

March 6, 2025



Empowering Independence

CENTER FOR LIVING & WORKING, INC.

WHAT'S UP?



Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services



## CLW is Celebrating 50 Years!

Even though CLW programs have changed over the years, our core mission of working with individuals with disabilities to ensure that they have the ability to lead full and active lives and participate fully in all aspects of their lives remains the same. Our advocacy has helped advance access to housing, transportation, and various other services that all empower individuals with disabilities and enable them to live independently.

Please see the **Invitation** in our **Events** section.

### Sponsorship/Donations

Thank you to all of our sponsors thus far! While much has been accomplished, much more work still needs to be done. Sponsorship and donation opportunities are available!

Sponsorship form can be found at: [drive.google.com/file/d/1dBpN4EPRVZ10D8hwnoZ\\_H3SZQxUe86Ge/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dBpN4EPRVZ10D8hwnoZ_H3SZQxUe86Ge/view?usp=sharing)



## Welcome to Our Team Priscilla!

Hi, I'm Priscilla Langone! I hail from Charlottesville, VA, but currently live in Massachusetts, I live with my loving family—celebrating 20 years of happy marriage and raising two awesome kids. In my free time, you'll find me tending to my chickens, gardening, or crocheting up a storm. As the new DHILS Administrative Assistant, I'm excited to bring my skills and enthusiasm to work, and I look forward to serving our Deaf and hard of hearing community with care and dedication!



## Welcome CLW DHILS Interns!

Sam Cuddy [Framingham State University Practicum Student]

Hi! My name is Sam, I'm from Toronto, Canada, and I'm a senior at Framingham State University. I started my internship with DHILS last semester, and was so excited to be invited to continue into my spring semester! I lost my job suddenly during the pandemic and decided to start learning ASL as a hobby, a way to stay productive, challenge myself, and connect with other people during a period of isolation. I really enjoyed it and got more and more involved, and enthusiastic and decided to go back to school. My goal is to continue gaining confidence, increase my community involvement and improve my overall language skills! I'm so grateful to have the support of the DHILS team during this next step of my journey. The mentorship and support I've received from the DHILS team throughout this past year will stick with me wherever life takes me after graduation.



Julianne Hawley (*College of the Holy Cross Community Based Learning Student*)

My name is Julianne Hawley. I am a sophomore at the College of the Holy Cross majoring in Political Science and minoring in Deaf Studies! I am interning with CLW this semester in partnership with my ASL course. Some of my hobbies are reading and spending time outdoors. I hope to learn from CLW and help where I can!



Aidan Gibbons (*College of the Holy Cross Community Based Learning Student*)

My name is Aidan Gibbons, and I am a sophomore at the College of the Holy Cross, majoring in Environmental Studies with a minor in Deaf Studies. I am actively involved in volunteer work, including Habitat for Humanity and assisting at a camp for individuals with neurological and physical disabilities. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with friends, playing with my dog, and golfing.



**Save the Date!**



**Spring Party**

Wednesday, April 30th

1:00 — 3:00 pm

Flyer coming soon!

## HLAA Releases New **“Hearing Loss Toolkit”**

Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) has released a new **Hearing Loss Toolkit** to empower people in our community and across the U.S.

Designed to take the guesswork out of this growing public health crisis that affects more than 50 million Americans, the *Toolkit* helps people recognize, treat and communicate with hearing loss. Information includes:

- Hearing loss by the numbers
- Signs, Symptoms and Steps
  - ⇒ Do you have hearing loss?
  - ⇒ Steps for Success
- Communication Tips
  - ⇒ Common challenges
  - ⇒ Assistive Technology



You can view/print documents *and* download the entire *Toolkit*.

**Find the *Toolkit* here:** <https://www.hearingloss.org/understanding-hearing-loss/hearing-loss-101/hearing-loss-toolkit>

**HLAA website:** <https://www.hearingloss.org/>

## MCD10 User Guide ASL Translation *Coming Soon*

**Vlog:** [https://youtu.be/PLtpf9P5dEA?si=RuCv2E\\_nz2HvbFyN](https://youtu.be/PLtpf9P5dEA?si=RuCv2E_nz2HvbFyN)

**Vlog Transcript:** [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EDaSMrlh\\_sq\\_GByK\\_4\\_mW1LRxWG7BBM-9gf8jyl\\_x8o/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EDaSMrlh_sq_GByK_4_mW1LRxWG7BBM-9gf8jyl_x8o/edit?usp=sharing)

MCDHH is proud to announce the **MCD10 Contract and User Guide** will be disseminated [second week of March] and officially become effective July 1, 2025.

