



WORLD

Technology News and Commentary for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People

Working Side by Side with the Obama Administration

Article Begins on Page 16



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CSD's Digital TV Transition project
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18th Biennial TDI Conference
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TDI'S MISSION

"TDI provides leadership in achieving equal access to telecommunications, media, and information technologies for deaf and hard of hearing people?"

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Board Views



BY DR. ROY MILLER
TDI President

Doing the things
that ensure access
to that technology
for persons with
hearing loss
takes people,
commitment, and
money

I Think It's Time!

In 1990, the U.S. Congress passed the Television Decoder Circuitry Act (Public Law 101.431), which required all TV sets either manufactured in the United States or imported into the United States that had screens measuring 13 inches or more diagonally to be able to display closed captions. That law became effective on July 1, 1993, and was a crucial basis for the later rulings by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requiring that most programs shown on TV be captioned. However, I sometimes ask myself, "Why would Congress pass such a law?" Why would they pass a law requiring all TV sets to be capable of displaying captions, when only a small percentage of the homes in the U.S. had a person living there who was deaf or severely hard of hearing and needed captions in order to understand the content of TV shows? The passage of the Decoder Circuitry Act is even more surprising when one considers that passing that law would likely mean that TV manufacturers and retailers would raise the cost of their sets by at least a few dollars. Therefore, everyone, not only deaf and hard of hearing people, would be paying for the access required by people with hearing loss.

When thinking about that question, I decided to look back at the official congressional findings that served as a preamble to the Decoder Circuitry Act to see if they would help me understand the reasons that congress passed the Act. Some of those findings were as follows:

The Congress finds that-

- to the fullest extent made possible by technology, deaf and hearing-impaired people should have equal access to the television medium;
- closed-captioned television transmissions have made it possible for thousands of deaf and hearing-impaired people to gain access

to the television medium, thus significantly improving the quality of their lives;

- closed-captioned television will provide access to information, entertainment, and a greater understanding of our Nation and the world to over 24,000,000 people in the United States who are deaf or hearing-impaired;
- closed-captioned television will provide benefits for the nearly 38 percent of older Americans who have some loss of hearing,
- closed-captioned television can assist both hearing and hearing-impaired children with reading and other learning skills, and improve literacy skills among adults;
- closed-captioned television can assist those among our Nation's large immigrant population who are learning English as a second language with language comprehension;
- currently, a consumer must buy a TeleCaption decoder and connect the decoder to a television set in order to display the closed-captioned television transmissions;
- technology is now available to enable that closed-caption decoding capability to be built into new television sets during manufacture at a nominal cost by 1991; and
- the availability of decoder-equipped television sets will significantly increase the audience that can be served by closed-captioned television, and such increased market will be an incentive to the television medium to provide more captioned programming.

All of those findings/reasons made

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BOARD VIEWS

Continued from page 2

good sense back in 1990 (nearly two decades ago), when TV was the dominant entertainment media in our society. However, since then television technology has undergone many changes, and one of the most significant ones has been the development and use of DVDs for entertainment and educational purposes. If you replace the obsolete term “hearing impaired” with the current politically correct term “hard of hearing”, and replace the term “television” with “DVD” you can quickly see that the reasons for passing the Decoder Circuitry Act back in 1990 are equally valid today for passing a new law that would require all DVDs, either manufactured or imported into the U.S. to be captioned. And having thought about it, I think it’s time to do just that!

Let us look back at the findings once again. If Congress felt that requiring decoder chips in television sets back in 1990 was justified in order to provide access to 24 million people in the United States who were deaf and “hearing impaired,” then certainly the same logic justifies captioning all DVDs with spoken content today in order to guarantee access for 31 million people who are deaf and hard of hearing.”

You might wonder why I am concerned with captioning DVDs when seemingly all of the latest movies at Blockbuster are already captioned. While this is true for recent movies produced by major studios, there are still many “B” movies, self-instruction videos, documentaries, classic films, porno flicks, exercise videos, and so forth, that are not captioned. In addition, more importantly, according to the Gopen’s Guide to Captioned Videos there is an unbelievably high percentage of educational videos shown in our schools that are not captioned. (EDITOR’S NOTE: *Gopen’s Guide* was published in 1993 and was at the time the only comprehensive list of captioned videos ever published.)

Of course, if Congress were to consider mandating the inclusion of captions during the manufacture of all DVDs there would likely be a large groan heard on the Hill from lobbyists saying effectively “It would cost too much. The manufacturers of DVDs can’t afford it.” Any such argument can quickly be shown to be nonsensical.

I checked <http://www.the-numbers.com/dvd/charts/weekly/thisweek.php> to find out how many entertainment DVDs had been sold this past year (2008). Figures for only the top 100 selling DVDs show that there were 230,154,493 copies of those 100 movies sold during 2008. If you assume that each movie is about 90 minutes long, and you figure the cost of post-production offline captioning to be about \$15 per minute of video, then the cost per movie master comes out to about \$1,350. Therefore, the total cost of captioning the 100 movies would be about \$135,000. Moreover, if you divide that total cost by the total number of copies sold ($\$135,000 \div 230,154,493 = \0.0006) it indicates that the cost per copy of adding captions to these 100 movies was almost nothing (.06 of a penny). And 2008 was not the best year for the industry! In 2007, there were 339,881,580 copies of the top 100 home videos sold, and the cost per copy would come out to only .04 of a penny! Clearly the cost of adding captions to entertainment DVDs is “zilch,” “nada,” “nothing,” and therefore the added cost cannot be reasonably used as an argument for why some entertainment DVDs are still not captioned.

But somebody might argue that educational videos are an entirely different ballgame. You cannot sell 16,699,490 copies of an educational video (like the movie *Pirates of the Caribbean – At Worlds End* did in 2007) because the potential market is so much smaller. However, the number of public elementary and secondary schools in the U.S. is still quite large, namely, 84,073, not counting special education, vocational education and alternative



The Best of Nature - 25 Years
Series: Nature

Closed captioned: Yes

90 min on 1 DVD

For home and educational use

In Stock - ships within 2 business days

List \$19.95

Member \$16.96

An Example of a captioned DVD from pbs.com – Editor

education schools (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2001/overview/table01.asp>). So if a producer of an educational video were able to sell a copy to only one out of every 10 schools, that would be 8,407 copies sold. Most educational videos are no more than 30 minutes long, so if one figured the cost of captioning again at the \$15 per minute rate it would make the total cost of captioning a video \$450 and the per copy cost for 8,407 copies would be \$.05 (that’s 5 cents!).

The bottom line is simple. Today there is absolutely no reason, technical or financial, for a DVD producer not to caption their disks. If Congress were to pass a law mandating captioning of all DVDs, society would reap benefits similar to those it obtained from passage of the Decoder Circuitry Act, and it would guarantee deaf and hard of hearing people access to one of today’s most important entertainment and information sources. And as I said earlier, I think it’s time!

Capitol Commentary



BY CLAUDE STOUT
TDI Executive Director

We value your feedback and ideas, especially from those former TDI agents and their families among you that helped with distribution and repairs of TTYs during TDI's early years in the late 1960's and 1970's. The agents were one of the key factors for TDI's success today as a leading national consumer advocacy organization.

