

CCDHH QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 1

Newsletter Date: November 2009

CCDHH HAS MOVED TO 1750 17TH Street, Building F, Sarasota, FL 34234. Our phone number is 941-366-0260.

BRIDGE: CHILDREN & FAMILIES SERVICE

- During the 2008-2009 year, CCDHH has served 2,133 FTRI clients.
- During the 2008-2009 year the Bridge Program assisted 3,246 clients.
- During the summer of 2009 eleven children participated in our summer day camp.

- Manatee & Sarasota Counties have approximately 107,000 deaf & hard of hearing (DHH) residents.
- CCDHH provides a free Summer Camp for deaf and hard of hearing children residing in either county.
- DHH children often miss a critical link in social and emotional development—that of incidental learning through human interaction.

We at CCDHH are pleased to welcome Rachel Kendzior, a speech language consultant. Ms. Kendzior has over 16 years of experience providing services to deaf and hard of hearing children and their families as they strive for better communication in a predominantly hearing world.

Ms. Kendzior has introduced a new Children & Families Project: Bridging the Gap. **The goal of this project is to reach out to ALL professionals in our two counties to help “Bridge the Gap” from identification to communication.** This project will focus on birth to three years of age, as well as services for the school aged deaf and hard of hearing population. Services include training and education to local deaf and hard of hearing children and families, and services providers through a series of workshops, community outreach, and individual sessions. Sessions will focus on social skills and behavior management, reading and language development, and communication strategies. Project activities will be

conducted in collaboration with other service providers to ensure that each child’s unique and individual needs across all areas and domains are being addressed. Services that are normally utilized by individuals with similar needs are inappropriate or inaccessible to the deaf and hard of hearing community due to cultural and linguistic barriers. The multifaceted project includes the following components:

Social skills and family support: Parents, caregivers, and other family members will participate in monthly workshops conducted by the consultant. Sessions will emphasize free discussion, exchange of ideas and practical methods, skills and principles concerning the challenges faced by these children and their parents. Participants will be advised on advocacy issues along with other pertinent information to assist them in their efforts to cope with difficulties incurred in their daily activities.

Reading and language development: In an effort to provide training in

the child’s contextual environment the consultant will offer in-school and/or in-home sessions to teach children and parents principles for successfully sharing books and language enhancements strategies. The specialist will also create a presence in the local school systems to support deaf and hard of hearing children’s language learning and socialization through imaginative and creative activities.

Communications strategies: Guidance in speech and language development, socialization skills, and behavior management will be provided with a specific emphasis on parenting skills and patterns of child development. Specialized instruction to address communication needs and sign language classes will be offered to children, families, service providers and professionals.

Community Outreach: Collaboration and consultation with local children and family service providers, educators, hearing and health professionals will be accomplished by

THE BRIDGE: CHILDREN & FAMILIES SERVICE

service providers and professionals.

Community Outreach:

Collaboration and consultation with local children and family service providers, educators, hearing and health professionals will be accomplished by regularly scheduled meetings with the Consultant and CCDHH. The following sessions have been scheduled:

**Networking and Sharing:
What are we ALL doing now?**

**September 30, 2009
4:00 – 5:30**

**Obstacles and Hurdles:
What do we have to offer?
October 28, 2009
4:00 – 5:30**

**Over the Bridge: How can we help each other?
November 18, 2009
4:00 – 5:30**

The September & October sessions were quite successful. Service providers in attendance included: Early Steps, All Children’s Hospi-

tal, Ear Research, Early Learning Coalition, Manatee County Schools, Sarasota County Schools, Early Learning Coalition of Manatee, Whole Child Project Manatee, Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota, & Healthy Start Coalition.

CCDHH invites parents & guardians of deaf & hard of hearing children to our:

**Monthly Educational-Support Lunch
November 18, 2009
12—1:30 PM
United Way McClure Ctr**

speechreading skills. The class will meet on October 2, November 6, and December 4 from 1:30-2:45 pm.

“An Easy Way to Increase Your Sign Vocabulary”

which is for the student who has basic sign language skills and wants to boost vocabulary as well as self-confidence. The instructor will distribute handouts organizing more than 200 sign groups. In each group, the signs have the same basic movement, but are initialized to match the English word equivalent. The class will also focus on the mental health aspect of learning sign by identifying thoughts and behaviors that sabotage efforts to master the skill of signing and talking at the same time. Class meets November 6 & December 4th 3-4 PM. This class is open to the general public & there is no charge for this class.

The **December** workshop will be announced at a later date.

Ms. Maroney also teaches the following classes at CCDHH in Building J:

“Communication Strategies and Speechreading Practice” which is designed to minimize communication breakdowns and to improve

BRIDGE: ADULT SERVICES

We at CCDHH continue to appreciate the services Lois N. Maroney, our licensed mental health counselor, provides to our deaf and hard of hearing adult clients.

Lois has a Masters in Education and a Masters in Rehabilitation Counseling and she specializes in counseling people with hearing loss. Before becoming deaf, she was a high school Russian and French teacher. Lois also has a private practice in St. Petersburg.

On **October 7**, we had our first of three workshops:

“Improving Service Delivery to Late-Deafened Adults” that touched on the following topics: Overview of Late-Deafness; Psychological & Social Impact of Late-Deafness; Communication Strategies; & Empowering Your Late-Deafened Client.

“Making the world a better place for the next Deaf generation—and for Deaf people now.”

**Matthew S. More
Deaf Life Editor**

- DHH individuals from birth use a variety of communication modes: American Sign Language, hearing aids, cochlear implants coupled with spoken language, lip-reading or a combination of any of the above.
- 93% of hearing parents with DHH children cannot communicate with their children.
- Deaf & hard of hearing children often miss a critical link in social and emotional development—that of incidental learning through human interaction.
- There is a prevailing assumption that agencies serving people with all disabilities equally serve people who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Nearly 3 million Floridians are deaf or hard of hearing.....impacting countless others whose lives are affected by family members with hearing loss.