

October 12, 2023



Empowering Independence

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



Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services

## CLW at **SILC 2023**

Tuesday, September 26th was the SILC (Statewide Independent Living Council) Conference in Marlborough, MA. This is an annual event, but it was the first time back in-person since COVID.

DHILS and other CLW staff attended and went to different workshops about housing, mental health, and benefits [Social Security, etc.] There were also many different agencies with informational tables. *It was a wonderful day!*



## Deaf Awareness Event 2023

On Thursday, September 26th DHILS celebrated *Deaf Awareness Week* by hosting a get together in the *Walnut Room* of our new office's building at 18 Chestnut Street. Deaf Skills Trainer, Jonathan Vanderschrick shared about the *World Federation of the Deaf* and the history of *International Sign [IS]*. We also learned what different signs looked like in: ASL, IS and Brazilian Sign Language.

Everyone brought food to share, and after the presentation we enjoyed a potluck lunch with delicious deli meats, salad, chips and lots of desserts!

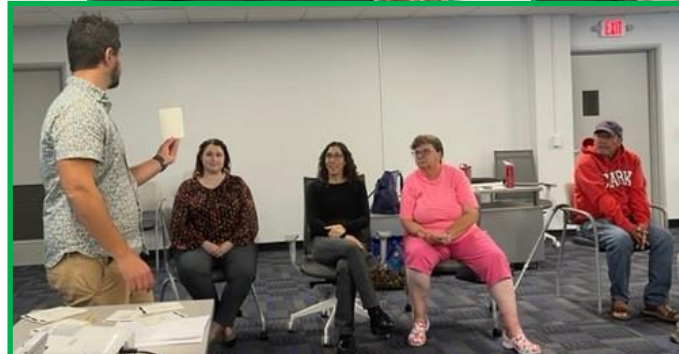
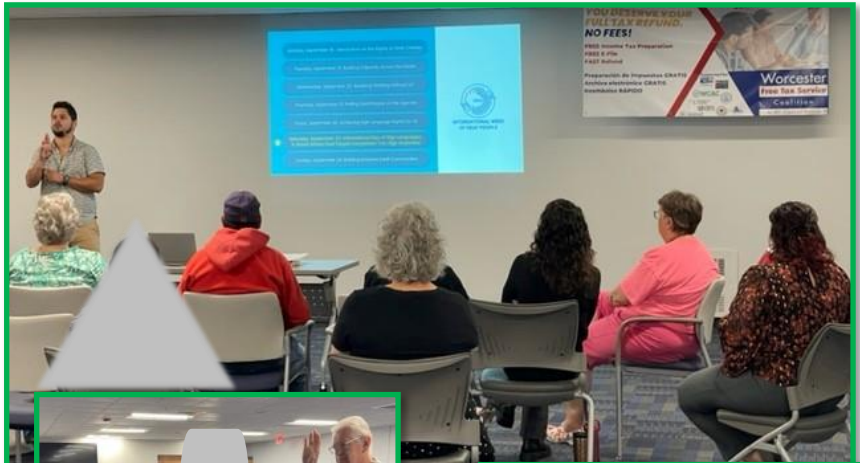
The event wrapped up with games, including "Hands Shapes" and "Trivia". It was a great opportunity to learn new signs and see each other in person.

*See page 2 for more pictures!*



INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF DEAF PEOPLE

# Deaf Awareness Event 2023—Pictures





# Introducing *Maura Lyons*

Greetings everyone! My name is Maura Lyons and I am an interpreting student at Northern Essex Community College. Currently I am interning at CLW to improve my signing and interpreting skills. Before learning ASL, I was a school teacher for ten years. I hold a BA from Emerson College and an MA from New York University and I will be graduating with my Sign Language Interpreting Certificate in Spring 2024. I look forward to working with you!



