



Deaf Services of Maine - Lutheran Social Services
39 Mechanic Street, Suite 300
Westbrook, ME 04092
Email: BruceML@LSSNorth.org
Video Phone: 207/591-6714
Voice: 207/797-3935

Maine Department of Labor
Division of Deafness
150 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0150

Return Service Requested

Bureau of Rehabilitation Services

Jill Duson, Director

The Division for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened

The Division for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened provides a program of services to Deaf, hard-of-hearing and late-deafened people in Maine, which includes information and referral, advocacy, and accessibility promotion.

John Shattuck, Director

Tel: 623-7957 (V)

1-888-755-0023 (TTY)

E-mail: John.G.Shattuck@maine.gov

Alice Crandall Johnson

Rehabilitation Consultant

Tel: 623-7964 (V)

1-888-755-0023 (TTY)

E-mail: Alice.C.Johnson@maine.gov

Nancy Melanson, Assistant to the Director

Tel: 623-7998 (TTY), 623-7958 (V)

1-888-755-0023 (TTY)

287-5292 (FAX)

E-mail: Nancy.A.Melanson@maine.gov

Web Site: www.maine.gov/rehab/dod

RESOURCE GUIDE FOR DEAF/HARD OF HEARING AVAILABLE ON-LINE!

*The Maine Department of Labor provides equal opportunity in employment and programs.
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.*