“Summer means happy times and good sunshine.”

BRIAN WILSON
We hope you are all enjoying the hot weather and another spectacular summer in Utah!

We are also excited about a few changes happening with our CEO Team. First of all, Ron Nelson has been working as the technology specialist for years. He will be adding new responsibilities to his plate. He will work with MaryBeth Baierl on planning classes, events and activities for the community as a continuing education and events specialist.

We also want to welcome Adam Shewell as another continuing education and events specialist. He has been the building and grounds supervisor with the Facilities and Maintenance Operations (FMO) team for many years and he’s ready for a new job with new challenges. He will also be working closely with MaryBeth and Ron in planning classes, events and activities for our community. His focus starting in September will be on activities for youth and children.

We have been very busy the last few months with various classes, activities and events at both North (Taylorsville) and South (St. George) centers while developing various partnerships with other organizations and community members.

Our North Center hosted our annual egg hunt, continued providing pickleball nights, partnered with several community members - Karen Rama, Sari Williams, Jerry Deu and Rosa Rathbun to host a volleyball tournament and more. We had the opportunity to celebrate Utah Interpreter Program (UIP)’s 30th anniversary in May with over 100 people in attendance at the North Center. We are looking forward to our upcoming Jedi Academy Camp for children ages 6-13. I know kids will have a lot of fun at this camp! We will continue with pickleball games on Fridays, host another volleyball tournament this month along with hosting a class on how to make delicious and healthy strawberry popsicles and more.
At the South Center, we had several ice cream socials, tour of Silver Reef Museum, bowling/laser tag nights, water aerobics (the first time!), ASL classes for homeschooled children AND Self Awareness Series. With this Self Awareness Series (which was a big hit), we had the opportunity to invite representatives from the St. George Police Department to come and start a dialog with our community about what to do if pulled over by a cop. We shared some feedback which the representative took back to his department to review and implement if possible. We are looking forward to our upcoming Self Awareness class where we will partner again with St. George Police AND Sego Lily Center for Abused Deaf. We will also host our first Lawn Olympics and hope to see many of you there. We are also looking for more volunteers to help us with planning for various events, setting up decorations, etc. If you are interested, please contact MaryBeth Baierl (North Center) or Amanda Brooks (South Center) to get started as a volunteer. MaryBeth's email address is mbaierl@utah.gov, while Amanda's email address is abrooks@utah.gov.

Sincerely,

Pamela Mower, CEO Manager

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**REMEMBER:**

- To register for various classes, events, etc., please go to [jobs.utah.gov/usor/dhh/events/registration.html](http://jobs.utah.gov/usor/dhh/events/registration.html)
- **Subscribe** to our email blasts so you won't miss out on any of our upcoming classes, events or camps at [jobs.utah.gov/usor/dhh/index.html](http://jobs.utah.gov/usor/dhh/index.html)
- Please follow us on various social media platforms so you won't miss out on any news:
  - **Facebook** - [https://www.facebook.com/UtahDeafHHServices](https://www.facebook.com/UtahDeafHHServices)
  - **YouTube** - [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCk9rCudR4tdYkpVdNltTL8A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCk9rCudR4tdYkpVdNltTL8A)
  - **Instagram** - [https://www.instagram.com/utahdsdhh/](https://www.instagram.com/utahdsdhh/)
  - **Twitter** - [https://twitter.com/UtahDeafHH_News](https://twitter.com/UtahDeafHH_News)
  - **TikTok** - [https://www.tiktok.com/@utahdsdhh](https://www.tiktok.com/@utahdsdhh)
  - **Website** - [https://jobs.utah.gov/usor/dhh/](https://jobs.utah.gov/usor/dhh/)
One thing we all know about living in Utah during the summer is . . . thunderstorms!

While a nice incoming storm after a hot day can be refreshing, there are some dangers that come with high winds and lightning strikes. Sometimes they can arrive quickly and catch us off guard in the big outdoors. There are many available warnings from the weather services, however, many of those notices are sound based.

