

June 8, 2023



Empowering Independence

CENTER FOR LIVING & WORKING, INC.

WHAT'S UP?



Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services

## Welcome to our DHILS Team Deanna!



Hello! My name is **Deanna Emberley-Handricken**, your new Deaf Skills Trainer at CLW! I am beyond excited to be part of the DHILS team and grateful for the opportunity to meet and work with you.

I was born and raised in Newfoundland & Labrador (NL), Canada. Much like America, I can read and write in English and use ASL with a bit of a Newfoundland accent! I graduated from Gallaudet University with a bachelor's degree in biology and computer information systems, however, my career shifted to working with Deaf and hard of hearing children and adults of all ages in various agencies for 21 years, which I've enjoyed. I have two homes: one here in Massachusetts and one in NL, Canada, where I enjoy traveling to visit family and friends. I also enjoy other travel, and spending quality time with my family. I am an animal lover and enjoy the companionship of my pets, horseback riding, going for walks or hikes, watching movies and TV shows, going on day field trips, and socializing with family and friends.

My goal is to empower Deaf and hard of hearing people to access the DHILS services and support they seek. I look forward to connecting with you soon!

## Games & Chat Recap

On May 9th, DHILS hosted a *"Games & Chat"* - our 1st in-person event since 2020! Snacks were provided, including delicious dumplings from Hsiu Wheeler. It was great to check-in and chat with everyone.

We also played a "Poppers" game. Though we had no luck popping the balls into the bag, it was very entertaining! *We hope to see you all soon for future events!*



## CLW-DHILS Goes to the State House

Thursday, May 18th was *Deaf and Hard of Hearing Constituent's Day* at the State House. This is the first time the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late-Deafened, DeafBlind and DeafDisabled community was able to go to the State House since 2019! The celebration was scaled back from what normally takes place but we hope to be back next year for a full program.

After opening comments from SAC [Statewide Advisory Council] Chair **Michelle Motta Dardeno** and MCDHH **Commissioner Opeoluwa Sotonwa**, the 2020 Award Winners were recognized.

**Kate Walsh**, *Secretary of Health and Human Services*, also joined the celebration.

Enjoy the pictures below and view more on MCDHH's Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/MCDHH.MA/>



# Deaf and Hard of Hearing Night at Fenway

Saturday, June 3rd was *Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Night* at Fenway as the Red Sox played the Tampa Bay Rays.

## Honorees

- Susan Sprague - ODSC
- Lorna Laferriere - ODSC
- Carol Hilbinger - DEAF, Inc.
- Eveleen Cunningham - DEAF, Inc.
- Ruth Moore - Community
- Marlene Blackstone - ASL National Anthem
- Robbie Martin - 7th inning short song



## Protect Your Bones!

Tips to keep your bones strong:

- Eat foods that support bone health — leafy green vegetables and fish;
- Exercise: do weight-bearing activities, like strength training or hiking;
- Don't smoke, and limit your alcohol consumption.



**Remember:** Your risk of osteoporosis grows as you get older. 1 in 5 women and 1 in 20 men over the age of 50 will develop osteoporosis, so take steps early to help protect your bones!

## COVID-19 Updates: U.S. at Glance



Total Hospitalizations  
6,169,122

Total Deaths  
1,130,593

17.0% of People with Updated Booster Dose

Trend in Hospital Admissions  
-8.4% in past week

Trend in % COVID-19 Deaths  
+7.1% in past week



<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>

# MCDHH News: Staffing Updates



Stephanie Hakulin

**Stephanie Hakulin** has accepted MCDHH's offer to become a Staff Interpreter. Her first day will be Tuesday, June 20th, 2023. Stephanie will be working in the Northeast, Boston and Metro Boston area, as well as remote assignments as needed.

Stephanie will interpret for MCDHH staff and community settings, such as medical, mental health, DeafBlind, press conferences, platform assignments, and VLOGs as assigned. Stephanie holds a BA in Communication Studies from Gallaudet University and works as a Deaf Interpreter (DI). Most recently, she worked at The Learning Center for the Deaf (TLC) as a Staff DI and as a faculty member at the University of New Hampshire in Manchester. She is an instructor for Road to Deaf Interpreting as well. She is also involved as a Director of Artistic Sign Language/ASL consultant for the theatre.

In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her two lovely children, cardio workouts, sports, traveling, and being a fur-Auntie to Jack Gibbs and Nemo/Dory (her cats).



## MyServices Portal for MassHealth Members

Since **June 1st, 2023**, the new **MyServices Portal** is now available for all MassHealth members!

The **MyServices** portal is a new member web portal designed for **all** applicants and members to:

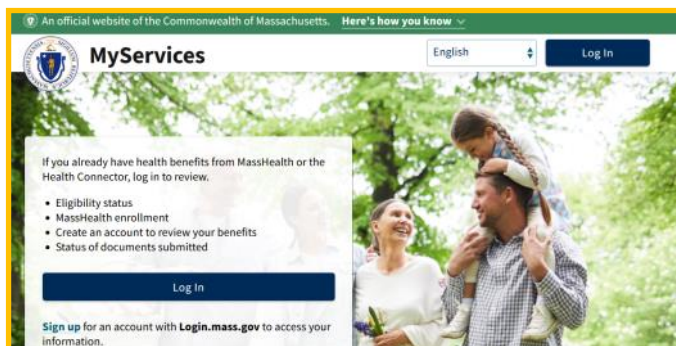
- review contact information
- review *MassHealth* and Health Connector eligibility status
- review *MassHealth* enrollment information
- check the status of Requests for Information (RFIs) you sent to *MassHealth*
- get alerts about important events and things you need to do
- review eligibility notices sent by *MassHealth*

MyServices is:

- translated in 6 languages: English, Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese, Traditional Chinese, Vietnamese, and Haitian Creole.
- available on the web and mobile app for Android or iOS

See attached "MyServices Information & FAQ's"

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/learn-about-myservices>



# Worcester Parent Guide to Community Resources

[CLICK HERE FOR ENGLISH GUIDE](#)



## Therapists for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Directory Updates coming soon!

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/2022/07/whats-up-newsletter/>



## Questions? 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)
Deanna Emberley-Handricken	Deaf Skills Trainer (Part-time)	508-762-1021 (VP)
Rosemary Moreira	Deaf Skills Trainer (Full-time)	508-762-1166 (VP)
Jonathan Vanderschrick	Deaf Skills Trainer (Full-time)	508-762-1350 (VP)
Kim White	Staff Interpreter	508-755-1042 (Voice); 508-283-1036 (VP)

## Contact Us!



Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services

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](http://www.CenterLW.org)



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

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