

Date: October 26, 2015

Re: Office for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing: Staffing & offices changes

From: Sharon Behun, Director

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Effective November 1, 2015 The Office for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing (ODHH) is making staffing and office changes:

ODHH Representative, Jerry Penna is retiring. Representative Benjamin Moonan will replace Jerry and service 21 counties in western PA. Ben's primary office will remain in Johnstown, and the Erie ODHH office will be opened on a limited basis.

ODHH is facing a unique situation. On October 1, 2015, all commonwealth employees were advised of a travel ban. Due to this restriction, Ben will be in the Erie ODHH office by appointment only on specific dates. However, if he cannot meet you in person, he can assist you by phone, videophone, TTY, email, fax, or U.S. mail. Please note this plan is temporary until the travel ban is lifted. Once lifted Ben will be permitted to travel and will spend more time in the Erie ODHH office and western PA.

Secondly, ODHH will hire a new representative. This person will service 24 counties in central PA and their office will be located in the Harrisburg ODHH office. This person will be serving the counties previously covered by Ben Moonan. Denise Brown, ODHH representative, continues to cover 22 counties in eastern PA.

During this time of transition, ODHH does not foresee an interruption of services. As in the past, when ODHH was not at full complement, ODHH continued to provide services to all 67 counties.

The imposed travel ban may minimally impact "how" ODHH conducts our business. Staff will continue to provide service to Pennsylvanians by other means, if staff cannot be at your meeting or meet with you "in person."

Direct your questions to me at [sbehun@pa.gov](mailto:sbehun@pa.gov) or at 717-783-4912 v/tty or at 717- 831-0308 videophone.