TDI Advocates for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Senior Citizens

TDI strives everyday to address access needs of senior citizens who are deaf and hard of hearing in telecommunications, media, and information technology. We give full support to this constituency group regardless of age, educational background, preference of communication methodology, and use of hearing amplification technology. When I say seniors in the rest of this article, I am referring to those who are deaf and hard of hearing and above a certain age.

Over the last several years, we have witnessed a growing number of seniors using videophones. We know how delightful it is to call a family member or a friend directly on the videophone or through a video relay service. It is now much easier for us to sign, or mouth our words on the camera, than to type. More so for some of us who have to deal with arthritis!

We know many of us, especially seniors, are grateful to get the ten-digit numbers for their videophones or computers. Now we can make emergency calls through video relay or instant messaging relay to the most appropriate public safety answering points (or 9-1-1 centers). Sheri Farinha, Chair, and members of the E9-1-1 Stakeholder Council worked hard to make sure you could get timely help and support from first responders. Your health, safety, and security are a TOP priority for TDI!

For seniors with residual hearing who can use a cell phone, we have collaborated with Hearing Loss Association of America to make sure that the cell phone industry provides an array of hearing aid compatible cell

phones in the market that effectively meet their needs. Also, we have made captioned telephone services and other 2-line or enhanced voice carry-over (VCO) services widely available regardless of where you live or what technology you use.

We work with the Federal Communications Commission to make sure that your favorite old-time and current TV programs are captioned. We are equally committed to make sure that you can get information and support should you decide to plunge into digital television. You can either keep your current television, or shop around and find a new digital TV. If you have trouble seeing or reading, this will make it easy for you to change the caption font, color, background or font size, and thus fully enjoy the TV program.

Many seniors have expressed their frustration to TDI on a number of other issues. They are disappointed that many video clips shown on the Internet do not come with captions. In many areas across America, TV stations are not providing real-time captions for their local news shows, and sometimes they are not even making their emergency broadcasts accessible at all with crawls or captions. Often, seniors find themselves locking horns with health care professionals at hospitals or clinics in order to get telephone access or even sign language interpreters when they need medical assistance. Sometimes we endure one aggravation after another as we fly from one place to another. Either we miss the right gate to catch the plane, or we watch meaningless movies that are not captioned. TDI is very much

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As of 1/1/2009, VRS and IP Relay users are required to register their address and to obtain a ten digit telephone number. Users can change providers at any time and retain the same number. Users should keep their address information updated for emergency 911 calls. For more details, please visit www.att.com/relay. ©2009 AT&T Intellectual Property. All rights reserved.

TECHNOLOGY'S IMPACT

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aware of these issues, and we are working with other groups and federal agencies to address these issues.

When we officially submitted a proposal for leadership and public policy to the Obama Presidential Transition Team last December, we invited Alfred Sonnenstrahl and Nancy Rarus from Deaf Seniors of America to participate in the meeting. At the meeting, they spoke of the need to make services and resources fully accessible to seniors from the Social Security Administration. They asked that residential smoke and carbon monoxide detectors come equipped with visual and tactile alerting features in addition to traditional audible alerts. They also asked that more accessible housing options be made available to seniors who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Every month, TDI takes part in the meetings of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Consumer Advocacy Network. Dr. Ronald Nomeland has been an active representative for Deaf Seniors of America in these meetings. Also, Lise Hamlin represents the Hearing Loss Association of America in the meetings as its director of public policy and state development. They keep us updated on the issues that seniors experience everyday at home and in the community.

Please let us know if the American

Association of Retired Persons (AARP), local/state agencies, and community organizations are meeting your needs at the local level. Do you feel comfortable participating in their activities? Are they accessible? Are many of you participating in the Senior Games and other events geared to older Americans? Are you aware of the Meals on Wheels program in your neighborhood? Share your experiences with us, and we will be happy to share them with others here in Washington, D.C.



Claude Stout visited the Water Tower View senior citizens complex in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on April 9, 2009. There he was joined by a group of senior women in a Red Hatters orientation program, sponsored by the Red Hatters deaf group from Madison.

This summer, from between two to three thousand seniors will convene in Las Vegas, Nevada for the Deaf Seniors of America (DSA) annual convention. Two of our Board members, Dr. Roy Miller and Ms. Judy Viera, will be representing TDI at this gathering for deaf and hard of hearing seniors. We will have a booth to share news about TDI's advocacy work in the nation's capitol, and to talk with DSA attendees about their experiences, whether positive or negative. We value your feedback and ideas, especially

from those former TDI agents and their families among you that helped with distribution and repairs of TTYs during TDI's early years in the late 1960's and 1970's. The agents were one of the key factors for TDI's success today as a leading national consumer advocacy organization.

Washington: Where Access Begins

Later this summer, July 30 through August 1, 2009, TDI will host its 18th Biennial TDI Conference at

the Renaissance Mayflower Hotel here in Washington, D.C. You will have the opportunity to meet with your Senators and Congressional representatives, as well as the staff at the Federal Communications Commission. Elsewhere in this issue are forms for you to fill out and register if you wish to attend the conference.

TDI cares about maintaining high quality of life for all Americans who are deaf and hard of hearing, and seniors are no exception. We have been a part of your lives for 40 years and we look forward

to serving you another four decades. Although medicine and technology are enabling us to live a longer life, which can be a beautiful, enlightening experience, we want to make sure that accessible technology is there so it won't be as difficult a process to endure. We are in business to accentuate all the positives there are for seniors, and to make it bearable for them to experience the challenges that there are to living a long and productive life.

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Accessible Tech



BY JAMES HOUSE
TDI World Editor

**Which numbers
should we keep?
The number that
is easiest to use,
or the number that
is assigned to our
videophone?**

My New Collection

Let us face it. I admit that I am a technology addict. I have taken the first step in dealing with this problem by admitting that I am powerless when it comes to technology, especially telecommunication toys. I have been collecting some of the latest and greatest stuff.

No, I do not have the latest iPhone or some of the newer BlackBerrys. However, I do have a collection of videophones. I would like to think I have two for home, one for travel, several applications in my laptop that go with my built-in web cam. At the office, I have one at my desk and then another web cam that is hooked to my fancy desktop computer that has dual monitors. What's more, I have Instant messaging relay software from two providers each for my home, office and my pager.

Now, I have a question for you. How many phone numbers do I have? If you want extra credit – how many toll-free numbers do I have? At last count, I have seventeen numbers and out of that, four are toll-free.

Please understand – I still think the ten-digit numbering system is the greatest invention since sliced bread! A ten-digit number is wonderful – now it only takes me 30 seconds to give mine out. In the old days, it took me ten minutes to explain that you had to call an 800 number and then tell the operator to call my number – blah blah blah. Seven-one-one helped, but we soon discovered that we only shaved three minutes off from explaining a convoluted way of telling people to call us. It crimped our style when we did business, and

when we were making new friends. Now things are looking better.

It has been more than three months since the deadline imposed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) passed that allowed videophone users to be able to obtain real 10-digit telephone numbers. It seemed to me like it was a tall order for all video relay service (VRS) providers to have numbers for every video phone in service, including providers without equipment. TDI has received reports that there are people with equipment but still no phone numbers. Videophone users are entitled to a phone number for each device and service that we use. However, the goal of providers in giving us the phone numbers is the expectation that we will pass those numbers out to our hearing friends and family members who do not have a videophone in order for them to call us – through the provider's relay, and thus the provider would be able to accumulate minutes for reimbursement.