Here are some tips and tools on keeping track of your area’s weather from the National Weather Service:

How NOAA Supports the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community

Many of us are familiar with the “screech” of an incoming severe weather alert on our TVs, radios and telephones. These alerts provide valuable and life-saving information about severe weather when it threatens your location. But, what if you couldn’t hear it? An emergency or disaster may present unique challenges for people with hearing disabilities. If you or someone you care for has a hearing disability, the National Weather Service has taken efforts to ensure our warnings and alerts can be received and the proper preparations and actions undertaken.

NOAA Weather Radio and other alerts for Deaf and Hard of Hearing

NOAA All-Hazards Radio receives National Weather Service (NWS) warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day. While primarily an auditory alert system, many off-the-shelf all-hazards radios are available with visual and vibrating alarm features and simple text readouts for use by deaf or hard of hearing individuals. Special adaptors can also be added to some models of all-hazards radios by certain vendors. These adaptors can include colorized warning lights to indicate the level of alert (statement, watch, warning) and a liquid crystal display readout of specific warnings. All-hazards radios are programmable state/country selections that screen out alerts from other areas and can be battery-operated and portable at home, work, school, or while traveling around the country. Some frequently asked questions (FAQ) about NOAA all-hazards radio for the deaf and hard of hearing can be viewed here. All-hazards radio for the deaf and hard of hearing can be viewed here.

More information on NOAA all-hazards radio and how to configure it with adaptors for deaf or hard of hearing individuals can be viewed in the 12 minute (approx) video below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4izxOnKnu
**FMO Updates**

We are excited to announce that we are looking to hire two part-time staff to work with us (FMO) in the evenings and on Saturdays. If you’re interested, please contact Melanie at Melaniesperry@utah.gov

DSDHH is a safe space for all community members to receive various services and create many memories!

There are no new large project updates around the buildings and property. We’ll update you once any project gets funded through the line of approval.

We are continually working to keep this place open and safe for all of you in the community.

**Be sure to stay hydrated and cool through the summer. We are here for you. See you around!**

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**Facility Management and Operations (FMO) Team:**

Melanie Sperry, Facility Management and Operations Supervisor
Adam Shewell, Building/Grounds Supervisor
Julio Enriquez, General Maintenance
Shari Brown, Office Specialist
Adele Sigoda, Staff
Brett Siteman, Staff
The CAS team is providing employment services throughout the state.

We help job seekers with job preparation such as resume writing, interviewing skills, sell yourself in 30 seconds, job searches, and more. We also can film a mock interview so that you are able to see your strengths and areas to improve. We do not have a magic list of jobs for you but we can teach you how to find the right job for you. We will work as hard as you.

If you are struggling at work and need some support, we can assist you. We are able to provide your employer education on technology, tax incentives, Deaf culture and more.

We are also excited to introduce a new member of our team!

My name is Courtni Hurd and I am a new case manager/employment specialist for DSDHH. I have a bachelor's degree from California State University at Northridge and a master's in social work from Gallaudet University. I previously worked at various deaf schools, deaf agencies, and volunteered as a hospice worker. I am also a Certified Reiki Master Practitioner and I have a End of Life Practitioner certification from Vermont University.

I am available via appointments Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. I am looking forward to working with you!

DSDHH Community Advocacy Services:
Courtui Hurd, churd@utah.gov, 801.657.5203 VP
Laurie Monell, lauriebishop@utah.gov, 801.657.5209 VP
Stephen Persingerz, spersinger@utah.gov, 801.657.5204 VP
Annette Stewart, ajstewart@utah.gov, 801.657.5226 VP 801.263.4892 V
Help ensure that no one faces the risk of hearing loss from loud sounds.

CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) supports Better Hearing and Speech Month (BHSM), founded in 1927 by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). Each May, this annual event provides an opportunity to raise awareness about hearing and speech problems, and to encourage people to think about their own hearing and get their hearing checked.

According to the World Health Organization’s (WHO) first World Report on Hearing, below are some interesting information -

- Noise is now being acknowledged as an important public health issue and a top environmental risk faced by the world today.
- Over 50% of people aged 12–35 listen to music via personal audio devices at volumes that pose a risk to their hearing.
- A rule of the thumb for staying safe is to keep the volume below 60%.
- If you frequently use personal audio devices around loud sounds: instead of turning the volume up, consider using noise-canceling earphones or headphones.
- Listening through personal audio devices should not exceed 80 dB (adults) or 75 dB (sensitive users: e.g., children) for 40 hours a week.
- Listeners who regularly use portable audio devices can expose themselves to the same level of sound in 15 minutes of music at 100 dB that an industrial worker would receive in an 8-hour day at 85 Db.


