

May 8, 2025



Empowering Independence

CENTER FOR LIVING & WORKING, INC.

WHAT'S UP?



Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services

## Spring Party 2025

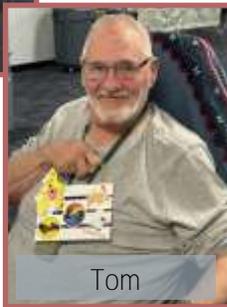
On Tuesday, April 29th, DHILS staff, consumers and community members gathered in the Walnut Room of 18 Chestnut Street for our second annual **Spring Party**.

Consumers made a craft – a hanging wooden board – with decorations they chose like artificial flowers, ASL stickers, paper flowers and leaves. It was great to see what everyone came up with for a design!



Everyone brought a snack to share and DHILS provided drinks and other treats.

After having a bite to eat, Priscilla led a game called **LCR [Left, Center, Right]** which everyone enjoyed. It was a great way to welcome Spring.



Tom



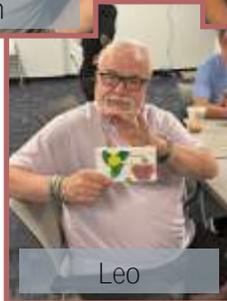
Christian



Jennifer



Susanne and Carolyn, DI



Leo



Suzanne



Jean-Pierre



DHILS Intern Abby painted jars for prizes.



Nora, DI and Susanne



# WRTA: Zero Fare Continues through June 2026

The **Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA)** voted to continue the suspension of bus fares until the **end of June, 2026!** That makes WRTA the longest running, full, fare-free regional transit system in the nation.



The **Worcester Zero Fare Coalition**, elected officials, civic and business leaders, and riders are celebrating the extension of the service that supports the region's economy while bringing continued financial relief and access to public transit to families and residents in 37 towns and cities in Worcester County.

## CaptionCall Mobile Voicemail Upgrade



*CaptionCall Mobile* voicemail has been upgraded! It'll make your voicemail more reliable with even better captioning. As part of this upgrade, your current custom voicemail greeting will be reset. If you'd like to record a new one after the update, simply dial **\*97** from your *CaptionCall Mobile* app and follow the prompts. Otherwise, callers who go to voicemail will hear the default system greeting.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to our support team.

Phone: (877) 557-2227 Email: [ccmsupport@captioncall.com](mailto:ccmsupport@captioncall.com).

## Update from MSAD President, BJ Wood

ASL Vlog: [https://youtu.be/DN7\\_4RN9uuM](https://youtu.be/DN7_4RN9uuM)

MSAD website: [www.massdeaf.org](http://www.massdeaf.org)



## New MassAbility Name Signing

ASL Vlog: <https://youtu.be/Z2OGXGQktQ?si=kby37reXoo3eCdRu>

MRC is now **MassAbility**. See the ASL sign for *MassAbility* on the video.



## Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB) Office Relocating



MCB's main office at 600 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02111 will close effective May 30, 2025. Walk-in services at this location will no longer be available.

The new office at 40 Broad Street, Boston, MA 02109 is scheduled to open in mid-July 2025, pending the completion of ongoing construction. To ensure uninterrupted services during this transition, MCB staff will work remotely and continue meeting with consumers in their homes, workplaces, and communities.

Please note: phone and fax numbers will remain the same - only the physical address

# Know Your Rights!

## Know Your Rights “Red Card”



- Always keep a “know your rights” red card on you, and near your door.
  - Print a card from: [www.ilrc.org/red-cards-tarjetas-rojas](http://www.ilrc.org/red-cards-tarjetas-rojas)
- Slide it under the door to the ICE agent.
- Be sure all family members have them too.
- **Ask your Skills Trainer for a “red card”.**

## RIGHTS



### Basic Rights

#### YOUR RIGHTS:

1. Right to remain silent.
2. Right to refuse searches and access without a warrant.
3. Right to Speak with a lawyer.
4. *If detained, you have the right to request release on bond.*

## Have an Emergency Plan

1. Collect important documents.
2. Setup a family childcare plan:
  - a. Caregiver/vital information forms
  - b. Applying for passports
  - c. Caregiver authorization affidavit
  - d. Temporary agent authorization
3. Know Your Rights “Red Card”.
4. Find legal help.



