

2023 Hearing Loss Expo Workshop Schedule

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

9 a.m.

Welcome

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Social Security Disability Programs

Presented by: The Social Security Administration

This session will provide an overview of Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Insurance Income (SSI). Each are disability programs but qualifications range widely between the two. SSDI is a program for individuals with working records. Qualifications for this program also involve family members. SSI is a need based, federal welfare program that children with disabilities can qualify for. During the presentation, attendees will also be given an in-depth look at SSA.gov, Social Security's website, and explore all aspects of online services.

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Hearing Loss: Know Your Rights

Presented by: The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission

This presentation outlines rights and responsibilities for persons with hearing loss. It will cover rights as they are related to various arenas, including employment, housing, education, commercial property and public accommodations. The presentation will also cover reasonable accommodations for persons with hearing loss.

11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Scams and Fraud: How to Protect Yourself

Presented by: The Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General

This presentation will give an overview of scams and fraud, including how to know when calls or emails are actual scams and prevention strategies to avoid becoming a victim. It will also cover what recourse you might have if you have been a victim.

1 – 2 p.m.

Panel Discussion with DeafBlind Customers and Support Service Providers (SSPs)

Presented by: The DeafBlind Community and Working SSPs

Working as a DeafBlind/SSP team is a unique experience. In this session, attendees will learn about SSP Services, which the Commonwealth of PA supports, and the role of an SSP. DeafBlind Panelists/SSPs will also answer questions about the services they receive and provide.

1 – 2 p.m.

Civil Rights Spotlight: Protection from Unqualified ASL Interpreters

Presented by: The Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General and the Pennsylvania Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

In this presentation, the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General's Civil Rights Enforcement Section will provide an overview of the Office's civil rights work; a summary of the civil rights protections for persons with disabilities, including persons who are Deaf or hard of hearing; and examples of recent matters the Office has handled to protect and advance the civil rights of Pennsylvanians who are Deaf or hard of hearing. ACT 57 of Pennsylvania will also be discussed.

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Interpreting vs SSP: What's the Difference?

Presented by: Heather Snyder and Jessica Bentley-Sassaman

When working with people who are Deaf and use ASL, non-Deaf professionals at times confuse the role of the interpreter and Support Service Provider (SSP). During this workshop, an experienced interpreter and an experienced SSP will share the roles and responsibilities of these two professionals. In addition, a couple who are Deaf and DeafBlind will share how they utilize the services of interpreters and SSPs.

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Mid Atlantic ADA - Understanding Effective Communication under the Americans with Disabilities Act

Presented by: The Mid Atlantic ADA Center

The Americans with Disabilities Act requires state and local governments and businesses to ensure effective communication with people with sensory disabilities, but what does this really mean? Who decides what is effective? Dr. Ann Deschamps, Director of the Mid-Atlantic ADA Center, will talk about what constitutes effective communication, how the Department of Justice is helping covered entities and people with disabilities understand this provision, and how it applies in different situations. Learn practical

applications of the ADA and how to get accurate information for your situation.

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Virtual Interpreter Workshop

ODHH is pleased to offer a free interpreter workshop in collaboration with the PA Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (PARID). A virtual link will be available for those who register. Please contact ODHH for registration information.

Thursday, October 12, 2023

9 a.m.

Welcome

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

OVR and ODHH – Working Together for Individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or DeafBlind

Presented by: Russ Goddard and Ben Moonan

The goal of this workshop is to help participants understand the differences in services provided by OVR and ODHH. Attendees will learn about:

- Services offered by the PA Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Services offered by the PA Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Types of services each agency provides for transition-aged and adult individuals who are Deaf, hard of hearing or DeafBlind
- Examples of where partnerships between OVR and ODHH happen

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Reading and Understanding your Audiogram & Are Over the Counter Hearing Aids Your Best Option?

Presented by: Lori Leiman, AuD

This workshop will explain test results from hearing screenings and symbols that are put on these tests. Also, OTC hearing aids will be explained, including their history and why they aren't always the best fit. There will also be a discussion of their limitations.

11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Summer Academy – Your Ticket to Your Future

Presented by: Russ Goddard

In this workshop, participants will learn about the following:

- The purpose and mission of the DHHS program
- Who the program is geared for
- What subjects are being taught during the DHHS program
- What job opportunities are available with the program

- How to apply for admission into the program

11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

The ADA, Reasonable Accommodations and Digital Civil Rights for Deaf & Hard of Hearing in the Workplace

Presented by: The Philadelphia District Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission is a federal agency in the United States that enforces laws against workplace discrimination. EEOC focuses on ensuring reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities in the workplace. Reasonable accommodation refers to modifications or adjustments made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform their job duties effectively. These accommodations can vary depending on the specific needs of the individual and the nature of their disability.

12:15 – 1:15 p.m.

Managing Anxiety with Mindfulness

Presented by: Pam Cosper, LCSW, CI/CT, SC:L (Retired)

Do you experience anxiety at home, work or in the community? Do you have difficulty controlling your thoughts? You're not alone. Many people do and it became worse during the pandemic. In this seminar, Pam Cosper, LCSW, CI/CT, SC:L (Retired), will discuss managing these mental health challenges using mindfulness practices. Join her for a relaxing, informative experience and take back control of your life.

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

How to Fund Assistive Technology for Hearing Loss

Presented by: The Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation (PATF)

You've found the assistive technology that you want! Now how do you pay for it? In this presentation, PATF will cover funding options for your assistive technology, what qualifies as assistive technology and challenge you to consider other options that may help you and qualify as assistive technology. The presentation will also cover how generic smart home technology can help you live safer in your home. For example, will you hear your smoke detector if there is a fire? Do you know when someone is at your front door? PATF's Outreach Director Wendy Davis will share personal stories of how her family uses generic smart home technology in their home, where four of the six family members have hearing loss.

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

The Hiram G Andrews Center and Commonwealth Technical Institute

Presented by: Jason Gies

The Commonwealth Technical Institute at the Hiram G. Andrews Center provides flexible career path education for all Pennsylvania students and adults looking to build a career in business, healthcare and more. Learn about the amazing campus and what it can offer you!