The phone number is linked to our equipment and to a specific relay provider – usually the one that gave you the device. You can keep your number when you change service providers – not so easy to keep equipment. Often not all the cool stuff is in the equipment itself, but is in the interactive experience that you have with the equipment. To get the full use of the features that the device has to offer, you will need to stay with the provider that gave you the device.

I do not know if my case is unusual or common where you have more than ten local numbers, one for

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each equipment or type of service. By equipment, I mean videophones (some I got free and some I purchased), downloaded software, and instant messaging relay services that comes through my AOL Instant Messaging. How many hearing people do you know that have ten or fifteen phone numbers? Probably none as they have one number for home, one for office and one for their cell phone, and maybe one for a fax. Is this "functional equivalency" gone too far?

At the same time, how many hearing people do you know that have just one phone? Not many, as I am sure they have several phones in different parts of the home, but they all ring with one



number. Internet telephony is still in its primitive stage. Someday VoIP telephones and video relay phones will be capable of handling different

devices under one number – no matter where you are. I do not see people having five different cell phones. Is this "functional equivalency" not going far enough?

Until we see some real solutions, I am puzzled about what to do with all my numbers? Should I keep one and throw the rest away? Shall I divide it as "one number for friends and another number for enemies"? What happens when we run out of numbers? Which numbers should we keep? The number that is easiest to use, or the number that is assigned to our videophone?

All this pondering leads to another question – is it better to get a free videophone or to buy your own videophone? I will address this in a future article once I have all the answers in this never-ending discussion.

Contribution Form



☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$200 ☐ Other \$_____

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

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by Derric Miller
CSD Communications Director

“It’s a win-win situation for both the FCC and the consumer, since the digital signal, while smaller, transmits at a much clearer capacity than analog, so the picture and sound will be much sharper.”

Are You Connected? CSD’s Digital TV Transition Project

On Jan. 8, CSD, a private nonprofit organization serving deaf and hard of hearing people, announced it was awarded \$1.1 million as part of the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) efforts to launch a national awareness campaign about the country’s transition to digital television (DTV). CSD’s role is to reach out to deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind consumers around the nation.

At the beginning of the project, America’s entire television network infrastructure planned to transition to a digitally based broadcast signal on Feb. 17. Then, due to the almost six percent of the nation’s households (that number has since fallen to 3.6 percent) who were unprepared for the change, the FCC decided to postpone the deadline to June 12. By June 12, unless a digital converter box is obtained and installed, over-the-air analog viewers will not be able to receive a television signal.

Although a total of 12 organizations were chosen by the FCC to launch a grassroots information campaign, CSD is one of only three national organizations chosen. The other two organizations are AARP (formerly known as the American Association of Retired People) and the Hispanic Information and Telecommunication Network. CSD is using its 33-plus years of expertise providing services to deaf and hard of hearing people to get the word out, in whatever medium is most effective for the consumer.

What is DTV?

Here is the FCC’s definition of digital versus analog TV: “Digital Television is

a new type of broadcasting technology that will transform television. Because DTV is delivered digitally, the television signal is virtually free of interference. And because DTV is more efficient than analog, broadcasters are able to offer television with improved quality pictures and surround sound.”

One of the main reasons Congress decided a transition from analog to digital was necessary is because an analog signal consumes a larger portion of the broadcast signal. This transition frees up part of the spectrum for emergency and public safety transmissions, such as police, fire and medical. It’s a win-win situation for both the FCC and the consumer, since the digital signal, while smaller, transmits at a much clearer capacity than analog, so the picture and sound will be much sharper.

Three-Pronged Attack

From the moment CSD received word on the award from the FCC on Jan. 6, the organization was under the gun to meet the deadline of Feb. 17, which as mentioned, later changed to June 12. Since TV stations were allowed to transition before June 12 though — and 421 stations around the nation transitioned in one day on Feb. 17 — deaf and hard of hearing people still need DTV information and assistance receiving and installing converter boxes well before June 12. So how is CSD making it all happen?

To start with, CSD began developing materials and disseminating them to the public in a myriad of ways. Public service announcements (one in sign



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Continued from page 10

language with voice and captions, another voiced and captioned) show people the step by step process of hooking up the converter box; Web banners are placed on sites frequented by deaf and hard of hearing people; downloadable PDFs and videos are placed on the CSD-DTV Web site; VHS videos are available to be mailed to those consumers identified as not having computers and need videotapes to walk them through the installment process; and much more.

Next, CSD created a Help Center (call center) that is unlike any other across the United States. This fully accessible Help Center communicates with individuals, one-on-one, and their families to educate the callers about the DTV change, helps troubleshoot issues as needed, and provides information to ensure a converter box is successfully obtained and installed.

Deaf and hard of hearing consumers who call the center are offered a choice of communication modes that matches their needs, whether it is by voice, videophone, TTY, Instant Messaging, IP Relay, Voice Carry-Over Relay, CapTel, Video Relay and Spanish Video Relay. CSD's decades of call center expertise makes them the ideal organization to implement this kind of innovative Help Center, and the FCC believes CSD's proposal to establish a Help Center is an efficient use of tax dollars.

In a short time, deaf and hard of hearing people from all over the nation are finding the answers they need at the Help Center. James G., from Oklahoma, called the Help Center because while he obtained converter box coupons, they expired before he could purchase the converter box. The Help Center filled out the online application for the customer, allowing him to receive two more coupons. "I was very satisfied with the service the Help Center

provided," said Garrison.

Converter box questions are one of the biggest questions handled by the Help Center, but other equipment information is sought as well. Carol W., from Kansas, called the Help Center to ask about where to purchase both a converter box and a TV antenna, and which kind of antenna would work best for her. "They are very helpful," said Wilson of the Help Center.

The last aspect of the campaign involves outreach. This community outreach effort rely upon a broad network of deaf and hard of hearing nonprofits, agencies, associations, schools, etc., to disperse messages about the DTV Transition and to drive traffic to the Help Center. Some of these outreach partners include the Hearing Loss Association of America, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program Association.

Who is Affected by the DTV Transition?

If you have one or more TVs that receive free over-the-air television programming by using a "rabbit-ears" antenna or an on-roof antenna, you will need to get a digital to analog

converter box to allow you to continue to watch television via an antenna.

Digital TV: June 12, 2009

The FCC and congress were worried that underserved populations — like deaf and hard of hearing people — would wake up on Feb. 17 and be unable to view their favorite TV programming, even though this awareness campaign has been underway for years. They recognized that they were not reaching various niche markets, and appropriated over \$8 million to ensure populations like disability groups, senior citizens, Hispanic Americans, etc. would have access to this information. This is also the reason why the deadline moved from Feb. 17 to June 12.

"We are honored to receive this award from the FCC and are very enthusiastic about developing a grassroots educational initiative for citizens all across the nation," stated Benjamin Soukup, CSD president and chief executive officer. "We are also pleased that special attention is being given to key population groups — minorities, senior citizens, the disabled, and others — which are otherwise overlooked. Sensitivity to equal access and equal accommodations is something we have staunchly advocated for and the funding of projects like this is most definitely a move in the right direction."

