

Emergency Communication:

Are You Speaking the Right Language?

Tuesday, October 2, 2012, 8:30am – 3:00pm

8:00–8:30

Registration

8:30-8:45

Welcome & Opening Remarks

9:00- 9:45

Neil McDevitt, Leadership Foundry

Former Functional Needs Subcommittee Co-chair and Communications Specialist for FEMA's Office of Disability Integration and Coordination, Neil has a great deal of experience in this field. He was also one of the few Deaf firefighters in the country, serving at the Fire Department of Montgomery Township in Montgomery County, PA.

9:45- 10:15

Marsha Miceli, Pennsylvania School for the Deaf

Marsha M. Miceli, M.A., has a Masters degree in School Counseling from Gallaudet University and is the current Director of Student Development and Student Life at The Pennsylvania School for the Deaf.

Marsha has been involved with Emergency Preparedness Planning at her school for the Deaf and hard of hearing and serves as a part of the SE PA Functional Needs Committee.

10:15- 10:30

Break

10:30 – 12:00

Panel: *Recommendations for Emergency Communication*

- **Bette Homer, Associated Services for the Blind**

Bette Homer is the Life Skills Educator at Associated Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired. She has been working with visually impaired adults in different settings as a Certified Vision therapist since 1982. She is visually impaired. Bette loves to dance, read and shop.

- **Amy Goldman, Institute on Disabilities at Temple University**

Ms. Goldman is Co-Executive Director of the Institute on Disabilities. Her portfolio includes the Institute's assistive technology (AT) - related services and supports, including Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology, the Assistive Technology Lending Library, Augmentative Communication and Empowerment Supports (ACES) and the Telecommunication Device Distribution Program. Ms. Goldman serves as the manager of the emergency preparedness and reuse initiative of the national Pass It On Center. As a licensed speech-language pathologist, she has many years of practice in the area of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC), and she recently completed her term as chair of the steering committee of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) Special Interest Group on AAC. Ms. Goldman completed her undergraduate degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology at Ithaca College; her Master's degree in Communication Disorders from the State University of New York College at Buffalo, and her doctoral coursework in Special Education at Temple University.

- **Samuel Hawk, Pennsylvania Society for the Advancement of the Deaf**

Samuel Hawk is the interim Executive Director of Pennsylvania Society for the Advancement of the Deaf (PSAD). He has been very involved with the events surrounding Valley View, the only such facility dedicated to Deaf and Deaf-blind elderly in the Mid-Atlantic. Among his immediate responsibilities with PSAD are the development of services for Deaf and hard of hearing citizens of Pennsylvania and representing the organization in legislative, and committee, activities affecting Deaf and hard of hearing citizens.

Samuel was also the founder of Hawk Relay, the first FCC-certified Deaf owned relay service. With Hawk Relay, he petitioned for two new forms of relay service to enhance access for the Deaf-Blind (DBRS) and the Speech Disabled (IP-STS).

Prior to Hawk Relay, Samuel was the Director of Sales for Communication Service for the Deaf (CSD). Samuel was responsible for sales of all non-relay disability products and services, e.g., sign language interpreting, with annual revenues of \$6 million. He also served as the principal point-of-contact in the development of the Interpreting Online (IO) product for CSD.

Samuel's professional career began as a research assistant at the Laboratory for Cognitive Neuroscience at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies. He was the leader of several research projects, including verb serialization and ordering of classifier predicates in American Sign Language.

- **Sharon Behun, PA Office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

Sharon Behun was appointed director of Pennsylvania's Office for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing (ODHH) on Sept. 21, 2006. As Director of ODHH, Behun oversees the advocacy, information and referral services the commonwealth provides to all Pennsylvanians. In addition, Behun has oversight of the Sign Language Interpreter & Transliterator State Registration Act. ODHH is the administrator of act, enforces it and maintains the database of registered sign language interpreters.

During her tenure as director, she has overseen several projects to increase the level of advocacy with initiatives such as partnering with the Unemployment Compensation to provide services to their claimants, who use American Sign Language via a videophone,

and collaborating with the Department of Public Welfare's Office of Children Youth and Families (OCYF) to improve their services to families who have a member who is Deaf or hard of hearing. Currently, ODHH is developing several informational documents to educate Pennsylvanians on assistive technology, such as hearing aids, and interpreters.

In addition, Behun has made ODHH more visible to the public by hosting a hearing loss expo in 2007, 2010, and 2012. The expos are avenues to educate & provide information to providers who work with people who are Deaf or hard of hearing. Secondly, the expos showcase the services offered to Pennsylvanians who are Deaf and hard of hearing; the expos are a biennial activity.

Behun holds a Bachelor of Science degree in sign language interpreting from Bloomsburg University, and is certified in transliterating and interpreting by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID).