Hard of Hearing Program Team
Kelly Boehmer, Supervisor
Sue Ordanez, Assistant
Diane Stidham, Specialist (South Center)
May 2022 was the 30th anniversary of the Utah Interpreter Program (UIP)!

The UIP team held a special event to honor this anniversary on May 6. The event was an opportunity to celebrate the hard work and dedication of the early interpreters in the state of Utah as well as those who continue to push the profession in our day. All were invited and it was a good opportunity to see old faces as well as new.

We have a wonderful history of interpreting service in the state of Utah and here are some fun facts for you to learn about:

- The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) was established in 1965
- The first person to certify as a RID interpreter was our very own local interpreter, Beth Ann Campbell.
- In 1968, the Utah Registry of Interpreters was established and had 16 members. Many are Children of Deaf Adults (CODA’s) as well as several Deaf individuals recognized as the equivalent of Certified Deaf Interpreters (CDI’s) today.
- Ritchie Bryant, the current President of RID sent a pre-recorded message sharing how impressed he was with Utah’s history of interpreting service and gave the challenge to continue progressing and deepening partnerships for the benefit of all involved.

CODA’s were usually the ones to interpret for the Deaf community and often did it free of charge. CODAs are great pioneers of the profession we love today. CODAs such as Annette Tull, Betty Jones, Madelaine Perkins, Lucy Greenwood, Jean Greenwood Thomas, Beth Ann Campbell, Jean Kinnett Segura, Jane Bell Tucker, Jennifer Storrier, Dorene DeGraw Turner, as well as others, ended up interpreting for decades and they are well known in our community. On November 16, 1974 the Utah Registry of Interpreters established the state certification exam with the help of funds from United Way and oversight of said funds by the Utah Association of the Deaf. Thirteen interpreters passed including Robert G. Sanderson, whom our building is named after, and W. David Mortensen. Sanderson and Mortensen were “reverse interpreters” now known as CDIs.

What an honor it is to be a part of the rich history of interpreting in our community. We now have over 400 state certified interpreters, which I’m sure would be mind boggling to the first thirteen certified in 1974.

Thank you to all the interpreters in our community for all you do and thanks to all the community members who help us learn and grow. Where would we be without each other?

-Paul DeGraw, Staff Interpreter

We were also fortunate to hear from one of Annette Tull’s daughters regarding Annette’s contributions to the interpreting field. Annette Tull was a CODA and worked as an interpreter for most of her life. Kimberly Pulley, one of her daughters, shared some stories that were enlightening and endearing.

Utah Interpreter Program (UIP) Team:
Aimee Santiago, Interpreter
Clay Anderson, Interpreter
Jason Mauray, Certification Specialist
Karen Rama, Certification Specialist
Kelly Bunting, Interpreter (South Center)
Malena Bonny, CDI
Paul DeGraw, Interpreter
Stephanie Belshe, CDI
Teresa Donaldson, Interpreter
Employee Spotlight

Pamela Anne Mower

This month we would like to introduce PAM. You may be thinking “Product of Arthur Meyerhoff,” the cooking spray. However, we know PAM here at DSDHH as Pamela Anne Mower.

Born here in Salt Lake City, she is the third child of Scott and Kathy Mower. When Pamela was about 9 months old, her mother noticed that Pamela didn’t respond to noises. She took Pamela to the doctor and asked that her hearing be tested. The doctor ignored her requests. Kathy decided to bang a pan and spoon over Pamela’s head while she was sleeping and Pamela didn’t wake up. At that point, Pamela’s hearing was tested and thus began her journey into Deaf world.

Pamela’s family began to learn sign language at the same time as Pamela at the age of 9 months and her mother became a strong advocate for her access to education. Pamela enjoyed her educational years in a mainstream school (Bellview) with interpreters. The teachers at this school set apart some time every day for Pamela to teach her classmates sign language. As a result, most of the kids in her grade knew ASL and were able to communicate with her throughout elementary, middle and high school. She had a teacher, “Mr. A” from third to fifth grade, who became her favorite teacher as he gave her a passion for teaching.