Any person — not just those who are deaf or hearing of hearing — needing information about the DTV transition can use CSD's Help Center, view the Web site at dtv.c-s-d.org, watch videos and download manuals and PDFs, and request information regarding converter boxes, set-up procedures and information in general about the DTV project.

If you are not connected yet, contact CSD's DTV Help Center today.



Are you digital-ready??

Having closed captioning issues?

Need a converter box? Disconnected?

Who can help me?

Looking for coupons?

Garbled closed captions?

Having doubts?

Confused?

CSD-DTV Help Center

for Deaf, Hard of Hearing & Deaf-Blind

Hours of Operation: 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 a.m. (CST)

18 hours/day, 7 days/week

Voice

1-877-DTV-4YOU (1-877-388-4968)

TTY

1-877-TTY-4CSD (1-877-889-4273)

Videophone IP Address

DTV03.CSD.TV; DTV05.CSD.TV;

Videophone Number

866-351-1950; 866-401-3519

AIM

DTVCSR07; DTVCSR008

Email

DTVHelp@c-s-d.org

Website

<http://dtv.c-s-d.org>



CSD

www.c-s-d.org



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Voice

Voice Carry-over

(VCO 1-888-826-9673)

1-800-785-5630

1-877-258-9354

1-877-735-5151

1-800-877-1264

1-800-552-7724

Speech-to-Speech (STS)

Two-Line VCO

ASCII

Spanish

TAM customer service

To place a call to a 900 pay per call number, use 7-1-1



www.mdrelay.org • moreinfo@mdrelay.org



CEPIN Outreach



Michele P. Roseman
CEPIN Outreach Coordinator

The CEPIN project will give people an opportunity to ... lessen the impact of disasters and emergencies.

The CEPIN Project: Expecting the Unexpected



Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) working on CEPIN's second course for special needs populations and emergency management personnel. (Front, L-R): Jenifer Simpson (Washington, DC), Mary Goeptert (New Jersey), Michele Roseman (Maryland), Mary Anyan (Florida-Administrative Assistant for Center of Public Safety Innovation at St. Petersburg College) and Neil McDevitt (Pennsylvania) (Rear, L-R): Chris Littlewood (Florida - Project Coordinator for NTPI at St. Petersburg College), Mike Monge (Minnesota), Leighton Jones (New York), Bruce McFarlane (Virginia) and Bentley Lipscomb (Florida)

Most of us have responded to this phrase as children playing the familiar game of tag. These words reminded us that something was about to happen whether we were prepared or not! Just one glimpse of today's world can make us feel like we are playing an adult-version of tag. Every month, we receive information about an emergency or disaster that was unexpected or is on the way to our city.

Over the years, it is obvious that the number of emergencies and disasters that occur in the United States have increased. Are we really ready for the unexpected? The Community Emergency Preparedness Information Network (CEPIN) is a project of Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (TDI) and is dedicated to making sure that the answer to this question is, "yes!"

TDI received a \$1.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of

Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to develop a unique, Web based training for special needs populations and emergency managers. This training will be free to all and promises to be a great tool to help both groups begin to work together. Often times, both groups have not thought about: what is expected during a disaster, the best ways to work together, and how to handle problems that arise during disasters and emergencies.

The CEPIN Project is being developed to answer these questions and fill in some of the gaps that will make for better outcomes. This course will promote emergency preparedness, community response and recovery procedures for emergencies involving special needs populations. The self-paced, online course will be very informative, interactive and easy to use. CEPIN is very concerned that all of the participants fully understand

Continued on page 31



ALERT!



Get Your Sprint Relay Call Now Number Today!

Pick Sprint Relay... as YOUR provider for your **10-digit numbers**. Communication will be fast, smooth and easy.

Video Relay Service (VRS), Internet Relay (IP), and Instant Messenger (IM) users must register by June 30, 2009 for a default provider. Registration is required. After June 30, you will not be able to make or receive your non-emergency relay calls through VRS, IP or IM.



For Sprint VRS:

- Go to www.sprintvrs.com
- View instructions online:
www.sprintrelaynews.com/callnow/sprintvrs/

For Sprint Relay IP and IM:

- Go to www.mysprintrelay.com
- View instructions online:
www.sprintrelaynews.com/callnow/sprintip/

For more information on Sprint Relay
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go to www.sprintrelay.com/callnow

Although Sprint IP, Sprint IP using AIM, Sprint VRS, Sprint WebCapTel, Fed IP, and Fed VRS can be used for emergency calling, such emergency calling may not function the same as traditional 911/ E911 services. By using Sprint IP, Sprint IP using AIM, Sprint VRS, Sprint WebCapTel, Fed IP, and Fed VRS for emergency calling you agree that Sprint including Sprints suppliers of emergency services are not responsible for any damages resulting from errors, defects, malfunctions, interruptions or failures in accessing or attempting to access emergency services through Sprint IP, Sprint IP using AIM, Sprint VRS, Sprint WebCapTel, Fed IP, and Fed VRS whether caused by the negligence of Sprint or otherwise. ©2009 Sprint. Sprint and the logo are trademarks of Sprint. Other marks are the property of their respective owners.



“... disabled or not disabled, we are the United States of America!”

Barack Obama
during his election victory speech
in Chicago – November 4, 2008

Working Side by Side with the Obama Administration

Ad-Hoc Coalition Submits Document with 46 Recommendations

TDI and other organizations had a rare opportunity to work with a high-level advisor close to President Barack Obama, Kareem Dale, Special Assistant to the President for Disability Policy. Never before did the nation's 54 million people with some form of disability have such an advocate up in the political ladder that has allowed us to participate fully in the Obama Administration. This was the first time that a Presidential Administration embodied the principle of “Nothing About Us Without Us”, incorporated universal design concept, and embraced the diversity of our experiences abilities and cultures.

Shortly after the election, the Obama-Biden Transition Team issued a call for disability organizations and coalitions to express their ideas on what they would like to see from the 44th President. Claude Stout, chair of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Consumer Advocacy Network (DHHCAN) initiated the process among its affiliates. DHHCAN is a coalition of 19 organizations that represent the deaf and hard of hearing population. Soon it became clear that this was a task that goes beyond DHHCAN, so the invitation was extended to other organizations who are not members of the coalition. Under TDI's leadership, an ad-hoc coalition of eleven national organizations and coalitions representing 36 million deaf and hard of hearing Americans responded by sending a list of forty-six recommendations in seven policy areas for the Obama Cabinet to consider.

Mr. Stout, who is also Executive Director of TDI, and Jim House, TDI's Public Relations Director, took upon leadership roles by initiating, drafting, negotiating compromise

and reaching the consensus necessary for the production of this document. After many emails among the different organizations, the document began to take shape. Because each organization had its own priorities, sometimes what one organization wished to say, another organization may say it differently. Through consensus building, the organizations put aside their differences that could hinder progress.

Under Jim House's leadership, several writers came through with a document that all organizations could accept, it covered all the important points we wanted to share with Obama's team while it also respected the diversity of the different constituents. The document stands as a testament to the results achieved through collaborative efforts. TDI and the ten other organizations met with Kareem Dale, Disability Coordinator and other representatives of the transition team to present the document and provide a brief overview of its contents.

Each page in the document had several recommendations on a particular topic – directed to specific agencies.