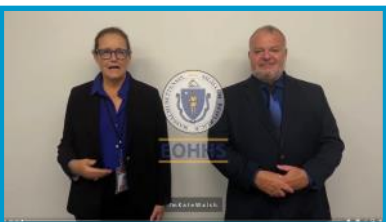
## MCDHH VLOGS & Updates

### Hispanic Heritage Month

Facebook: <https://fb.watch/nhiXXBAndk/>

VLOG Transcript: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-BC6CidegpkS7YoPcyaAZG803rtdfXn7ucI9VA\\_tQdY/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-BC6CidegpkS7YoPcyaAZG803rtdfXn7ucI9VA_tQdY/edit?usp=sharing)

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=meL7MYt8BOY>



### Message from Secretary Kate Walsh in Honor of [#DeafAwarenessMonth](#)

Facebook: <https://fb.watch/nBp3SJgxfn/>

VLOG Transcript: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wMfQtEbgKaCNIU6gdig1xu9wdgM9K91nbK-3JoWvoWo/edit?fbclid=IwAR3\\_5orOiUQltXY8AIDTnq2gxSp\\_TXRpKBw-J9\\_NBdQvyQiZRNbLzSPZRdo](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wMfQtEbgKaCNIU6gdig1xu9wdgM9K91nbK-3JoWvoWo/edit?fbclid=IwAR3_5orOiUQltXY8AIDTnq2gxSp_TXRpKBw-J9_NBdQvyQiZRNbLzSPZRdo)

### "On The Road With MCDHH"

A film which shows [#MCDHH](#) services from a first-day staff member perspective.

Watch here: <https://fb.watch/nBpfJbPDXy/>



For staffing updates and other news please Follow MCDHH on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/MCDHH.MA/>

## 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline Adds American Sign Language Services

Connect directly to a trained *988 Lifeline* counselor in ASL.

- Click "ASL Now" button on [988lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org)
- Call 1-800-273-TALK (8255) from your VP



*Direct dialing to 988 from a videophone will be available in the coming weeks!*

# TLC Receives Fourth Grant to Continue COVID Outreach Education



The Learning Center for the Deaf has received its fourth grant from Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) to support COVID-19 outreach and education. *Funding will support initiatives through June 30, 2024.*

What began as the Vaccine Equity Initiative has shifted to a broader approach and partnership to improve equity in public health through community-led interventions including:

- Longstanding mental health trauma and affects from the pandemic
- Accessible health information
- Getting rid of health inequities caused by social, economic, and environmental systems, policies and practices.

Learn more: <https://www.tldeaf.org/services/covid-19-vaccine-education-initiative>



## Dr. IV Mirus On New Covid Vaccine

Watch here: [https://youtu.be/uYWZ\\_SKJtwc?si=dForuPFmgSegAsTO](https://youtu.be/uYWZ_SKJtwc?si=dForuPFmgSegAsTO)



## Free COVID-19 At-Home Test Kits by Mail!

Every U.S. household can now place an order to get 4 free COVID-19 rapid tests sent directly to your home.

- ◆ Limit: 1 order per residential address
- ◆ 1 order includes 4 individual rapid antigen COVID-19 tests

([COVIDTests.gov](https://COVIDTests.gov) has more details about at-home tests, including extended shelf life and updated expiration dates).

SIMILARITIES BETWEEN COVID-19 AND FLU		
COVID-19		FLU
Runny nose	FEVER	Onset is sudden
—	—	—
General feeling of being unwell	COUGH	Exhaustion, and loss of appetite
—	—	—
Difficulty breathing	BODY ACHES	—
—	—	—
Potential loss of taste and smell	DIARRHEA	Symptoms are severe

## STOP MEDICARE FRAUD

Follow these 3 tips to protect yourself from scammers:

- **Don't respond** if you get a call, text or email asking for your Medicare Number.
- **Check your Medicare statements, notices and claims carefully.**
- Suspect fraud? **Report it!**



<https://www.medicare.gov>



1-800-633-4227



Watch video at: <https://youtu.be/ivDx78vhjCs>



## COVID-19 Vaccination Recommendations

Updated 10/3/2023



- Everyone aged 5 years and older should get 1 dose of the updated Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to protect against serious illness from COVID-19.
- People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised may get **additional** doses of updated COVID-19 vaccine.
- Children aged 6 months–4 years need multiple doses of COVID-19 vaccines to be **up to date**, including at least 1 dose of updated COVID-19 vaccine.



<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines>

**Vaccine recommendations will be updated as needed.**



# Worcester Parent Guide to Community Resources

[CLICK HERE FOR ENGLISH GUIDE](#)



## 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/2022/07/WHATS-UP-NEWSLETTER/](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>