

May 5, 2022



Empowering
Independence

CENTER FOR LIVING & WORKING, INC.
WHAT'S UP?



Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services

MCDHH Updates



MassRID Interpreter Town Hall

Monday, May 23, 2022

5-8 PM

VLOG: <https://fb.watch/cNewAniuvV/>

Transcript: click [here](#)



Deaf Interpreter Georgette "Gigi" Doran Tribute



A deaf interpreter, Georgette "Gigi" or "Geo" Doran, who is well known in the Deaf community for a viral video and popular GIF of her interpreting for the then-Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick during a blizzard in 2013, passed away on Tuesday, April 12 at the age of 72.

Watch here: <https://www.dailymoth.com/blog/deaf-interpreter-georgette-gigi-doran-tribute>

MCDHH Introduces Cat Dvar, Director of Communication Access Services

VLOG: https://fb.watch/cN89IXnX_o/

Transcript: click [here](#)



Free **PeaPod** grocery delivery

For CLW Consumers and Staff — Fill-out the delivery form at:

<https://www.centerlw.org/free-peapod-delivery/>

Peapod will contact you after to setup your account.



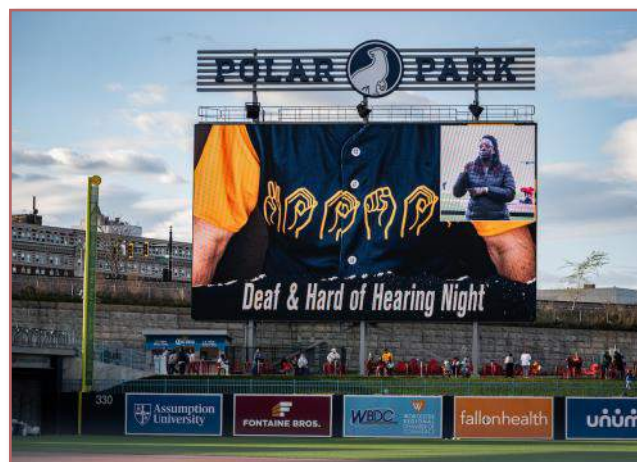
WooSox: *Deaf and Hard of Hearing Night*

April 29, 2022 — It was a COLD evening, but that didn't stop the celebration of "Deaf and Hard of Hearing Night" at Polar Park. Different agencies, including *Center for Living & Working*, had tables set up on the concourse and Deaf and hearing interpreters were all around the park — in the box office, the store, and on the big screen. It was wonderful to see so many community members **and** the WooSox won the game!



Stephanie Clark, Program Coordinator Deaf Studies and Sign Languages, Lecturer at *College of the Holy Cross*

Photo Credits (this page): *Worcester WooSox*



Stephanie Hakulin on the big screen.



Fireworks show after the game!



Marie Philip School Girls Volleyball Team



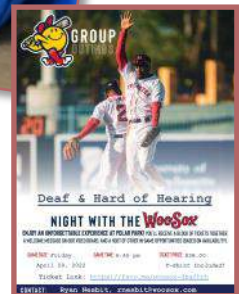
Skip Flanagan throws out the first pitch.

Skip Flanagan is now the Student Athlete Coordinator for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing DI and DIII varsity athletes at Rochester Institute of Technology/National Technical Institute for the Deaf. He was their first Deaf baseball captain in the history of the university. He played summer ball for the Old Orchard Beach Tide in the Future's League. Post graduation he played one season of independent ball for the Old Orchard Surge that was then part of the North Country Baseball League. He then left to pursue his masters degree.

WooSox: Deaf and Hard of Hearing Night (continued...)



CLW DHILS Staff (L to R):
Catherine Brown, Mackenzie Lloyd, Denise Paro,
Ellen Perkins, Joan Philip



Framingham State University: DeaFSU

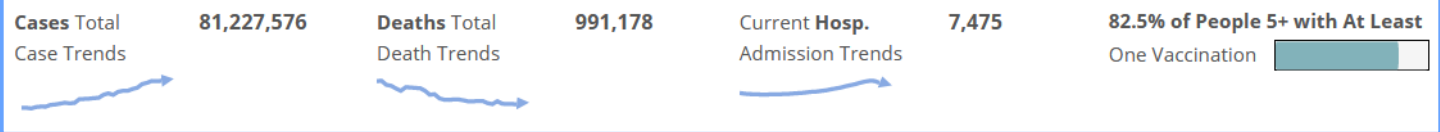
Saturday, April 23, 2022 — It was a beautiful, sunny Saturday for FSU ASL Club's **DeaFSU** event. Many local Deaf vendors and agencies gathered in the Maynard parking lot at FSU. Tables were set up all around with games (corn hole, Connect 4) in the center for all to enjoy and browse. There was a Photo Booth, make-your-own tie-dye and several presentations throughout the day: Justin Perez, Shana Gibbs and Steve Weiner. The food truck "Melt!" served a delicious lunch, and water and snacks were provided as well. It was a gorgeous day to be outside and nice to see so many Deaf businesses and community members!