Promoting civil rights through legislative, administrative, and enforcement actions.



The US Department of Justice (DOJ) received ten recommendations related to Civil Rights Protection and Enforcement.

This office is largely responsible for overseeing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Rehabilitation Act and other legislation. Our recommendations

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include further revising the ADA to include more protections for people who are deaf or hard of hearing, such as declaring websites to be considered under Title III as places of public accommodations, requiring all information be captioned and recognizing the linguistic diversity and communication choices within our communities. We also want access to see the government programs and services on a functional equivalent basis. Two specific areas received special attention – additional funding for the US Department Office on Violence Against Women to meet the needs of deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened and deaf-blind victims and their families, and tightening the requirements for visual smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in commercial facilities.

Improving the quality of education and related services, and ensuring appropriate transition, post-secondary education and vocational rehabilitation services.



The US Department of Education has long been at the forefront of our educational experience, especially

in its role in providing seed money for most of the captioning we see on TV every day. There were six recommendations toward improving the educational experience for deaf and hard of hearing children. Among the improvements submitted for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) were to improve monitoring so that the deaf or hard of hearing child can receive appropriate services and restore funding to the authorized amount of %40 for average per pupil expenditures. In No Child Left Behind, we requested stricter enforcement that assessments need to be valid for all students and hold school districts accountable for ensuring that deaf and hard of

hearing students meet the benchmarks established within this law. We also want to ensure continued funding to support training programs for the various professions commonly used to facilitate communication access such as interpreters, captioning and communication access realtime translation (CART) writers, counselors and others and restore vocational rehabilitation services.

Increasing employment opportunities through new initiatives and the provision of reasonable accommodations in the workplace.



There were seven recommendations for the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) that would increase

opportunities for deaf and hard of hearing people in all sectors. One possible improvement is that the US Small Business Administration make all of its programs and services accessible and empower entrepreneurs who are deaf and hard of hearing. Others recommend that the Department of Labor make changes in its hiring policies and streamline its procedures to help the Federal Government become a model employer for deaf and hard of hearing workers. Consumers want to ensure that all programs funded by the US Department of Labor will be accessible. We also ask that the Department lead in interagency efforts to provide hands on training and mentoring or internship programs for students transitioning from school to work. We also ask for funding to research on the impact of age-related hearing and combined hearing/vision loss on employee productivity and come up with effective means to address that impact.

Ensuring effective early intervention systems, access to health care, including substance abuse and mental

health care, and insurance coverage for hearing health care, including hearing aids, other assistive technology and comprehensive rehabilitative services.



There were seven recommendations also

for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). They cover basic issues such as ensuring that health facilities be more accessible in person and by phone, especially after normal business hours. We also ask for better Medicare and private insurance coverage on hearing aids, cochlear implants and other hearing assistive technology, rehabilitation and communication enhancement options. Reauthorize the Early hearing Detection and Intervention Act so that more infants are diagnosed earlier and to minimize the delay in acquiring services that could assist in language development. We also want to establish a blue ribbon commission consisting of specialized mental healthcare professionals to address the substance abuse epidemic, which has hit hard among the deaf and hard of hearing population. We also want to have more research on disability demographics

Increasing the availability of safe and accessible housing.



The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has not escaped our

radar. There were only three recommendations, increase housing options for deaf senior citizens, enforce accessibility features for deaf and hard of hearing residents in housing under HUD's jurisdiction, fund research into supporting universal design concepts in fire/smoke/carbon monoxide detectors and other alerting devices.

Providing equal access to telecommunications, information

services and video programming, realizing the potential of broadband services, and enabling public safety improvements through accessible emergency communications.



One very important page contained recommendations regarding

Telecommunications, Information Services and Video Programming. The nine recommendations on this page include supporting the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act, which will carry over our current accessibility regulations from yesterday's obsolete telephone and television technologies to today's digital and Internet technologies. Also recommended are increasing access to broadband technologies

and complete nationwide access to wireline and Internet-based captioned telephone services. We ask that the FCC review all their upcoming rules and regulations for compliance with existing laws and have the Disability Rights Office generate tracking reports on consumer complaints, increase enforcement of all disability-related regulations. We are already seeing some result with the FCC's funding of CSD's new DTV Help Center, an innovative call center that can accept calls from deaf and hard of hearing consumers, no matter what device they use to call. This proposal also directs that the FCC allow the use of the Universal Service Fund help low income customers purchase broadband service and specialized telecommunications equipment for deaf-blind customers.

Ensuring accessible transportation information, services and facilities.



There were four recommendations for US Department of Transportation (DOT) to provide visual access to all announcements made at airports and railroad stations and other ground transportation facilities, make highway emergency communications accessible at rest areas or, develop the Next Generation 9-1-1 system and issue regulations for the Air Carrier Access Act.

This proposal for leadership and public policy to ensure equal access and equal opportunity for deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened and deaf-blind Americans was submitted on December 11, 2008, to the Obama-Biden Transition Team by the following organizations:



Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc.
Alexander T. Graham



American Association of the Deaf-Blind
Jamie Pope



Association of Late-Deafened Adults
Cheryl Heppner



California Coalition of Agencies Serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Sheri Farinha

California Coalition
Of Agencies Serving Deaf & Hard of Hearing Persons



Communication Service for the Deaf, Inc.
Karen Peltz Strauss



Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf
Barbara Raimondo



Deaf Seniors of America
Al Sonnenstrahl



Hearing Loss Association of America
Lise Hamlin



National Association of the Deaf
Rosaline Crawford



Deaf and Hard of Hearing Consumer Advocacy Network
Claude Stout
Cheryl Heppner
Rosaline Crawford



Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc.
Claude Stout
Jim House



The full PDF document as submitted is at: www.tdi-online.org/pdfs/obamatransition.pdf



Kareem A. Dale
The White House Special Assistant
to the President for Disability Policy

Introducing Kareem A. Dale Special Assistant to the President for Disability Policy

Kareem grew up in Chicago, Illinois. He is blind, but despite his blindness, he obtained three degrees, became a successful lawyer and was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve in the White House. He graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a Bachelor's degree in Advertising in May 1995. He received his JD/MBA in May 1999 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He graduated Cum Laude. While attending law school, he received several honors. For example, he was a Rikert Award winner. The Rikert Award was given to the two third-year law students who demonstrated excellence in trial advocacy. In addition, he received honors in legal research and writing.

In February 2009, President Barack Obama appointed Mr. Dale to be the Special Assistant to the President for Disability Policy, the highest ranking position on disability ever to be created by a President. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Dale served as National Disability Director for the Obama for America campaign and held a similar position in the Obama-Biden transition. Mr. Dale also served on then Senator Obama's Arts Policy Committee and Disability Policy Committee.

Before joining the Obama for America campaign, Mr. Dale was the Founder and Managing Partner of The Dale Law Group ("DLG"). DLG was a law firm that successfully represented individuals and their families in the areas of personal injury, wrongful death, products liability, catastrophic injuries, and medical negligence. Prior to founding DLG, Mr. Dale spent eight years in the litigation department at Winston & Strawn LLP. Mr. Dale also has been an adjunct Professor on the faculty of Northwestern University School of Law where he taught Trial Advocacy.

