

September 30, 2021



Empowering Independence

CENTER FOR LIVING & WORKING, INC.

WHAT'S UP?



Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services

## COVID-19 Updates: Booster Shots



### Who can get a COVID-19 Booster Shot?

People who got the **PFIZER** vaccine (6 months ago or more):

◆ ages 65 and up

◆ ages 18 – 64 **AND**:

• have an *underlying medical condition*

**OR**

• live in long-term care (group living)

**OR**

• at increased risk due to working/living settings  
(**EX**: hospitals/health care, schools, jails, shelters, etc.)



*Can you?*

Find out here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html>

Learn more about Underlying Medical Conditions: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>



# City of Worcester Mask Mandate



**UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE** — You **MUST** wear a mask or face covering in ALL indoor public spaces including (but not limited to):

- Businesses
- Restaurants
- Places of assembly
- Retail/stores
- Bars
- Fitness centers
- Clubs



For more information visit: [www.worcesterma.gov/coronavirus](http://www.worcesterma.gov/coronavirus)



## Vaccine Outreach Initiative Updates

TLC's Vaccine Outreach: Sharing Resources:  
<https://www.tlcdeaf.org/VAXup>

### CONVO Hangout: COVID-19 Updates

Melissa Yingst, Dr. Chris Moreland, Ian DeAndrea-Lazarus, MPH, MD-PhD candidate, and Torey MacPherson break down the latest updates about COVID-19/Delta cases and what you need to know.



### An Interview with Dr. IV Mirus

Dr. IV Mirus, a Coda ER doctor who works in a Dallas-area hospital, answers questions about unvaccinated Covid-19 patients, whether booster shots are needed, and his thoughts on *Ivermectin*.



<https://www.tlcdeaf.org/covid-19-vaccine-education-initiative>



### Governor Baker's Updates

Watch past press briefings [here](#).

Press Office: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/governors-press-office>



## MCDH—“Light the Path” VLOG

VLOG: <https://fb.watch/8kop4TykUS/>

TRANSCRIPT: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/15qLY4pzSBojC8yutlCTPmHTskg9Kxdwfol4GqIK8x9g/edit?usp=sharing>





# MCDHH Names Communication Access Services (CAS) Director



Starting Monday, November 1, Cat Dvar, Esq., CI, CT, SC:L, is joining the MCDHH team as **Communication Access Services (CAS) Director** reporting to Sharon Harrison, *Chief of Staff*. Her responsibilities will include:

- Communication Access Services teams
- Statewide referral services
- Staff Interpreters
- Interpreter Screening and Evaluation
- New Workforce Development initiative

Ms. Dvar has been an ASL/English interpreter for 25 years with specialties in legal, medical, platform and performance interpreting. She is also an interpreter educator and a Massachusetts licensed attorney.

She is a two-time winner of the Mass. State Association of the Deaf’s *Thomas H. Gallaudet Service Award* for her work advocating for communication access rights for Deaf people. She’s also been awarded the Stavros Center for Independent Living’s *Paul Winske Access Award* for her work as an interpreter/interpreter educator and mentor; one of the first ever Stavros Center for Independent Living’s *Paul Batch Access Awards* for her “tireless advocacy and excellent in interpreting work for the Deaf community;” and finally an *MCDHH Outstanding Service Provider of the Year (2014)* for her longtime work on the **Massachusetts Interpreter Licensure Bill**. She loves to cook, especially for other people, and lives in western Mass. with her partner Cole, her two beautiful children and their 5 cats.

During the search process, MCDHH’s goal was to find someone who is well grounded with the skills to make immediate multi-dimensional impacts on MCDHH services. MCDHH also wanted someone who is well-regarded by the people they serve to strengthen MCDHH’s new vision and community-centric direction—Cat is that candidate. ***Please welcome her to the MCDHH senior management team!***



## New MCDHH VLOGS

### Why We Celebrate Recovery Month



VLOG: Click [here](#).

TRANSCRIPT: Click [here](#).

### Snapshot of Services



VLOG: Click [here](#).

TRANSCRIPT: Click [here](#).

### Deaf Awareness Week

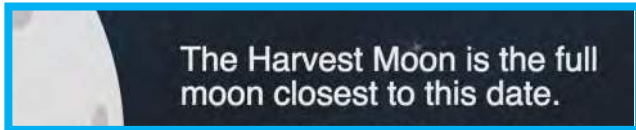
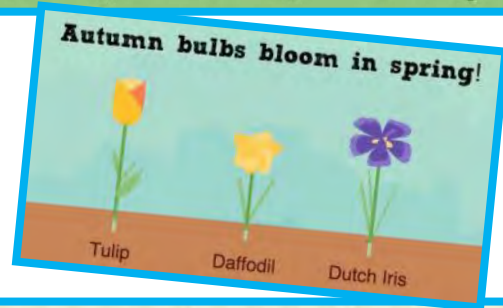


VLOG: Click [here](#).

TRANSCRIPT: Click [here](#).



# Autumn Fun Facts!



## Our Deaf Survivors Center, Inc.

EXCITING JOB OPPORTUNITY!!

*Executive Director*

(updated as of 8/19/21)

See more information at.