MCDHH departments are working together currently to create an **ASL translation of the MCD10 User Guide**. Due to the large volume of content being translated, we appreciate your patience as our team finalizes all ASL translation to be published in June.

**For questions about the *MCD10 User Guide*, please contact:**

- Cat, Director of Communication Access Services, at [cat.b.dvar@mass.gov](mailto:cat.b.dvar@mass.gov)
- Tony, Referral Services Supervisor, at [anthony.harrison@mass.gov](mailto:anthony.harrison@mass.gov)

**For questions about the *MCD10 Contract*, please contact:**

- [OSDHelpDesk@mass.gov](mailto:OSDHelpDesk@mass.gov) [NOTE: Please leave “For Dan Chase re MCD10” in the email subject line]



## New Executive at Deaf Seniors of America (DSA)

Flash News (shared by *MassDSC*): It appears **Sherri Collins** has transitioned from her role as the Executive Director of the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ACDHH) to a new executive position at Deaf Seniors of America (DSA).

ASL vlog about her new role at DSA: [Sherri Collins with Pres. Aiello's intro](#)

Learn more about Mrs. Collins' former ACDHH position:

<https://www.acdhh.org/about-the-commission/about-acdhh/>

DSA's Website: [Deaf Seniors of America](#)

No email is available yet; instead use this DSA contact form:

<https://www.deafseniors.us/contact>

*MassDSC* will invite Sherri Collins sometime in the future to present, please contact Lori Maynard at [lamaynard@gmail.com](mailto:lamaynard@gmail.com) for updates.



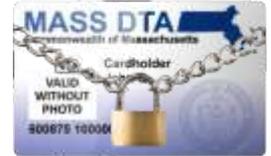
## Prevent SNAP Theft

Lock Your Card (when not being used) *and* Change Your Pin Frequently!

Unfortunately, federal funding used to replace stolen SNAP benefits will not be available for thefts that happen *after December 20, 2024*. Keep reporting any stolen benefits to DTA as soon as it's discovered. Stolen benefits can't be replaced right now, but they *may* be able to if more funding becomes available.

### How to Report Stolen Benefits:

- 1) Call the DTA Fraud Line at 833-602-9247 *or*
- 2) Fill out the Claim for Replacement of Stolen Benefits form online
- 3) Complete and mail the Claim for Replacement of Benefits Stolen Electronically form to:
  - ⇒ DTA Program Integrity Fraud Investigation Unit P.O. Box 4411 Taunton, MA 02780-0435

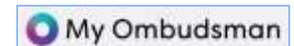


### More information can be found here:

- [How to Secure your SNAP Card](#)
- [Claim for Replacement of Stolen Benefits Form](#)
- [The Claim for Replacement of Benefits Stolen Electronically form](#)

## New *MassHealth* My Ombudsman

If you are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late-Deafened, DeafBlind and a *MassHealth* member and need help with your *MassHealth* health plan, you may contact **Marie Desrosiers**, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ombudsman at [info@myombudsman.org](mailto:info@myombudsman.org) or 339-224-6831 (videophone).



### What does an Ombudsman do?

- **Problem-solver:** Helps members with health insurance problems.
- **Investigator:** Looks into complaints about denied claims, billing errors, access to health care and wellness.
- **Communicator:** Talks to both the member and *MassHealth* to find solutions.
- **Educator:** Helps members understand their health insurance rights.
- **Resource:** A good place to go when you can't solve a *MassHealth* problem yourself.

Learn more here: <https://www.myombudsman.org/deaf-services>

# Deaf Yes!

## Research Opportunity

Vlog explaining the study: [youtu.be/VWjKiG\\_NLS4?si=NonZpINOLamm4gcU](https://youtu.be/VWjKiG_NLS4?si=NonZpINOLamm4gcU)



The **DeafYES!** team at UMass Chan Medical School is conducting a study for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing individuals who have experienced trauma-related stress and alcohol use within the past month. Eligible participants may receive up to 12 virtual counseling sessions at no cost, learn skills to manage trauma and addiction, and earn up to \$500 for completing five online surveys throughout the course of the study.

