

October 14, 2021



Empowering
Independence

CENTER FOR LIVING & WORKING, INC.

WHAT'S UP?



Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services

COVID-19 Updates



US at-a-Glance (10/13/2021)



Questions about COVID-19

COVID-19 cases are going down, BUT...

Like the flu, COVID-19 may never be gone forever—*it's too soon to know.*

Will there be more variants like *Delta*?

As long as COVID-19 is out there and still spreading from person to person it may change/mutate. The only way to stop this is to stop the spread.

What can I do?

Get vaccinated! This is the best way to protect yourself and your friends and family.

Sources:

<https://www.deseret.com/coronavirus/2021/10/10/22716452/dr-fauci-new-covid-19-variant-spread>

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/10/01/business/employer-vaccine-mandate-approval/index.html>

Governor Baker's Updates

Watch past press briefings [here](#).

Press Office: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/governors-press-office>



Domestic Violence Awareness Month



Did you know?

- **1 in 4 women** and **1 in 7 men** experience severe intimate partner physical violence
- When a gun is around, the risk of homicide increases by 500%
- 15% of all violent crime is intimate partner violence
- Women ages 18-24 are most commonly abused by an intimate partner

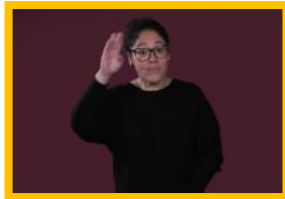


Support survivors and speak out against domestic violence all month long!



YWCA EVENTS THIS MONTH: <https://ywcacm.org/dvam/>

Domestic Violence Vlogs



What is Domestic Violence?

WATCH: [here](#).

TRANSCRIPT: Click [here](#).



Signs of Domestic Violence

WATCH: [here](#).

TRANSCRIPT: Click [here](#).

Halloween & COVID-19: Have Fun and Stay Safe

Vaccinated against COVID-19? Your risk of being exposed to COVID-19 during Halloween activities may seem less than last year. **But COVID-19 is still spreading!** Keep trick-or-treating and other Halloween traditions safe — *especially if your kids can't get vaccines yet.*

Read full article [here](#).

GIVING OUT CANDY?



- Sit outside
- Put candy in individual bags
- Have candy on a table for kids to take



FAMILY FUN AT HOME

- Pumpkin decorating
- Costume movie night
- Bake a Halloween treat



COSTUME IDEA

- Make a mask part of your costume



INDOOR OR PUBLIC EVENTS?

- Mask up!
- Safe physical distance
- Wash hands with soap & water
- Use hand sanitizer



TRICK-OR-TREATING

- Stay outside
- Small groups



Oral Care for Children and Adults

- **Twice a day:**
 - ✓ **Brush for 2 minutes**
 - ✓ **Floss and rinse two times a day**
- See the dentist **every 6 months!**
- **Don't wait for your teeth to hurt.**



Helpful Tips for Getting the Best Care:

- Visit the **same dentist** if you can.
- **Can't keep your appointment? LET THE DENTIST KNOW!**
- **Schedule early!**
- **Need health insurance? Contact MA Health Connector:**

Call: 877-623-6765

Online: <https://www.mahealthconnector.org/>



MassHealth Dental Care Resources for Worcester Families

Name/Address	Phone #	Children?	Adults?	NOTES
Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center 19 Tacoma Street, Worcester, MA	(508) 595-1115	Y	Y	◆ Multiple locations
Family Health Center of Worcester 26 Queen Street, Worcester MA	(508) 860-7910	Y	Y	◆ Multiple locations
Quinsigamond Community College Dental Hygiene Clinic 670 West Boylston Street, Worcester, MA	(508) 854-4306	Y	Y	◆ Closed June — Aug.; Dec.— January ◆ Free during COVID-19
UMass Memorial Ronald McDonald Care Mobile <i>In neighborhoods and at 22 elementary Worcester Public Schools</i>	(508) 334-9416	Y	Y	◆ Starting Nov. 29, 2021
Forsyth Dental Hygiene Clinic 10 Lincoln Square, Worcester, MA	(774) 243-3410	Y	Y	◆ Run by MCPHS University

PARENTS: Worcester Public Schools are in the process of offering Dental Care again this year! ***Look for permission slips to sign in your child's backpacks this year!!***

MassHealth has expanded dental care for adults!

New VLOGS

MCDHH Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month



VLOG: https://fb.watch/8mXaC_TMqV/

TRANSCRIPT: Click [here](#).