COVID-19 Updates



United States at a Glance



COVID-19 Treatments and Medications

People more likely to get very sick from COVID-19 (high-risk, compromised immune system, etc.) can maybe get medicine to lower their chances of severe illness and death. Other medications can help reduce symptoms (click [here](#) for COVID-19 symptoms) and help you manage your illness.



Learn more here: <https://combatcovid.hhs.gov/possible-treatment-options-covid-19>

TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR PATIENTS WITH
 COVID-19 WHO ARE NOT IN THE HOSPITAL

SYMPTOMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mild to moderate
REQUIREMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthcare professional's referral High-risk status* including: obesity, diabetes, chronic kidney disease, weakened immune system, or taking a medicine that weakens the immune system
Antivirals	stop the virus from multiplying in the body
Monoclonal antibodies	stop the virus from spreading in the body

ASK YOUR DOCTOR WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU.

WANT MORE INFORMATION ON COVID-19?

Go to: <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-updates-and-information>

Why are COVID 19 vaccine booster shots necessary?

VLOG: <https://youtu.be/gJwfDrGPnsY>

Why are COVID-19 vaccine booster shots necessary?



NEED PPE? COVID-19 HOME TESTS?

Do you need masks, gloves, hand sanitizer or at-home COVID-19 tests?

CLW has a limited supply. Request some by contacting Denise Paro at dparo@centerlw.org or call 508-556-1600.



New VLOGS



SSA Field Offices to Open In Person

Social Security's field offices opened April 7, 2022. Masks are required. Please call first to schedule an appointment. Long lines are more likely: early mornings; Mondays and Tuesdays; and the 1st and 2nd week of each month. *See more information on the VLOG.*

VLOG: <https://fb.watch/cN8yjoBQqg/>

Deaf YES: Center for Deaf Empowerment and Recovery—New Project!

Do you have experience with problems with alcohol, or alcohol addiction? Have you experienced some kind of treatment for this? This can be individual therapy, detox, hospitalization, attending a hearing or Deaf program, AA, or anything else.

If you have, we want to know more about your experience. We are looking for Deaf adults who use ASL to do one interview with me through Zoom or VP. This will be about one hour and you will be paid \$100 via Visa gift card. All your information will be kept private.



If you are interested in participating or want to learn more information, please contact me via email alexander.wilkins@umassmed.edu or videophone (508-556-6261). I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you!

VLOG: <https://www.facebook.com/100041549543972/videos/460104325911722/>

Emergency Resource Information (Massachusetts Red Cross)

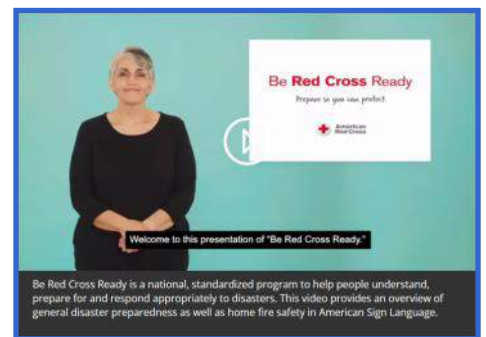


Emergencies can happen anytime. Mobility, hearing, learning, or seeing disabilities can create specific needs that need addressing, so individuals can respond to an emergency. Everyone should be "Red Cross Ready" for any urgent situation.

- Make a survival kit ([Click here](#))
- Make an emergency plan ([Click here](#))
- Be informed ([Click here](#))

Learn more about managing communications, equipment, service animals, pets and home hazards:

<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/inclusive-preparedness-resources.html>



WRTA Worcester Area Busses Are FREE Until 2023!

Thank you Worcester Zero-Fare Coalition for your outstanding advocacy efforts to extend FREE fares until 2023!

January 2022 – March 2022

DLC dDeafDB Community Outreach News & Updates

Current legal cases to improve communication access

- DLC is challenging communication access barriers for a Deaf patient at a residential behavioral health program.
- DLC has reached an agreement with a driving school to provide interpreters for Deaf students.
- DLC is negotiating with a hospital to provide onsite interpreters instead of VRI to a DeafBlind patient.



No communication access?

DLC wants to investigate your complaint when a government body, hospital, medical or mental health provider, or others won't provide effective communication access through interpreter, CART, listening devices, etc. Email Dr. LeWana Clark at drlewanaclark@gmail.com to see if we can help you.

HELP!

We want to hear your story if police, prosecutors, or the courts have not provided access you need to communicate and access to our justice system.

