



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES
A Healthcare Service Agency

NED LAMONT
GOVERNOR

MIRIAM E. DELPHIN-RITTMON, Ph.D.
COMMISSIONER

To: State-Operated Facilities CEOs and all DMHAS Employees

From: Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D., Commissioner *MDR*

Date: February 8, 2019

Subject: **DHOH Webpage Revision and Introduction of New Resources/Information**

The Deaf or Hard of Hearing webpages in the office of the commissioner and regional state-operated facilities are revised consistent with language approved by the Deaf community and Connecticut General Assembly. I appreciated the effort of all who contributed and cooperated to this successful outcome.

The Department has also introduced a video translation in American Sign Language (ASL) and Captions to enable persons who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing to better understand and access the services that DMHAS/state-operated facilities offer to persons who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

Additionally, the department has revised and developed new DHOH protocols, added relevant DHOH resource links to ensure that individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing have access to a wide range of information. Some of these resources include, but not limited to, request for interpreting services, DHOH protocols, interpreter request forms, OOC and state-operated facilities DHOH contact persons, state, local, and federal regulations related to effective communication for persons who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, etc. To access DMHAS DHOH webpage, follow the four (4) simple steps below:

1. Click on www.ct.gov/dmhas/dhoh. This link will take you directly to the Mental Health And Addiction Services webpage Deaf/Deaf-Blind/Hard of Hearing, which will introduce you to the ASL Video Captions. Just click on the link for examination.
2. Scroll further down; you will locate DHOH information under the Office of the Commissioner.
3. Continue to scroll down, you will find information for all five (5) regions (click on the desired state-operated facility then click on Programs and Services/Program Overview).
4. The page ends with information related to State Rules and Regulations, DMHAS Resources, External Resources, etc.

I invite you to take a moment to review/or familiarize yourself with these essential DHOH resources.

The above completes just one (1) of several other objectives by the department to continuous improvement of services for persons who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. In a few weeks, Marlene will be in contact with staff from DMHAS state-operated facilities' Deaf Team to work on developing and implementing training curriculum to educate/train staff assigned as deaf contact persons by their regional facilities.

Cc: Barbara Bugella, MSN, MBA, Assistant to the Commissioner
Marlene Jacques, MSN, MPH, LMSW, Director, DHOH/OMHE Program/Services