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TDHHCConnections

MARCH 2016



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This newsletter is dedicated to uniting the Deaf and Hard of Hearing of East Texas and all supporters by providing information and reporting events that enhance our lives and our community

To receive a newsletter mail your name and address to TDHHC at PO Box 6134 Tyler, TX 75711-6134 or email: connections@tdhhc.org
Articles and photos are welcome

A Call for Action

Reported by Susie Grona

Big changes are coming to the Deaf community in Texas and you can help decide the outcome.

As of September 1, 2016, the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) will be closed and rolled into the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS) will also be under HHSC. The DARS Vocational Rehabilitative Services will be moved under the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). This is a final decision made by the Texas Legislature.

Part of this legislative decision requires DARS to examine whether or not the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services should be outsourced to Centers for Independent Living. An explanation is available in ASL at their website: dars.state.tx.us/services/outsourcing. DARS WANTS YOUR FEEDBACK.

Last week I went to Fort Worth to attend a stakeholder's meeting on this topic. The turnout was so large that the audience had to be moved to a bigger room. For the state, the objective for this change is to eliminate waste and save tax dollars; but the overall concern is the possibility of limited quality in the services provided to deaf and hard of hearing consumers.

The outcry from the Deaf Community was loud and clear as the overwhelming majority supported that DHHS remain under HHSC and not outsourced to CILs. We all realize that the DHHS is, in part run, by persons who are deaf or hard of hearing. DHHS has a long history of understanding Deaf culture, language accessibility and the many issues with overall equal access.

My suggestions of possible solutions for

DARS are: To fund all current DHHS programs as an extension under the HHSC; to keep all current Deafness Resource Specialists as they are experienced staff and will definitely save our

tax dollars rather than hiring new persons within CILs who may need extra training, thus more tax dollars spent. Finally, to hire Deaf consultants to work within the legislative systems and educate the senators and representatives about the importance of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services.

Outsourcing DHHServices to Centers for Independent Living

**IT IS TIME FOR ACTION.
What is your Opinion?
Would DHHServices be better served under the Centers for Independent Living?**

We have a short window of opportunity to give our comments. DARS and PCG will take your video log (vlog) and written comments until **5PM ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2016.**

Comments may be submitted electronically by email to: TXCILCONTACT@pcgus.com or sent by postal mail to:
Public Consulting Group
Attn: Sara Goscha
150 W. Market Street, Ste.510
Indianapolis, IN 46204



The Public Consulting Group is an independent group who has been hired by DARS to collect our input and to make the assessment for the proposal of whether or not for DHHServices should go under Centers for Independent Living.

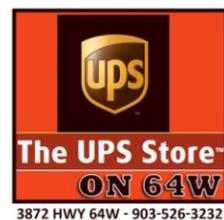
Also contact your local senators and representatives so that when it is time for them to vote we encourage them to keep the funding for DHHS directly and not to outsource to the CILs.

Let's stand united for the deaf and hard of hearing community in the Lone Star State.

Thank You!
Supporters and Sponsors



Thank You!
Thank You!



Thank You!

Suzy's Zone



East Texas Deaf Community

One of the nice things about the deaf and hard of hearing community in East Texas is the collectiveness and diversity of people involved with a simple and common ground that is shared experiences. This unique community is also multi cultural, and diverse with a variety of talents that create one world, the Deaf World.

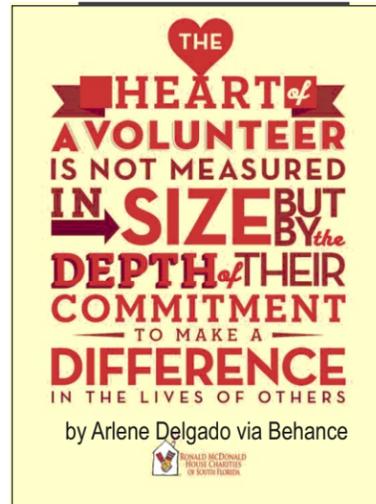
This brings me to share about the Super Bowl party hosted by Robert Phelps and Johnny Greer, of Lindale. These two generous, deaf guys with hearts of gold planned a party at Wing Stop in Lindale, Texas, and over 50 deaf, hard of hearing and hearing people showed up from all over East Texas for the event. And it was definitely a Deaf World blast!

The only disappointment was with the ongoing controversy with media's lack of viewer's accessibility for the deaf community. We only saw a few seconds of Marlee Matlin's signing the national anthem and we wished she could have stood on the stage with Lady Gaga throughout the whole performance. In real life, interpreters stand next to the speaker while interpreting, I just don't understand why the media doesn't allow Marlee to do the same? Something's

amiss here, don't you think so? Well, that disappointment didn't last long, we definitely had a blast rooting for our favorite Super Bowl teams while eating delicious chicken wings and winning door prizes. So, a big THANK YOU goes to the management of Wings Stop in Lindale and to Robert and Johnny and others who planned this special event.