If you have any questions about the *Signs of Safety* study, please feel free to reach out to our study team by replying to this message or contacting the study team at [signsofsafety@umassmed.edu](mailto:signsofsafety@umassmed.edu).

  	
<p><b>In the past month, have you experienced <u>trauma-related stress and alcohol use?</u></b></p>	
	<p><b>If YES, this study may be right for you!</b></p> 
<p><b><u>Who can join?</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deaf, DeafBlind, or Hard of Hearing</li> <li>• Fluent in American Sign Language (ASL)</li> <li>• 18 years and older</li> <li>• Alcohol use in the past month</li> <li>• Trauma-related stress in the past month</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Possible benefits may include:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 virtual counseling sessions at no cost</li> <li>• Learn skills to manage trauma and addiction</li> <li>• Earn \$\$ for completing 5 online surveys throughout the course of the study</li> </ul>
<p><b>Interested?</b> Contact: <a href="mailto:signsofsafety@umassmed.edu">signsofsafety@umassmed.edu</a></p>	





Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services



# Join our team as our: DEAF SKILLS TRAINER

**\$18.35/hour | 40 hours/week | Monday-Friday | Hybrid/2-3 office days**

## Apply now if you love to:

- ✓ Do intakes with Deaf consumers.
- ✓ Provide skills training & peer counseling.
- ✓ Develop/review Independent Living Plans with consumers.
- ✓ Provide information and referral.
- ✓ Support/advocate for consumers & DHILS.
- ✓ Provide emergency intervention.
- ✓ Learn from in-service trainings and conferences.
- ✓ Work independently & as a team.
- ✓ Work with individuals with diverse disabilities & cultures.
- ✓ Complete consumer and service reports.
- ✓ Lead workshops/presentations.

## Qualifications:

- ✓ High School/equivalent (GED)
- ✓ Bachelor Degree in health/human services, preferred; years of relevant experience may substitute.
- ✓ Able to drive within our service area.

## Experience Required:

- ✓ ASL Fluency
- ✓ Minimum 2 years Deaf/Hard of Hearing services relevant work experience, OR Deaf/Hard of Hearing community involvement.
- ✓ Computer skills: Microsoft Office & database reporting.

## BENEFITS

**Sign-on Bonus: \*\$250**  
(\*after 90-day probationary period)

## 403(b) Retirement

### PAID:

- Health & Dental Insurance
- Vacation & Sick Time; & 13 Holidays
- Parking & Mileage Reimbursement
- Life Insurance
- Long Term Disability

APPLY NOW



Apply and See More Info Here:

Full-Time DHILS Deaf Skills Trainer Position



Interested or Have Questions?

Email Emily Patton at:  
[epatton@centerlw.org](mailto:epatton@centerlw.org)

Center for Living & Working, Inc.  
18 Chestnut Street Suite 540  
Worcester, MA 01608  
Website: [www.centerlw.org](http://www.centerlw.org)

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

VP: (508) 762-1164  
Voice: (508) 798-0350  
TTY: (508) 755-1003

# Research Internship for Deaf or Hard of Hearing College Students

## Application

### Deadline:

April 1, 2025

### Questions:

[audiology.research@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:audiology.research@childrens.harvard.edu)

Through a year-long internship, the Audiology Research Lab at Boston Children's Hospital seeks to spark interest in talented young adults with hearing differences to become actively involved in Deaf and Hard of Hearing research.

Interns will gain exposure to the clinical research process at an academic medical center, contribute meaningfully to active audiological research studies, and have the opportunity to present their collaborative work at an academic research conference.

The internship is full-time (in-person in Waltham, MA) for the first 2-months (June-July) followed by part-time (remote) during the academic year (September-May).

Learn more and apply here:



*Made possible by the generous support of*



**Boston Children's Hospital**

Where the world comes for answers

## 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 & Priscilla Langone	DHILS 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)
Vacant	Deaf Skills Trainer (Full-time)	508-762-1350 (VP)
Kim White	Staff Interpreter	508-755-1042 (Voice); 508-283-1036 (VP)

## Contact Us!

Center for Living & Working, Inc.  
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services Department

Videophone: 508-762-1164

TTY: 508-755-1003

[www.CenterLW.org](http://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>