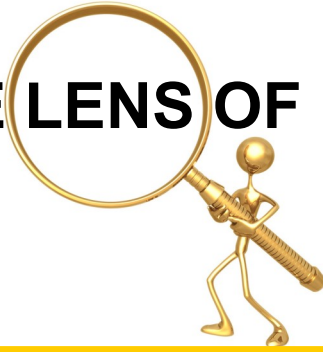


# THROUGH THE LENS OF MCDHH



## COMMISSION MEMBERS

**Antonina Wilson, Chair**  
Parent of a  
Deaf/Hard of Hearing Child

**Gloriana Pack, Vice-Chair**  
Interpreter

**Paul Blicharz**  
Deaf/Hard of Hearing Organization

**Michael Boyd**  
Deaf/Hard of Hearing Member

**Dr. Barbara Garrison**  
Dept. of Elem. & Sec. Ed//MSD

**Vacant**  
Audiology

**Vacant**  
Business Community

**Vacant**  
Deaf/Hard of Hearing Member

**Vacant**  
Local Public School Adm.

## FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**ERNEST E. GARRETT, III**  
M.S., M.S.W., LCSW

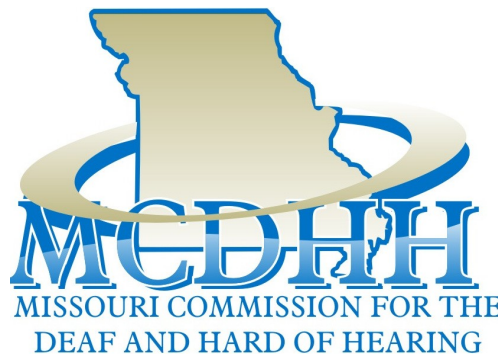
A commitment to the mission of the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, transparency in “how we do things around here;” and a positive, productive and professional attitude in the work we do are hallmarks of mine. To that end, I am pleased to announce the launch of “Through the Lens of MCDHH,” our news digest that will be disseminated to interested persons via MCDHH-L, our electronic listserv, and our web-site. In this December edition, topics covered include MCDHH’s legislative advocacy; new logo; upgrading our ability to remain connected; upcoming Skill Level Standards Review Task Force meeting; and information about our recent Town Hall meeting held in St. Louis. Do you like what you see and read in the MCDHH E-NEWS publication? Then let us know! Send an e-mail to [MCDHH@mcdhh.mo.gov](mailto:MCDHH@mcdhh.mo.gov) to share with us your thoughts about how we are doing with this publication effort. Thank you, and Happy Reading!

## LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY (REVISION PROPOSAL TO SECTION RSMo 376-1220)

376.1220 RSMo. is the statute that mandates health insurers (health insurance companies) to provide health insurance coverage for “newborn hearing screening, necessary rescreening, audiological assessment and follow-up, and initial amplification.” The controversy surrounding this statute usually revolves around the term “initial amplification” and many parents of children with hearing loss have found that they have been denied coverage for certain types of devices used to help with hearing loss, including hearing aids. Due to the lack of a definition of the term “amplification,” health insurers have great latitude in how they can interpret this statute to include or exclude for covered health services related to devices used to help amplify sound for hearing loss. If you or someone you know has experienced resistance from insurance companies in coverage for hearing aids, then please contact MCDHH and let us know by sending an email to [MCDHH@mcdhh.mo.gov](mailto:MCDHH@mcdhh.mo.gov).

## NEW MCDHH LOGO

Do you notice anything different about the logo in this first issue of its publishing vehicle, “Through the Lens of MCDHH?” You’ve guessed it, MCDHH has a new logo! As you are already aware, we are undergoing a number of strategic changes in the interests of improving the quality and coordination of services to and on behalf of the Missouri deaf and hard of hearing community. We believe that one symbol of the changes that we are undergoing – the renewed zeal towards accomplishing the mission of the MCDHH and the strategic planning our agency is currently involved with – can easily be reflected in a new logo. We welcome your thoughts on the new logo. Feel free to let us know what you think by sending an email to [MCDHH@mcdhh.mo.gov](mailto:MCDHH@mcdhh.mo.gov)!



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## FROM THE DESK OF THE MICS COORDINATOR



ANGELA GRAVES

As the snow starts to fall and bury the landscape, the MICS Coordinator's desk becomes buried in a blizzard of a different kind. It's certification renewal time! If you have sent your renewal in on time, thank you very much! If time has gotten away from you, please make sure to send your late renewal in as soon as possible (remember to include the \$30.00 late fee along with the \$15.00 renewal and processing fee!) so your certification can get back in good standing. If you have any questions regarding the renewal process or reinstatement, please contact Angela Graves, MICS Coordinator, at the following email address: [angela.graves@mcdhh.mo.gov](mailto:angela.graves@mcdhh.mo.gov).