Thumbs up,

Susie Grona
Community Committee President



TDHHC Board Update

February 2016

by Stephanie Deibert, Secretary

Greetings from the Tyler Deaf and Hard of Hearing Center's board of directors! Our first fundraiser of 2016 was at Dickey's BBQ in Tyler, who for the third year in a row, generously shared a percentage of their profits with us on February 6th. If you know of any other restaurants or entertainment venues (movies, bowling, putt-putt golf, etc.) especially ones that you support regularly – that might partner with us in a fundraiser, please let us know! The main focus of our efforts is toward paying for a “home” for our center so that members of the East Texas Deaf community can have a place to come together for education, support and fellowship.

We are also in the process of revamping our webpage to include a blog, pictures of current events and a better calendar. Overall, the goal is to make it more helpful and user friendly.

Other happenings include continuing to grow TDHHC's interpreting services, sponsoring a TJC scholarship for prospective Interpreting students and working on a state grant to support a Senior Citizen program to provide increased services for our Deaf and Hard of Hearing seniors. Pretty exciting stuff; watch for more updates in our newsletters!

METRO NEWS

TYLER METRO ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

by President Daphne Smith

As promised, we are trying new things this year. Please note the change in location of both the Coffee Chat and our monthly meetings. The TJC West Campus has comfortable meeting rooms and a cafeteria area for our pot luck. Come join us!

Daphne

Apache Alert!

Updates from the Tyler Junior College Sign Language Interpreter Program

TJC's credit classes for the ASL and Interpreting program degrees begin with the first class during long summer session which starts June 6. If interested, look at www.tjc.edu or email rmck@tjc.edu.

SAVE THE DATE

May 12

TJC ITP Alumni Event
Celebrating 20 years of Excellence
All Alumni, Supporters, and Deaf are encouraged to attend to show appreciation and support for the program
Tickets are \$15 for dinner/entertainment

July 20-24

TSID/RID Conference
www.2016.tsid.org

Coffee Chat

1st Saturdays 7pm
----> NEW LOCATION <----

McDonald's
5894 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler

and

3rd Fridays 7pm
Whataburger

311 S Main Street, Lindale
(Hwy 69 near Brookshire's)

Basic Conversational Sign Language II in the Workplace

Monday/Wednesday
March 14 - April 6
6:00pm - 8:00pm
TJC West Campus
1530 SSW Loop 323
Tyler, TX 75701

For more information or to register call
TJC Continuing Studies: 903-510-2900

DATES PLACES

Seniors Outting

Those age 55 and better are welcome

Thursday, March 3

Olive Garden

5520 S. Broadway

11am

RSVP

John Luckey

jhlkel96@aol.com



TMAD

New Location for the

Monthly Meetings

TJC West Campus

1530 SSW Loop 323, Tyler

Conference Room

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

12pm - 4pm

POT LUCK LUNCH

Table Games



Pot Luck is St Patrick's Day theme
We will provide the meat
contact Mica for what you will bring
bakermj42@gmail.com

Silent Lunch

Saturday, March 12 - 1PM

Grub Burger Bar - 6421 S. Broadway

Senior

Focus

A native of Temple, Texas, John Luckey was found to be deaf when he was about two years old. After one year at Texas School for the Deaf in Austin, he was transferred to the Central Institute for the Deaf in St. Louis, Missouri. Besides an education of speaking and lip reading, he learned

woodworking, whittling, and drawing. Later he attended a public high school near Temple, Texas and continued his education in woodworking and learned drafting.

He was a monument setter for a short time working in cemeteries in and around Central Texas and later worked as a carpenter in home building. John spent 26 years as a draftsman working for two different companies one in San Marcos and then Dallas. When TXU Energy went through its downsizing, he took an early retirement and later set up a small woodworking shop on a piney acreage near Lindale, Texas. After twenty years, he sold the shop.

Today John and his wife, Regina, a former pupil at Pilot School for the Deaf at Dallas, live in Whitehouse, Texas. He has a small shop in his garage and enjoys doing small woodwork projects and whittling. Another hobby he enjoys with the help of his computer is researching the history of the Civil War and World War II. John is the leader of the Senior Outings group and he and Regina are often seen wherever there is a gathering of the Deaf community.



John Luckey is an active volunteer with TDHHC. We thank him for his gift of this beautifully carved wooden sign



SAVE THESE DATES

Saturday, April 2 ✓
TMAD MEETING

Thursday, April 7 ✓
TDHHC Fundraiser
4pm - 8:30- BJ's Restaurant
look for COUPON and full details
in the April newsletter

Saturday, April 16 ✓
East Texas Games for Deaf
Calvary Baptist Church
Old Jacksonville Road, Tyler