Email LeWana Clark at drlewanaclark@gmail.com



dDeafDB COMMUNITY
outreach



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 Emily Patton at: epatton@centerlw.org

APPLY and SEE MORE INFO HERE:

FULL-TIME DEAF SKILLS TRAINER POSITION

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



invites you to join virtual presentation:

JOIN US TO LEARN ABOUT MASSHEALTH!



- Are you eligible for *MassHealth*?
- Do you have questions about *MassHealth* eligibility?
- How can the *My Ombudsman* program help *MassHealth* members?
- Do you have questions about *MassHealth* coverage?

**STILL TIME TO
REGISTER!**

When: Monday, May 9, 2022

Time: 2pm to 4pm

Where: Zoom



Hannah Frigand

Director, Education and Enrollment Services



Lori Siedman

Director of Deaf Services



RSVP BY MAY 5TH, 2022

Register online here: <https://forms.gle/cuc4PsALQZyUzBu47>

ASL interpreters and CART will be provided!

For any other Communication Access, please contact us **by April 22, 2022**

Questions? Contact Denise Paro at DParo@centerlw.org or VP 508-762-1164

Healthy Relationship SUPPORT GROUP

FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COMMUNITY

**YWCA, CLW and ODSC
are here for you.**

Join us for discussion about:

- personal empowerment
- self-advocacy
- healthy relationships with others

ASL and Deaf interpreters will be provided. Please request CART 2 weeks in advance.

A collaboration with the Center for Living & Working, Inc. and Our Deaf Survivors Center, Inc.

***MUST RSVP** to get the Zoom links.



DATES & TOPICS

1:00 - 2:30 PM via Zoom

January 5, 2022

Healthy Relationships Kick-Off & Terminology by CLW

February 2, 2022

How to be an Ally by YWCA

March 2, 2022

Co-parenting/Parallel Parenting by ODSC

April 6, 2022

Respecting Boundaries by YWCA

May 4, 2022

Communication Abuse by CLW

June 1, 2022

A Survivor's Story by ODSC

NEXT!

**TO RSVP and for more information, contact Denise Paro
at: dparo@centerlw.org or 508-556-1600.**



**YOU MUST REGISTER FOR EACH
CHAT YOU WANT TO JOIN BEFORE
THE "RSVP BY" DATE SHOWN!**



2022 DHILS Consumer *ZOOM* Chats

1:00 - 2:00 PM

~~Tuesday, February 22~~

~~RSVP BY: February 18~~

~~Tuesday, March 22~~

~~RSVP BY: March 18~~

~~Tuesday, April 26~~

~~RSVP BY: April 22~~

Tuesday, May 24

RSVP BY: May 20

Tuesday, June 28

RSVP BY: June 24



ZOOM CHAT ASL VLOG:

<https://youtu.be/OBdXcnYlhBo>

**Want a *Zoom* Guide for a Computer/
Cell Phone/iPad?**

Learn how to:

- ♦ Download *Zoom*
- ♦ Join/Leave a meeting
- ♦ Gallery View vs. Speaker View
- ♦ Pin a screen



Contact Denise Paro

508-762-1164 (VP)

Email: dparo@centerlw.org

RSVP to get the Zoom link!
Zoom links emailed
Tuesday mornings.

RSVP HERE: <https://forms.gle/fm3J1gPihpzcZDK1A>



Questions? Contact Denise Paro
508-762-1164 (VP) Email: dparo@centerlw.org



Need help with your MassHealth benefits? We're here for you.

What My Ombudsman Does

We help you when you need assistance getting a covered service or benefit from MassHealth.

How My Ombudsman Works



Information: We answer questions about your MassHealth benefits and explain your rights and responsibilities as a MassHealth member.



Solutions: We help explain denial letters, address problems accessing your health coverage and more.



Communication: We talk with you, your health care providers, and your MassHealth plan so that everyone understands what you need.

How to Contact Us



Helpline: 855-781-9898 (English, Español, and other languages)
Videophone: 339-224-6831 (for Deaf and Hard of Hearing)



info@myombudsman.org



myombudsman.org

Monday through Friday 9am to 4pm

Updated *Therapists for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing* Directory

Click here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mRNQIKYYNjM4vYpRX7OECQkiW-PQlu62/view?usp=sharing>



MISSED A *WHAT'S UP* NEWSLETTER?

Past issues of newsletters are on our website!

VISIT: [HTTPS://WWW.CENTERLW.ORG/SERVICES/DEAF-HARD-OF-HEARING/](https://www.centerlw.org/services/deaf-hard-of-hearing/)

NOTE: Contact your Skills Trainer with questions.

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)
Rosemary Moreira	Deaf Skills Trainer (Full-time)	508-762-1166 (VP)
Kim White	Staff Interpreter	508-755-1042 (Voice); 508-283-1036 (VP)
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/T*TY: 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>