If you waited until the last minute to earn your CEUs this time and have VOWED to turn over a new leaf in 2012, here is your opportunity. A list of approved MICS workshops/trainings can be found on our website: <http://mcdhh.mo.gov/2012MICSApprovedCoursesandWorkshops.htm>.

Also, remember that if a workshop is approved for Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) CEUs, they will be accepted in Missouri with proof of attendance. Keep in mind that 1.2 CEUs need to be earned between November 3, 2011 and November 2, 2012 to keep your certification in good standing.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

## UPGRADING MCDHH'S ABILITY TO REMAIN CONNECTED!

Good news! The Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is upgrading its Video Relay Service Provider. Executive Director Ernest E. Garrett III – in consultation with MCDHH Staff – made the decision to switch from Sorenson VRS services to ZVRS services. This will not impact the current Video Phone numbers for deaf staff at MCDHH, as the number will remain the same. There will be one Video Phone designated for public use, and a designated Video Phone through which community members and stakeholders can call MCDHH and leave sign mail messages, should no one answer. We have not had this capability until now, and are thrilled! The new system is expected to be up and running by January 1, 2012.



*MICS Coordinator snowed in with certification renewals*



## UPCOMING SKILL LEVEL STANDARDS REVIEW TASK FORCE MEETING

At the Commission meeting on October 14, 2011, a motion was made and passed authorizing MCDHH to establish a Task Force to review the Skill Level Standards. The task force is composed of representatives from the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing; Board for Certification of Interpreters; and the State Committee of Interpreters, along with legal representation from each group. The task force is expected to review the skill level standards, and to make recommendations for improvement to reflect current best practices in the field of sign language interpretation and transliteration. The first meeting of the Task Force will take place on Thursday, January 5, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the following location:

**Missouri Division of Professional Registration  
3605 Missouri Boulevard  
Jefferson City, MO 65109**

Community members with concerns about the Skill Level Standards for consideration by the task force should send an email to [BCI@mcdhh.mo.gov](mailto:BCI@mcdhh.mo.gov). All concerns will be shared with the Task Force and promptly followed up on. Now is the time to let your voices be heard regarding the Skill Level Standards, and we appreciate any input from community members and stakeholders.

A lot of emphasis has been placed on the concepts of transformational advocacy at the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. In addition, a greater emphasis has been placed on the idea of T.E.A.M. MCDHH. The staff has decided that in honor of the changes in “the way we do things around here” and in our community, we will develop a new THEME for TEAM MCDHH. That THEME is: “M.A.K.E. it a NEW DAY!” Here is a breakdown of that THEME:

**M** = Mary (Executive Secretary)

**A** = Angela (MICS Coordinator)

**K** = Kim (Workshop/Training Specialist)

**E** = Ernest (Executive Director)

When confronted with the challenges of the day, we always find comfort in the fact that tomorrow is a “NEW DAY!”

When listening to views about past practices and policies that were not favorable to the Missouri Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community, we remind members that today is a “NEW DAY!”

Can you think of other appropriate times when it is necessary to emphasize that today (or tomorrow) is a “New Day” for the Missouri deaf and hard of hearing? Share your thoughts and ideas with us by sending an email to [MCDHH@mcdhh.mo.gov](mailto:MCDHH@mcdhh.mo.gov); who knows, we may publish your comments in the next edition of “Through the Lens of MCDHH!”



**M.A.K.E. IT A NEW DAY!**

## FROM THE DESK OF THE WORKSHOP/TRAINING SPECIALIST



**KIM DAVIS**

Time flies fast, especially when the New Year is right around the corner! Let’s talk about setting up our New Year Resolution and being “counted” in the Show-Me State! We are always, or should be, thinking about how to enhance our surroundings and access to communication. Access to information and communication is what deaf and hard of hearing individuals have in common in their daily lives with what they watch on television and when they attend medical, mental health, legal, financial, entertainment, employment and educational appointments or functions. Access to information and communication is enhanced when auxiliary aids and services are provided. When these tools are not provided; however, communication can falter, misunderstanding can occur, and frustration can build up, resulting in civil complaints. What can we do to educate service providers about the importance of providing and meeting their obligations with respect to communication access? Building our knowledge and understanding about laws and rules that govern the undisputable civil rights of deaf and hard of hearing persons sounds like a great New Year Resolution, doesn’t it? Please call or email me to come and give your community an individual or system advocacy training. MCDHH also provides workshops and training concerning a

side variety of subjects, including deaf awareness, empowerment, communications accessibility, and assistive technology for deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind and hearing persons. Together, we can help one another to enhance our surroundings and build the bridges that lead to communication access. I can be reached at (573) 415-0083 (VP/VRS) or at [Kim.Davis@mcdhh.mo.gov](mailto:Kim.Davis@mcdhh.mo.gov).