MCB Celebrates National Disability Employee Awareness Month

VLOG: <https://lnkd.in/dTyrtqJW>

TRANSCRIPT: *under the video in YouTube.*



New Commissioner's Designated Interpreter

MCDHH is pleased to announce that **Christina LaRock**, CI/CT has been hired as the Commissioner's Designated Interpreter / Accessibility Specialist (Interpreter). This Interpreter will provide American Sign Language (ASL) interpreting/sign language services specifically for the Commissioner, Dr. Opeoluwa Sotonwa.

Ms. LaRock has been working as a freelance interpreter for several decades, most recently she has been working with the Department of Mental Health. Her involvement within the community has included mentorship to interpreters, presenting workshops, and working as a screening evaluator. Ms. LaRock is a graduate of the Northern Essex Community College Interpreter Training Program and earned her Bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Please join MCDHH in welcoming Christina LaRock to the MCDHH family.



MRC Worcester

MRC has moved!

50 Southwest Cutoff, Suite 1A
Worcester, MA 01604

Phone: 508-754-1757 (*same as before*)

Apply online:

[MRC Connect Online Application](#)

Need help applying online?

Call: 617-204-3665

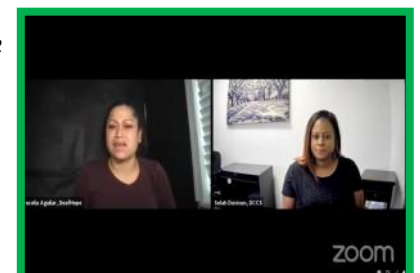


Deaf Hope Discussion

When Someone We Know is Harmed, How Can We Help?

Watch here:

https://fb.watch/8C_2gSFh2M/



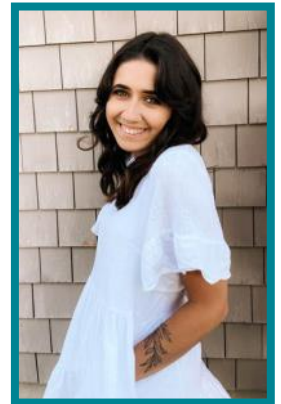
Welcome DHILS Interns!



Hi! My name is **Annie Wagner**, I am a junior at the College of the Holy Cross studying Psychology and Deaf Studies. At the college, I am also involved in a plethora of fundraising, school spirit and sports clubs.

I am originally from the Chicago area, where I have particularly enjoyed spending time working with children over the summers. In my future, I hope to continue to work with children as a special needs teacher or assistant. I am excited to join the community of the Center for Living & Working, Inc. to further develop my American Sign Language and get to know everyone there!

Hello, my name is **Adelaide DaMotta-Santos**! I am a senior at Framingham State University and on track to graduate in May with my BA in American Sign Language and a concentration in Deaf Studies. I hope to one day work with children in a classroom setting using ASL with Deaf students. Along with my career goals, I also have goals within my internship at CLW. I hope to gain more ASL skills, as well as create lasting connections with co-workers and consumers. I am looking forward to the skills that I will learn while interning at CLW and can't wait for what's to come!



Hi I'm **Mark Foley**, a student at Framingham State University! I am studying ASL and Spanish with a focus on Deaf studies. I love meeting new people! Through CLW, I hope to get involved in the Deaf community and participate in Deaf events. After I graduate, I am looking forward to continuing work in the Deaf community.

Hello, I'm **Marissa Cerant**! I am a junior at the College of the Holy Cross. I am a Psychology major, with minors in Deaf Studies and Education. I love animals and I love working with kids. I like to watch TikToks, cross-stitch, do arts & crafts and be outside. I love adventure and trying new things! My favorite foods are spaghetti and boba tea. My favorite fruit is cherries.

My main goal is to find a career I will be happy in, am financially stable in, and positively affects others and the world. Another goal I have is to continue to practicing taking care of myself and keeping myself happy.



Help Is Here

Monthly payments for families with kids

Raising kids can be expensive, and the Child Tax Credit is here to help. President Biden's American Rescue Plan increased the amount of the 2021 Child Tax Credit to support families with children.

The full benefit of the Child Tax Credit is now \$300 per month per child under age 6 and \$250 for each child age 6 to 17.

Did you file taxes in the last 2 years? Then you don't have to do anything to get the money you're already owed!

If you filed your 2020 taxes this year or filed your 2019 taxes last year, or used the IRS "Non-Filer Portal" to get a stimulus check last year, you don't need to do anything. The IRS will automatically send you a monthly payment by direct deposit or check starting on July 15, 2021.