Whether participating on advisory committees, providing technical assistance or trainings Behun has advocated with Pennsylvania's who are Deaf and hard of hearing for 20 years.

- **Brian F. Maguire Jr., Haverford Township Paramedic Department**

Brian has been working in the field of EMS for the past 10 years and is currently on staff with the Haverford Township Paramedic Department in Delaware County. Brian earned his bachelors degree in Criminal Justice from York College of Pennsylvania and is currently pursuing his master's degree at Philadelphia University in Disaster Medicine and Management with an interest in integrating social media into a mass notification system for emergency management.

12:00 – 12:45 Lunch

12:45-1:30

Jule Ann Lieberman, EZ2C Foundation

Jule Ann. Lieberman has limited vision due to a retinal disorder which limits all focus in her central vision. This condition began when she was 9 years old and has progressively deteriorated to a level of 20/350 in her better eye with 20/800 with other with best correction.

Although severely visually impaired Jule Ann completed high school and received a Bachelor's Degree from Beaver College in Sociology and Business Administration in 1979. She made the most of whatever aids she could find to assist her in her studies, magnifying glasses, tape recorders, and video magnification systems to view her text books enlarged on a monitor. Jule Ann has completed a Continuing

Education Course in Assistive Technology Applications Program from California State University Northridge (a well-respected program in rehabilitation practice) completing coursework on line and in classroom in May 2003. Currently she is enrolled in a Master's Degree Program at Salus University (Formerly known as Pennsylvania College of Optometry) within the Low Vision Rehabilitation Therapy Program. She hopes to complete both on line and classroom coursework by fall of 2012. Education has changed so dramatically since her undergraduate days and Jule Ann will utilize various technologies to read and operate her computer.

Jule Ann is proud of her multiple career paths, most proud of course of her work at home with her three children. "My greatest success in life is in playing a role in the happy lives of Jerre, Matthew and Grace she explains. She adds" My tasks as mother may be accomplished differently, but the results are the same. Good citizens of the world". Her other careers have involved work with persons who are blind. She began work as Director of Volunteers at Associated Services for The Blind in Philadelphia beginning in 1981 and leaving in 1985 to begin life with children. In 1997 she began to realize that her skills in today's technology needed updating. She enrolled in a computer training course at Delco Blind/Sight center in Chester. "I wanted the same access to computers, Internet and e-mail that my children were enjoying" she states This course led to a position as an instructor at Delco Blind/Sight Center which lead to a position as Director, Computer Training at Montgomery County Association for the Blind in North Wales, followed by work as Employment Specialist at the Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Jule Ann has now begun a new career in teaching others techniques and use of adapted technology for persons with vision loss. EZ2C Foundation is located at 489 Devon Park Drive, Suite 300 in Wayne Pennsylvania. A visit with Jule Ann will help you make the most of your remaining vision and maximize your energy to complete tasks. She believes in living and working productively and vision loss will not interfere with life's goals.

JuleAnn states as her motto. "The work of life needs doing, I may have to find a different way to do it, but you can count on me to get it done" She is happy to show you how work can get done and have some fun along the way.

1:30- 1:40 Break

1:50- 2:10

Kristin Beck, Public Health Management Corporation

Ms. Beck is currently employed by Public Health Management Corporation in Philadelphia, PA. She manages a CDC/NACCHO/ASTHO led grant that focuses on the use of Nurse Triage Lines in the event of a severe pandemic. Prior to her current position, Ms. Beck managed the development of a Regional Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) in Southeastern PA. She worked intensively with 5 county MRC Coordinators to recruit, train and meaningfully engage volunteers. Ms. Beck was instrumental in maximizing partnerships with other regional preparedness entities and has worked to build the quality of volunteer programs in the area.

Prior to that position she managed a 3-year, Department of Homeland Security Grant that was awarded to the Southeastern PA Chapter of the American Red Cross. She received a national award from the Corporation for National and Community Service for program excellence.

Ms. Beck has a history of building non-profit and advocacy programs in the non-profit sector. In addition to program development she has a successful track record of grants management and fundraising. She is a strong advocate for persons with disabilities and is involved in several key community issues in the region.

2:10- 2:45

Diana Zeitzer, Disability.gov

Diana Zeitzer is the Communications Director for Disability.gov, the federal government's website for comprehensive disability-related information. She has worked on the initiative since 2004 through a contract between Disability.gov's managing partner, the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy, and Concepts Inc., a woman-owned small business located in Bethesda, MD. Ms. Zeitzer's responsibilities include developing outreach strategies, including the use of social media, to communicate the benefits of Disability.gov to people with disabilities and a wide variety of other audiences, as well as building partnerships with federal, state and local government agencies and nonprofit organizations.