Mr. Dale also has been actively involved in community service. He is the past President of the Board of Directors for the Black Ensemble Theater. Furthermore, during his legal career, he dedicated numerous hours to those persons unable to afford legal representation, for which he received the Probono Commitment to Legal Service Award in 2000. In recognition of his achievements, Mr. Dale was featured in the 2006 inaugural edition of *Who's Who, black in Chicago*. He also was recognized in the November-December 2001 issue of *Ebony* magazine as one of the 30 Leaders of the Future under 30.

Moreover, in an effort to positively influence African-American youth, he has been involved in various programs. First, he served as a mentor to a high school student through the LINK Unlimited program. As a LINK sponsor, his responsibilities included paying the tuition at a private school for his student, providing guidance in his educational career, and simply being a friend and confidant. Second, he was the keynote speaker at Lincoln Challenge Academy, which is designed to aid children who have dropped out of high school. Third, he has facilitated a workshop for the Tavis Smiley Foundation's Youth to Leaders Program. The program seeks to teach African-American youth how to become community activists. He assisted the program's alumni in developing the future plan and vision for Youth to Leaders. Fourth, he has spoken and participated in panel discussions at various public high schools in Chicago. Finally, he was the keynote speaker at a program entitled "Super Saturdays," in which he spoke on leadership and overcoming obstacles. The program was attended by approximately 200 youth from the inner city of Chicago who were enrolled in a city-wide training program.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Kareem A. Dale was the primary point of contact for TDI while we were developing the Obama Transition Document.



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Registrant information (one form per person):

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 Phone: (____) _____ (check all that apply): ☐ Video ☐ TTY ☐ CapTel ☐ Voice
 Fax: (____) _____ Email address: _____
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Accommodations (check all that apply): ☐ Assistive Listening ☐ Tactile ☐ Other: _____
 Sign Language/Voice interpreters and CART will be available at all workshops.
 Other needed accommodations (check all that apply): _____

2009 TDI Conference Registration Fees: (Includes name tag, program book, admission to workshops and exhibits)

	Company/Organization	Consumer - Non TDI Member*	Consumer - TDI Member*
3-Day Registration:	\$400 = \$_____	\$150 = \$_____	\$125 = \$_____
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Special Luncheon (July 31):	\$50 = \$_____	\$50 = \$_____	\$50 = \$_____
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Entertainment Show (August 1):	\$50 = \$_____	\$50 = \$_____	\$50 = \$_____
	TOTAL: \$_____	TOTAL: \$_____	TOTAL: \$_____
Special Combo Price**:	\$500 = \$_____	\$300 = \$_____	\$250 = \$_____

Consumer - TDI Member Early Bird Combo Price**: (if paid by 6/1/09) \$225 = \$_____

*In order to qualify for the above "consumer" rates, you must be attending the Conference with your personal funds.

"Non TDI Members" are eligible for the discounted "TDI Member" rates if they join TDI, complete the application form on the back of this page, and pay the annual membership fee of \$25.

** Includes full 3 day registration and all four special events mentioned above

Payment: ☐ By USA check or money order ☐ By credit card, information enclosed below:
☐ American Express ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Card No. _____ Expiration Date: _____

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More information will be posted on www.tdi-online.org as details are finalized.



Membership Application Form

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 Description of Business: _____

Check one for your listing ☐ List All ☐ Address Only ☐ E-mail/www/IM Only ☐ Phones Only*
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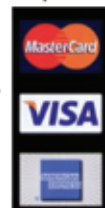
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TDI In Action

October–December 2008

TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS

- TDI sent a letter to Chairman Daniel Inouye and Ranking Member, Kay Bailey Hutchison of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, plus an identical letter to Chairman John Dingell and Ranking Member, Joe Barton of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. These letters asked both committees to support recent initiatives by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to reform the Universal Services Fund to include allowances for residential broadband services for low-income and rural Americans and customer premises equipment. A petition for rulemaking was also filed at the FCC on this issue.
- TDI and users of Speech-to-Speech (STS) relay services held an ex-parte meeting at the FCC with representatives of the Disability Rights Office and proposed measures that would maintain functional equivalency during the (STS) call, such as loosening time restrictions in the call.
- TDI and other affiliates of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Consumer Action Network opposed Sorenson's petition to continue using its proxy numbers and to extend transition period by one year for the ten-digit numbering plan.
- Throughout the weeks leading up to the implementation of the 10-digit numbering plan, TDI assisted individuals and other consumer groups in assuring various points will be covered, such as the ability of one person being able to call another person even if that person has a different videophone device.
- TDI and other consumer groups

submitted ex-parte comments to address situation where communication assistants and video interpreters are subject to abusive language and actions directed by callers to them and not the other party in a call. Their preferred approach is to have the industry work with consumers on a wide range of issues rather than crafting regulations piece by piece.

- TDI and other consumer groups also submitted comments permitting video interpreters to convey visual and audible information that they see or hear during the course of an emergency call to aid dispatcher in sending appropriate emergency personnel to the scene.
- TDI and other consumer groups filed a petition with the FCC for partial reconsideration of its rules limiting allocation of the new ten-digit numbers to people who can prove they are deaf or hard of hearing. The consumer groups argue that by allowing interpreters and other professionals to have videophones with ten-digit numbers will alleviate the anticipated demand and waste of resources arising from deaf and hard of hearing people not being able to call certain hearing people who are fluent in sign language.

to digital broadcasts and multicasting programming on subchannels.

- TDI signed on to an amicus brief by the National Association of the Deaf opposing a decision by a court in Arizona saying that captioning movies would "...constitute a 'fundamental alteration' of the theaters goods or services." The case is now under appeal.
- The FCC amended the rules regarding captioning complaint procedures and contact information, which addresses some of the points raised in TDI's petition for rulemaking in July 2004. The new process, when effective, allows a viewer to file complaints to either the station or the FCC within 60 days of the alleged violation. The FCC will create a contact list and has ordered broadcasters to simplify the complaint procedures on their websites.
- TDI filed comments and reply comments supporting addition of High Definition (HD) Radio functionality in devices capable of receiving satellite radio broadcasting, which will be the first viable transmission technology to allow for captioned radio broadcasts to be available in many more devices.

MEDIA ACCESS



- TDI and other consumer groups held an ex-parte meeting at the FCC to discuss the potential impact the digital television transition may have on captioning. The groups also sought to extend current rules on captioning

INDUSTRY COLLABORATION

- TDI sent letters to major electronic companies seeking ways to improve battery life of their products. We pointed out that batteries are prevalent in many devices and that it would be a "plus" in their efforts to achieve a lower rate of disposables as well.

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TDI In Action

October–December 2008

Continued from page 24

TDI OUTREACH

- On December 12, 2008, the TDI Board hosted a Town Hall meeting in Tucson, Arizona prior to its two-day Board Meeting.
- Following the Board meeting, Claude Stout and Dr. Miller had a live interview with Sherri Collins on Arizona's statewide disability access channel, *Community View* which covered TDI recent activities in Washington, D.C.