After graduating from Jordan High School, she attended Salt Lake Community College (SLCC) for a few years until she went on a church mission. After her mission, she attended Gallaudet University and discovered a world of access opening up before her. It was during this time that set the foundation for her career. First, she started working part time at the career center as a library assistant. This helped to pay for her living expenses as she attended classes since vocational rehabilitation only covered tuition and supplies. She transitioned to a job as an employment specialist. After acquiring her bachelor’s degree, she took a one year break from school while working full time then worked to achieve her master’s degree as a part-time student while continuing to work full time, finally graduating in 2007.

At this point in her life, she received a PR interview request from Sorenson’s IP relay division since she was using their devices in her job. During this interview, she reconnected with an individual who was sitting in during the PR interview and he decided he wanted Pamela to apply to work with Sorenson. Pamela was asked
to turn in a resume and eventually got a job offer which helped her return to Utah where her family are and worked for five years with Sorenson Communications. In 2013, a new position was created at DSDHH for an employment specialist for Pamela, who applied, was hired, and began working with DSDHH. After seven years in that job, she became the new Continuing Education and Outreach Program Manager in 2020.

Pamela has reflected on all the support she received from her family along with the friends she had during her school years, and how so many were willing to overcome the barriers of communication. Working at DSDHH, she desires to continue the work of opening access for the community. Pamela is a powerful advocate for all, and cares deeply about the issues within the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. All of this while caring for multiple furbabies. Thus earning the nickname “Crazy Cat Lady” from fellow DSDHH Staff. Pamela enjoys a good laugh, and pranks. Staff will also indulge her crush, leaving face cut-outs of Ian Somerhalder, an actor from shows like “Smallville,” “Lost,” and “Vampire Diaries,” to name a few.

During her interview, she was asked what some of her pet peeves were. After several attempts, the only answer we got was, “It’s Top Secret.” Apparently she knows her fellow staff members a little too well. She shared that the hardest thing she had to do during her life was make the move to Gallaudet. Going there while knowing not a single soul and what to expect. However, she acknowledges that it had a huge and positive impact on her life.

In closing, Pamela shared a story of one of her life’s memorable experiences. While she was a participant in one of Miss Deaf Utah Pageants, all the participants had to stay overnight at the hotel the night before the pageant. During this night, all of the girls gathered in one room and enjoyed chatting. Eventually all of the chatter turned into raucous laughter. They were having such a good time that security came to the door three times to tell them to quiet down. Each time, the quiet chatter would turn back to laughter after a few minutes. Finally they went to sleep. The next morning, they went to apologize to security, when they learned that they were one more visit away from being kicked out of the hotel, the night before the pageant!

Life is full of surprises, take the time to laugh, take the time to explore and take on new challenges. You never know what it will lead to, but you will always find a new friend to laugh with.

**Thank you Pamela for all your “crazy” hard work at DSDHH. We’re glad you’re on board!**
Did you know....

1. July 26, 1990 - American Disabilities Act was enacted after being passed by the House of Representatives on May 22, 1990 (a unanimous voice vote).


3. Watermelon is one of summer’s best summer treats. Did you know that watermelons are not a fruit, but a vegetable instead? They belong to the cucumber family of vegetables.

4. Roman general Marc Antony named the month of July after Julius Caesar who was born in July.

5. The earliest Pioneer Day celebrations in Utah occurred on July 24, 1849, when the Nauvoo Brass Band led a commemoration of the second anniversary of the Latter-day Saints entering the Salt Lake Valley.

6. If you love ice cream, the summer season should be your favorite. July is National Ice Cream month.

7. The first modern Olympic Games were held in the summer in 1896 in Athens, Greece.

8. More thunderstorms occur during summer than any other time of year. They also take place more commonly in the south east of England.

9. On July 4, 1776, the 13 American colonies declared their independence from the British monarchy. The 4th of July, formally known as Independence Day, has been a federal holiday since 1870 in the United States of America.

10. The first crewed mission to the moon, which was the Apollo 11 Mission, launched on July 16, 1969.
This information, presentation, class or other activity is provided at the Division of Services of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for interested individuals. The Division of Services of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing staff encourages participants and individuals to consider all options and experiences and does not endorse or recommend this specific information, presentation, activity or any individual class, product or service.