The Child Tax Credit is \$3,000 to \$3,600 per child with advanced monthly payments.

In order to get money to families quickly, the IRS will pay half of the credit as monthly payments now and the other half when you file your taxes next year. In total, you'll receive a total of \$3,600 for each child under 6 and \$3,000 for each child between 6 and 17.

Didn't file taxes in the last 2 years? There's 1 easy step to start getting your Child Tax Credit payments.

Just fill out a simple form to begin receiving your monthly Child Tax Credit payments. You can access it by going to childtaxcredit.gov

All you'll need to apply are:

- A reliable mailing address
- E-mail address
- Your children's Social Security Numbers
- Your Social Security Number (or ITIN)
- Your bank account information (if you want to receive your payment by direct deposit)

Eligibility: Most families, even those with little to no income, can receive the full amount. If you are a single parent making less than \$112,500 or a married couple making less than \$150,000—and have children under age 18 who will live with you for more than half of 2021—you are likely eligible for the full benefit. These benefits do not affect your eligibility for other federal benefits like SNAP.

Learn more and check out resources to help you fill out your form at ChildTaxCredit.gov



Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services

Hybrid: 1 - 2 days
in office

Join the CLW DHILS Team as a: **DEAF SKILLS TRAINER**

This job is great for you, if you love to:

- Empower and work with consumers on personal goals
- Advocate for Deaf/Hard of Hearing individuals on local/state levels
- Provide:
 - 1:1 independent living skills training and peer support to consumers
 - information & referral
 - guidance and leadership
- Problem solve
- Work independently and with the team
- Work with individuals with diverse disabilities and cultures

Qualifications:

Education

- High School or equivalent (GED) required; Bachelor Degree in health/human services, preferred; years of relevant experience may be substituted for Bachelor Degree;

Experience

- ASL Fluent
- 2 years minimum of relevant experience working in Deaf/Hard of Hearing services OR involvement with the Deaf/Hard of Hearing community required;
- Microsoft Office and database management

GREAT BENEFITS

- Medical
- Dental
- 403(b) Retirement

PAID:

- Life Insurance
- Short Term Disability (STD)
- Long Term Disability (LTD)
- Parking
- 13 Holidays
- Vacation
- Sick Time
- Mileage Reimbursement

\$17.35/hour / 40 hours/week / Mon - Fri

**Apply
Now**

INTERESTED OR HAVE QUESTIONS?

Email Deb Olson at: dolson@centerlw.org

APPLY and SEE MORE INFO HERE:

[Full-Time Deaf Skills Trainer Positions](#)

Center for Living & Working, Inc.

484 Main Street Suite 345
Worcester, MA 01608

Website: www.centerlw.org

<https://www.facebook.com/CenterForLivingAndWorking>



*Empowering
Independence*

Voice: (508) 798-0350
Toll Free: (800) 570-4020
TTY: (508) 755-1003
VP: (508) 762-1164
Fax: (508) 797-4015

COVID-19 Resources/Data

We will add more sites as needed.

Vaccine Information	https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine
Vaccine Appointments	https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/
COVID-19 Testing	www.mass.gov/covid-19-testing
US COVID-19 Cases and Deaths <i>by State</i>	https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_casesper100klast7days
MA Travel Order	https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order
MA Response Reporting	https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting

NOTE: Contact your Skills Trainer with questions. See *SE Resources* page for more information.

Questions about this Newsletter?

Need a website address from your printed newsletter? Contact your Skills Trainer!

Joan Philip	DHILS Director	508-762-1165 (VP)
Denise Paro	Administrative Assistant	508-556-1600 (VP)
Ellen Perkins	DHILS Asst. Manager/Hard of Hearing Skills Trainer	508-502-7576 (Voice); 508-762-1354 (VP)
Catherine Brown	Deaf Skills Trainer (Part-time)	508-762-1021 (VP)
Kim White	Staff Interpreter	508-755-1042 (Voice); 508-283-1036 (VP)
VACANT	Deaf Skills Trainer (Full-time)	
VACANT	Deaf Skills Trainer (Full-time)	

Contact Us!

Center for Living & Working, Inc.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services Department

Videophone: 508-762-1164

Voice/TTY: 508-755-1003

www.CenterLW.org



Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services



CLW: <https://www.facebook.com/CenterForLivingAndWorking>

DHILS Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/469192334303776>