POLICY AND ADVOCACY



From L-R, Galaxy 'our mascot', Cheryl Heppner, Co-Instructor, Tom Meitner, Katie Voss, Leon Devriendt, David Binning, Arvilla Rank, Jenny Gember, Hamilton Relay representative, Ted Trenkamp, Teresa Rogers, James Powell, Alice Sykora, Cookie Roang, Max Ryser, Eloise Schwarz, Karen Dishno, Claude Stout, Co-Instructor and Ramesh Phadke

2008 TDI Consumer Advocacy Training Continues in Madison and Sacramento

TDI held two more Consumer Advocacy Training Seminars, which continues to be popular. Fourteen participants attended a two-day weekend seminar in Madison and another sixteen participated in Sacramento, California. The co-instructors for both seminars, sponsored by Hamilton Relay, were Cheryl Heppner from Virginia and Claude Stout, executive director of TDI.

Madison, Wisconsin October 11-12, 2008

- James Powell, President of the Wisconsin Telecommunicators, Inc. felt empowered to face the challenges in today's world after taking the training in Madison. "The seminar provided invaluable tools and strategies on how to effect change in society. An emphasis was placed on team efforts and turning pet peeves into a group project. It was interesting to note that the seminar brought together a wide-ranging group of people, with various educational levels and degrees, real-world examples and most important of all -- the desire to learn. I am sure that many of the participants left the seminar feeling more empowered to tackle those pesky pet peeves and to right a wrong."

Alice Sykora, the Program Director for the State of Wisconsin Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing shared

her thoughts after hosting and participating in the course. "The seminar provided us with very current advocacy tools and policy and legislation information on the federal and state levels so we could affect change and push new legislation. One important point made during the seminar is that no single individual could effect change alone, and that working together (by way of a coalition or a group of organizational and individual stakeholders) speaks volumes! It was great to bring together participants from all walks of life and with different experiences, and to see that there is a commonality among us in our goal to be fully participative members of society, without barriers of all sorts!"

These participants in the Madison training seminar continue to improve access to information in public ground transportation and to address shortage of interpreters in their community.

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TDI In Action

October–December 2008

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Sacramento, California November 8-9, 2008

Sheri Ann Farinha, CEO of NorCal Services for Deaf & Hard of Hearing, enjoyed hosting the last Consumer Advocacy Training Seminar. "We were pleased to host this dynamic training event with a fantastic team of Consumer Advocates. All of us look forward to seeing outstanding advocacy outcomes as a result! Kudos to all of you!"

Sheri's program manager at NorCal, Leslie Birchell felt honored to be a part of this training. "Valuable tools and techniques as well as resources were provided during the workshop that will help all of us become more effective in advocating for ourselves and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. We can make things happen!"

The participants in the Sacramento training are fighting for accessibility on two fronts, better representation



In front - Leslie Birchell, Dr. Bob Segalman, Sandra Thrapp, Cheryl Heppner, co-instructor and Galaxy, 'our mascot'. In rear - Judy Viera, TDI Board, Dr. Roy Miller, TDI Board, Susan Shaffer, Tami Levario, Anne Girard, Hamilton Relay representative, Kathy Rogers, Lyle Hinks, Gene Cochrane, Catherine Garbacz, Colette Noble, Don Chan, Lyes Bousseloub, Linda Drattell, Claude Stout, Co-Instructor, Tiffany Freymiller, Alex Mentkowski and Tom Mentkowski

on statewide speech-to-speech relay service advisory groups across the country and more captioning in airports.

TDI hopes to offer more workshops for

this course again in 2009. If you are interested in sponsoring the course or offering your facilities as a co-host for a seminar in your area, please contact TDI.

TDI Conference Hotel Registration Information

Ask for the special TDI Conference Rate (\$179/night plus taxes) when you make your reservations.

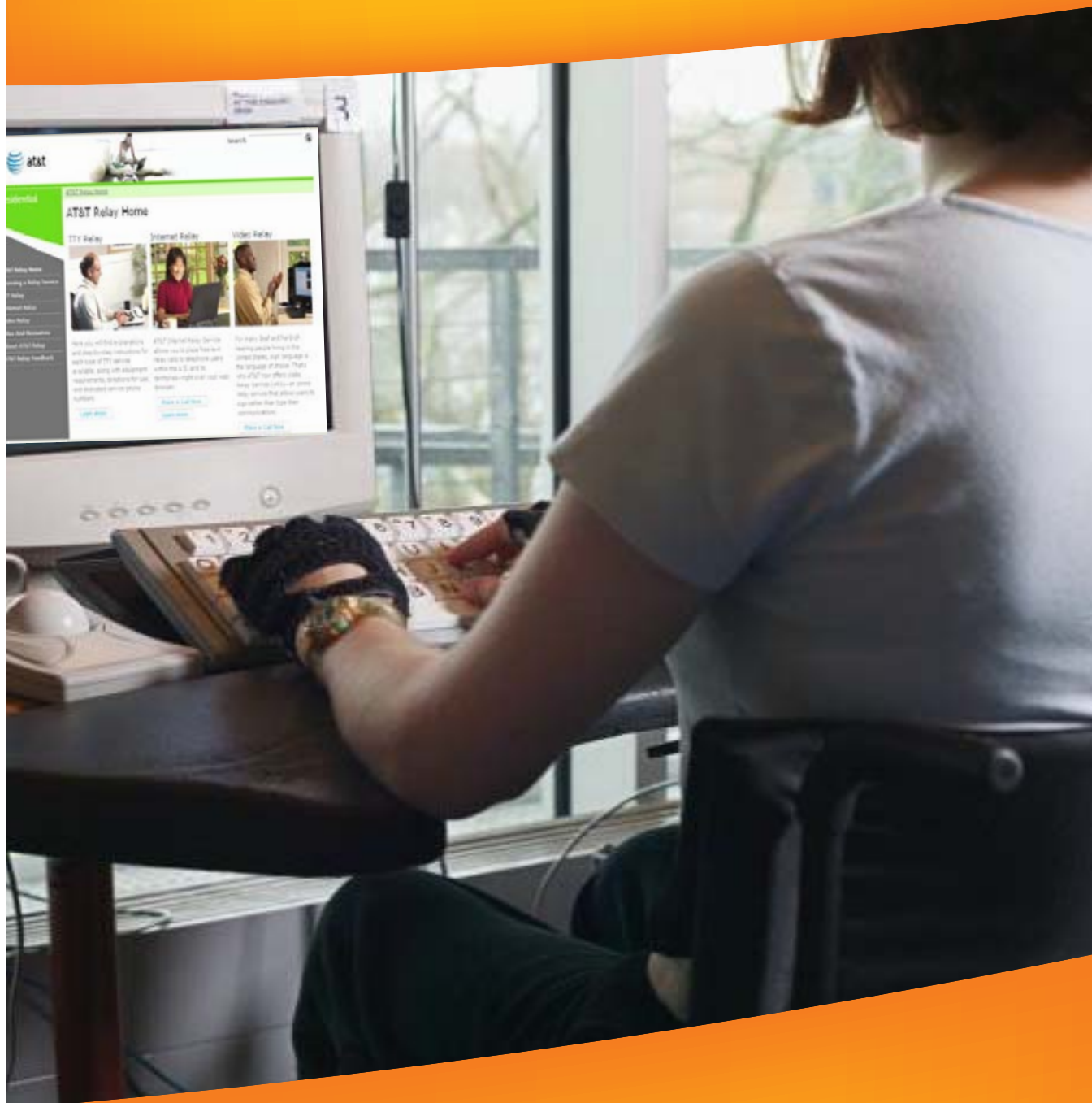
Call Renaissance Hotels toll free reservations at 1-800-HOTELS1 and ask for the 18th Biennial TDI International Conference Room Block.