## What documents to bring?

### Whatever applies to you and your family.

- Passports
- IDs/Driver’s licenses
- Marriage licenses
- Guardianship/custody paperwork
- Emergency contact/caregiver information
- Immigration documents
- Social Security cards
- Legal agent information
- Any other important documents

## Children born in the U.S.

- Register your child’s birth with your country’s government, as soon as possible.
- Apply for the child’s passport.





## If Immigration [ICE] comes to your HOME.

- **Don't** open the door unless ICE shows you a warrant signed by a judge.
  - Ask them to slide the warrant under your door or show it to you through a window.
- If ICE forces entry, **don't** resist.
  - Stay calm and silent [*you and all household members*].
- If you are arrested, you have the right to remain silent.
  - **Don't** say OR sign anything until you meet with a lawyer.
- You can ask why they are there, and for an interpreter **if needed**.



## If Immigration [ICE] comes to your WORK.

- Stay calm and silent; ask if you can leave; **DON'T RUN**.
- You have the **right to refuse a search**, and the **right to remain silent**.
  - You **don't** need to share any personal information.
  - At work, you have **the right to not line up**.



## If Immigration [ICE] RAIDS your work.

- Stay calm and silent.
- **Record everything** for your legal team:
  - Were you or your coworkers mistreated? How?
  - Did they make you feel you couldn't leave or move?
  - How were the agents dressed; were they armed; how many were there?



### If you are in a leadership role:

1. Make an emergency plan.
2. Talk to other leaders/immigration networks about preparations and practice with your staff.
3. Train your staff to **not** talk to ICE.



ICE does **NOT** have the authority to enter private areas without a warrant signed by a judge.

### Legal Help and Resources

- **National Immigrant Law Center**
  - [www.nilc.org](http://www.nilc.org)
- **American Civil Liberties Union**
  - [www.aclu.org/know-your-rights](http://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights)
- **Immigrant Legal Resource Center**
  - [www.ilrc.org/community-resources](http://www.ilrc.org/community-resources)
- **Immigrant Defense Project**
  - [www.immigrantdefenseproject.org](http://www.immigrantdefenseproject.org)
- **Mira Coalition**
  - [www.miracoalition.org/news](http://www.miracoalition.org/news)



**Only lawyers and accredited [licensed] representatives can advise you.**





# MAY AWARENESS



MAY



## May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Mental Health Awareness month began in 1949 and was started by Mental Health America to raise awareness of the importance of good mental health and wellbeing. **You are not alone, no matter what you are going through.**

05



## May 5th is Cinco de Mayo

Cinco de Mayo marks Mexico's victory at the Battle of Puebla, but it is more commonly celebrated in the U.S. as a day of Mexican-American culture and heritage.

09



## May 9th is CLW's 50th Anniversary!

Since 1975, CLW has been empowering Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals and individuals with disabilities to take active roles in their lives and the communities in which they live, and to advocate for equal access to society.

11



## May 11th is Mothers' Day

Mothers' Day is a holiday dedicated to celebrating mothers, grandmothers, and other maternal figures!

26



## May 26th is Memorial Day

Memorial Day is a federal holiday which honors and mourns those who have died while serving in the U.S. military.



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)
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 (Full-time starting <u>05/12/2025</u> )	508-762-1021 (VP)
Rosemary Moreira	Deaf Skills Trainer (Full-time)	508-762-1166 (VP)
Vacant	Deaf Skills Trainer (Part-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: [www.facebook.com/CenterForLivingAndWorking](https://www.facebook.com/CenterForLivingAndWorking)

DHILS Group: [www.facebook.com/groups/clw.dhils](https://www.facebook.com/groups/clw.dhils)