- ♦ [odscunity.org/careers](https://odscunity.org/careers)
- ♦ [www.odscunity.org/](https://www.odscunity.org/)
- ♦ [twitter.com/odsc2](https://twitter.com/odsc2)
- ♦ [www.facebook.com/OurDeafSurvivorsCenter/](https://www.facebook.com/OurDeafSurvivorsCenter/)



## Shared Reading Saturday

Family Feedback WANTED!



Let us know which of the 3 possible options you prefer as we start the Fall 2021 season. *This includes what safety precautions you would like.*

**Please Fill Out Our Survey**



## Research Volunteers needed for study investigating accessibility in **emergency departments**

### Who qualifies?

Any person who:

- Is **Deaf or Hard of Hearing**
- Has received care in an **emergency department** in **Massachusetts** in the past 18 months
- Is 18+ years old



### What is the study?

We are investigating the **accessibility of emergency departments** for people who are deaf or hard of hearing in order to make these spaces more inclusive and accommodating for our patients



### What will participants do?

Participate in a **one-on-one interview** over **Zoom**.

*ASL interpreters/Certified Deaf Interpreters will be provided, or interview can be conducted by written text*



Participants will be eligible to receive a gift card as compensation

### Interested?

Click [this link](#) to confirm your interest and eligibility and our team will contact you promptly.

Please contact [UMassDisabilityStudy@gmail.com](mailto:UMassDisabilityStudy@gmail.com) with any questions



# WHAT TO EXPECT: SNAP BENEFIT CHANGES

Starting October 1st, 2021

**SNAP households will receive an increased monthly SNAP benefit, beginning in October 2021.**



**Average increase:  
\$12-\$16  
per person  
per month**



## Why the change?

SNAP benefits were boosted 15% during the pandemic.  
**This boost ends on September 30th.**



USDA recently increased SNAP benefit levels by 21%.  
**This increase starts on October 1st.**



## More questions?

Scan or click to review FAQ from USDA





Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services

Hybrid: 1 - 2 days  
in office

Join the CLW DHILS Team as a:  
**DEAF SKILLS TRAINER**

**This job is great for you, if you love to:**

- Empower and work with consumers on personal goals
- Advocate for Deaf/Hard of Hearing individuals on local/state levels
- Provide:
  - 1:1 independent living skills training and peer support to consumers
  - information & referral
  - guidance and leadership
- Problem solve
- Work independently and with the team
- Work with individuals with diverse disabilities and cultures

**Qualifications:**

**Education**

- High School or equivalent (GED) required; Bachelor Degree in health/human services, preferred; years of relevant experience may be substituted for Bachelor Degree;

**Experience**

- ASL Fluent
- 2 years minimum of relevant experience working in Deaf/Hard of Hearing services OR involvement with the Deaf/Hard of Hearing community required;
- Microsoft Office and database management

**GREAT BENEFITS**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medical</li> <li>• Dental</li> <li>• 403(b) Retirement</li> </ul>	<p>PAID:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Life Insurance</li> <li>• Short Term Disability (STD)</li> <li>• Long Term Disability (LTD)</li> <li>• Parking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13 Holidays</li> <li>• Vacation</li> <li>• Sick Time</li> <li>• Mileage Reimbursement</li> </ul>
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**\$17.35/hour / 40 hours/week / Mon - Fri**

**Apply  
Now**

**INTERESTED OR HAVE QUESTIONS?**

Email Deb Olson at: [dolson@centerlw.org](mailto:dolson@centerlw.org)

**APPLY and SEE MORE INFO HERE:**

**[Full-Time Deaf Skills Trainer Positions](#)**

**Center for Living & Working, Inc.**

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



*Empowering  
Independence*

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TTY: (508) 755-1003  
VP: (508) 762-1164  
Fax: (508) 797-4015



# COVID-19 Resources/Data

We will add more sites as needed.

Vaccine Information	<a href="https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine">https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine</a>
Vaccine Appointments	<a href="https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/">https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/</a>
COVID-19 Testing	<a href="http://www.mass.gov/covid-19-testing">www.mass.gov/covid-19-testing</a>
US COVID-19 Cases and Deaths <i>by State</i>	<a href="https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_casesper100klast7days">https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_casesper100klast7days</a>
MA Travel Order	<a href="https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order">https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order</a>
MA Response Reporting	<a href="https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting">https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting</a>

**NOTE:** See separate *SE Resources* page for more information or contact your Skills Trainer with questions.

## Questions about this Newsletter?

Need a website address from your printed newsletter? Contact your Skills Trainer!

Joan Phillip	<i>DHILS Director</i>	508-762-1165 (VP)
Denise Paro	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>	508-556-1600 (VP)
Ellen Perkins	<i>DHILS Asst. Manager/Hard of Hearing Skills Trainer</i>	508-502-7576 (Voice); 508-762-1354 (VP)
Catherine Brown	<i>Deaf Skills Trainer (Part-time)</i>	508-762-1021 (VP)
Kim White	<i>Staff Interpreter</i>	508-755-1042 x5042; 508-283-1036 (VP)
VACANT	<i>Deaf Skills Trainer (Full-time)</i>	
VACANT	<i>Deaf Skills Trainer (Full-time)</i>	

### 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>