Last but not least, MCDHH is mandated to conduct a census of deaf and hard of hearing Missourians. If you have not yet filled out a *Census of Persons with Hearing Loss* form, send us an email so that we can empower you to stand up and be “counted” in the New Year 2012! To request a copy of the *Census of Persons with Hearing Loss* form to complete for yourself, a friend, family member, or loved one who is deaf or hard of hearing, please send an email to: [MCDHH@mcdhh.mo.gov](mailto:MCDHH@mcdhh.mo.gov)

Businesses and organizations serving deaf and hard of hearing populations are strongly encouraged to email us as well. We would be happy to send you a copy of the form so that you may make additional copies for distribution to your deaf and hard of hearing customers. You, too, can help Missouri deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing persons to “stand up and be counted in 2012!”

## MCDHH TOWN HALL MEETING

MCDHH hosted a Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday, November 29, 2011 at the Greater St. Louis Association of the Deaf, Inc. in Maryland Heights. In attendance were people from all walks of life in the Greater St. Louis area. MCDHH staff members Ernest E. Garrett III and Kim Davis "Demystified MCDHH" by providing information about MCDHH's creation, mission and purpose, and a detailed account of what we do as a state agency. A representative from the State Committee of Interpreters (Tim Eck, Member) and the Board for Certification of Interpreters (Beth Williams, Member) spoke about their respective Committee/Board to further enhance the community's understanding of the roles and responsibilities of those entities. We also fielded questions from stakeholders and received commitments from attendees who expressed an interest in volunteering their time in serving on various taskforce committees. Without the support of the Greater St. Louis Association of the Deaf, Inc. in providing us with a meeting space, and the support of the Deaf Empowerment Awareness Foundation, Inc., in defraying the costs for refreshments and providing video coverage, this Town Hall Meeting would not have been possible. MCDHH received an overwhelming amount of constructive feedback regarding the St. Louis Town Hall and would welcome continued feedback in this area. Send your comments to [MCDHH@mcdhh.mo.gov](mailto:MCDHH@mcdhh.mo.gov)! Future Town Hall Meetings will be scheduled in Kansas City, Springfield, Cape Girardeau, and Fulton.

## UPCOMING COMMISSION MEETING

The next Commission Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 28, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the MCDHH office located at 1500 Southridge Drive, Suite 201, Jefferson City, MO 65109. If you have any matters of importance that you feel need to be brought to the attention of the Commission, please send an email to: [MCDHH@mcdhh.mo.gov](mailto:MCDHH@mcdhh.mo.gov)

For all matters pertaining to the Board for Certification of Interpreters, please send an email to: [BCI@mcdhh.mo.gov](mailto:BCI@mcdhh.mo.gov)

All requests for presenting to Commissioners at any of the scheduled open meetings must be made a minimum of three (3) days in advance of the scheduled meeting and formally addressed to MCDHH Executive Director Ernest E. Garrett III via email: [Ernest.Garrett@mcdhh.mo.gov](mailto:Ernest.Garrett@mcdhh.mo.gov)

CONTACT OR VISIT US!



1500 Southridge Drive, Suite 201  
Jefferson City, MO 65109

(573) 526-5205 (V/TTY)  
(573) 526-5209 (FAX)  
[MCDHH@mcdhh.mo.gov](mailto:MCDHH@mcdhh.mo.gov)  
[www.mcdhh.mo.gov](http://www.mcdhh.mo.gov)

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Monday - Friday

*The views expressed here do not necessarily represent or reflect the official position, views, opinions, or policies of the State of Missouri, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, or the Division of Special Education.*

## MCDHH COMMISSIONER VACANCIES

The Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing encourages all interested stakeholders, particularly deaf and hard of hearing individuals, to apply for any of the four vacant seats on the Commission. Those vacant seats are as follows:

**Professional - Audiology**

**Representing the Business Community**

**Deaf or Hard of Hearing Member**

**Representing Local Public School Administration**

For more information about the application process for a gubernatorial appointment to the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, please send an email to: [MCDHH@mcdhh.mo.gov](mailto:MCDHH@mcdhh.mo.gov). We would be happy to answer your questions or to guide you to someone who can.

## SCI PUBLIC MEMBER VACANCY

The Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing encourages all interested stakeholders, particularly deaf and hard of hearing individuals, to apply for the vacant seat on the State Committee of Interpreters that is reserved for a Public Member.



## STATE HOLIDAYS SCHEDULE

**Monday, December 26, 2011** - MCDHH Office Closed Christmas Day (Observed)

**Monday, January 2, 2012** - MCDHH Office Closed New Year's Day (Observed)