Call The Mayflower in-house reservations department at 202-776-9251 and ask for the 18th Biennial TDI International Conference Room Block.

Go online to <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/wassh?groupCode=EBIEBIA&app=resvlink&fromDate=7/27/09&toDate=8/1/09>



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Continued from page 14

different aspects of special needs populations. It is equally important for the users to get more knowledge about emergency response activities and processes. All of the training activities that are introduced during the course will be Section 508 compliant. The training will therefore be fully accessible to all learners with any disability.

Why the CEPIN Project ...

There was a time when no one expected Mother Nature to be unpredictable until the hurricane season rolled around from August to mid-October every year. As we have moved further into the 21st century a change has taken place. It seems as if floods, wild fires, earthquakes and tornados happen anywhere and at any time. Let's look at some examples:

As disasters begin to happen more often in more places, DHS, federal and state agencies, and community organizations continue to respond

Emergency/Disaster	Date
Thirty Mile Fires, Okanogan County (Washington)	July 2001
Terrorist Attacks, New York City	September 2001
Hurricane Katrina, Louisiana	August 2005
Hurricane Rita, Texas	September 2005
Northern California fires	June 2008
Water main break/flood, Maryland	December 2008
Red River Floods, North Dakota	March 2009

and seek better ways of minimizing the impact. While these efforts are being made, all people are not being effectively addressed during emergencies. Data has shown that people with disabilities have been one of the hardest-hit groups during these times.

A specific example of this is seen in some statistics developed by DHS. According to a DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) study, 45 percent of evacuees at the New Orleans Superdome/Civic Center said that they did not evacuate New Orleans before Hurricane Katrina hit

in 2005 for two reasons. First, these evacuees had a disability and second, some of these evacuees were taking care of someone with a disability. In general, many times no one considers how both special needs groups and the emergency management community will communicate when faced with a disaster or emergency. People in both groups do not always see the need to connect until it is too late.

The CEPIN project will give people an opportunity to consider these important issues and lessen the impact of disasters and emergencies. These results are highly likely because the training is being developed around DHS' a new definition of disability in DHS. Before 2008, the definition of disability only described how a person's "physical or mental "abilities were affected during the time of an emergency or disaster. If a person's physical or mental abilities impacted his or her ability to carry out "major life activities," he or she was then seen as a person with a disability.

As DHS realized that more needs to be done to consider people with disabilities during emergency planning, a new focus was developed. In August 2008, FEMA and CRCL created the Comprehensive Preparedness Guide 301 (CPG-301). CPG-301 is a document that makes recommendations about the best ways to plan for special needs populations. Now, the DHS definition of "people with disabilities" refers to

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU SPECIAL NEEDS POPULATION FACTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS QUESTIONS
Of people 6 years and older, 11.0 million people (4.1 percent needed personal assistance with one or more activities of daily living (ADLs) or instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs).	How will people with disabilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comply with general evacuation instructions?• Be equipped to maintain quality of life in a disaster shelter?• Access their medications if caregiver is more focused on personal concerns during times of disaster?
Among the population 15 years and older, 7.8 million people (3.4 percent) had difficulty seeing words or letters in ordinary newspaper print, and 1.8 million of these people reported being unable to see.	How will people who are blind or have low vision: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access information regarding the scope of the disaster, evacuation plans and shelter availability?• Access information regarding care for their service animals?• Access information regarding the appointed time to return to their homes after the disaster?

Continued from page 30

a person's ability to function during a disaster or emergency. This new definition addresses every aspect of a person's ability to be independent, communicate, access transportation and medical care.

CEPIN Project Partners . . .

The CEPIN Project is a reminder of a well-known quote from Mahatma Gandhi, Nobel Peace Prize nominee. He shared the following words, "Become the change you want to see ..." The project promotes collaboration between emergency managers and people with disabilities; grassroots organizations and community advocacy groups; and all types of government agencies. For CEPIN, the collaboration doesn't stop there. The collaboration begins with us. In turn, we have developed strong partnerships with the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) and the National Terrorism Preparedness Institute (NTPI).

Founded in 1995, AAPD is the largest national cross-disability membership organization in the United States. AAPD is dedicated to organizing the disability community to bring about social, political and economic change. AAPD meets its goal by hosting career and leadership programs for individuals with disabilities, policy initiatives and public awareness activities. AAPD is a founding and steering committee member of the Coalition of Organizations for Accessible Technology (COAT). NTPI, funded by St. Petersburg College, provides education and training in terrorism awareness and prevention, and the tools needed to respond effectively during disasters and terrorist attacks. NTPI offers monthly nationwide, satellite television broadcasts on important training topics for emergency managers and responders; traditional classroom instruction; training support packages

that include student and instructor guides, video, CD, DVD, and VHS products; mobile training teams; and Web- and computer-based training products. Working together as a team, AAPD and NTPI are providing valuable expert knowledge and course design skills during every phase of the CEPIN project.

CEPIN is also working with a talented team of subject matter experts (SMEs) to make sure that all aspects of emergency preparedness and issues related to people with disabilities are being covered. As part of the development process, several "pilot" or "test" courses will be held throughout the U.S. before the actual course is launched later this year. The SMEs have a lot of experience in developing collaboration between both communities. They are as follows:

- Mary Goepfert: Mary works with the NJ State Police's Office of Emergency Management and chairs its Special Needs Advisory Panel.
- Leighton Jones: Leighton is a director at the Greater Rochester Area Red Cross.
- Bentley Lipscomb: Bentley is the American Association of Retired Persons' director for the State of Florida.
- Bruce McFarlane: Bruce was the special needs advisor for incident commanders from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's TARGET center.
- Chief Mike Monge: Mike is the Director of Fire & Code Services for the City of Faribault, MN. He also serves as the Emergency Management Director for the City of Faribault
- Jenifer Simpson: Jenifer is the VP for Technology Policy at the American Association for People with Disabilities.

What's Ahead . . .

This exciting, new CEPIN project is expected to be launched in late Fall 2009. After taking the free training, course participants will be able to:

- Understand the importance of collaboration between emergency management and special needs populations as part of preparedness and response activities.
- Understand how to collaborate effectively with emergency managers or special needs populations.
- Understand the elements or steps needed to prepare for and respond to a variety of emergency situations involving special needs populations.

Emergency preparedness – even before the course is launched -- is really in your hands. There are a lot of resources at the federal, state and community levels to help. Below you will find some resources to be used as you get stay ready and become prepared. For further information, please visit the following resource Web sites:

- CEPIN www.cepintdi.org
- AAPD www.aapd.com
- COAT www.coataccess.com
- NTPI <http://terrorism.spcollege.edu>
- FEMA www.ready.gov
- CERT www.BePrepared.com
- ADA www.ada.gov/publicat.htm

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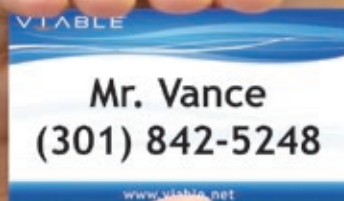
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