

~~COME WALK IN MY SHOES~~ LISTEN WITH MY EARS

VACSB

7 OCTOBER 2026

WHO IS THIS DEAF MAN?



Who is this DeafBlind Woman ?



WHO IS THIS HARD OF HEARING MAN?



Learning Objectives

Participants will learn the “community” resources

Participants will learn the definitions of Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late Deafened and DeafBlind and the communication styles of each population

Participants will learn the accommodations to ensure accessibility of services and programs and increase your effectiveness in serving this population

Participants will learn the appropriate ways to use a sign language interpreter and the differences between foreign language and American Sign Language interpreting

Demographics of Population

- ▶ 8.6% of Virginians have a Hearing Loss
- ▶ Virginia Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (VEHDI) program, under the Department of Health, are identifying 3 in every 1,000 births
- ▶ Persons aged 60 and above, according to a study at Johns Hopkins University (John Niparko, ENT Dept., 2008), are experiencing a dramatic increase in hearing loss (about 31%)

Demographics of Population

- ▶ Roughly 10% of the U.S. population are deaf and hard of hearing (based on the 2000 U.S. Census Reports)

Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing are using

7.7% Hard of Hearing 1,200,000

1.0% Deaf 120,000

Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired are using

over 16,000 people in Virginia have a combined loss of vision and hearing.

_____40% of Deaf population has a Secondary Disability

Definitions\ “DEAF” initions

- ▶ DEAF: Unable to use the auditory system to receive information. Depends on manual communication or some form of visual communication, i.e., speech reading; Use sign language interpreters

Definitions\ “DEAF” initions

- ▶ Let's meet Emily Bowers,
a member of the
Roanoke Deaf
Community

Definitions\ “DEAF” initions

- ▶ **Hard of Hearing:** Has some loss of hearing but may still depend on the auditory system for receiving information. May use hearing aids, assistive listening devices or may be fitted with a cochlear implant. May depend on visual communication to increase receptive skills. Uses voice for expressive skills. May or may not know sign language and may need written communication for ensuring accuracy and understanding.

Definitions\ “DEAF” initions

- ▶ Let’s meet Libby Atkins,
a member of the
Roanoke Hard of
Hearing Community

Definitions\ “DEAF” initions

- ▶ **Late Deafened:** Loss of hearing occurs after language has been developed. This may be total loss or any degree of loss that causes significant barriers to verbal communication. Use of assistive listening devices, hearing aids may or may not assist. Depends on visual and written communication for receptive skills but still uses voice for expressive skills. May or may not consider self part of Deaf Culture. May or may not know sign language.

Definitions\ “DEAF” initions

- ▶ Let’s meet Gary Talley, a member of the Petersburg Late Deafened Community

Definitions\ “DEAF” initions

- ▶ **DeafBlind:** Combination of hearing loss and visual loss and may be to any degree from total for both or on a continuum for both. Communication may include tactile sign language, manual sign language or braille. Assistive listening devices, hearing aids may be helpful and voice may still be used for expressive communication.

Definitions\ “DEAF” initions

- ▶ Let’s meet Aloma Long,
a member of the
Southwest Virginia
DeafBlind Community

Causes of Hearing Loss/Vision Loss

Congenital

- ▶ Deafness can also be caused by complications during pregnancy. Illnesses such as rubella, cytomegalovirus (CMV), toxoplasmosis and herpes can cause a child to be born deaf. There is also a range of medicines, known as ototoxic drugs, which can damage the hearing system of a baby before birth.

[Deaf Child Worldwide - Causes of deafness](http://www.deafchildworldwide.info/childhood_deafness/causes_of.html)

www.deafchildworldwide.info/childhood_deafness/causes_of.html

Causes of Hearing Loss/Vision Loss

Illness:

Deafness is the most common after-effect of meningitis. Approximately one in ten children who survive meningitis develops deafness as a result of the illness.

High fever

Syndromes:

Usher syndrome Type 1 and Type 2

Waardenburg syndrome

Treacher Collins syndrome

Causes of Hearing Loss/Vision Loss

▶ Loud Noises

Music/Headphones/Ear Buds
Explosions/Military

Work
Power Tools

▶ OTOTOXIC DRUGS

Communication Styles

Manual Communication

- ▶ **Sign Language:** Manual form of communication with it's own syntax, grammar and idiomatic expressions

As with any language, there are varying levels of skills and it is important to determine the person's language ability to communicate effectively

Communication Styles

Tactile or Close Vision or Protactile Language

- ▶ **Tactile Sign Language:** This includes having the sign language presented hand over hand or having the person hold the wrists of the person speaking to follow the signed communication.
- ▶ **Close Vision Sign Language:** The speaker sits as close to the person as needed and signs in the person's field of vision

Communication Styles

► **Protactile Language**

- touch-based language developed by and for the DeafBlind community, moving beyond tactile adaptations of sign language to prioritize direct, physical connection. It relies on touch, pressure, and tapping on the body to communicate,

Communication Styles

▶ Video for Protactile

- ▶ https://www.google.com/search?q=protactile+language+video&rlz=1C1GCEA_enUS878US878&oq=protactile+language+video&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIHCAEQIRiPAfBCDY3MTZqMGoxqAIAAsAIA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:0af16b50,vid:9GrK3P15TYU,st:0

Communication Styles

- ▶ **CUED SPEECH:** a method of communication in which the mouth movements of speech are combined with a system of hand movements to facilitate understanding and used by people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Communication Styles

Speech Reading

With or without auditory assistance, interpret the shapes on the mouth of the speaker to determine the word being spoken. Only 1/3 of English sounds are visible on your lips.

Speech Reading Test

Speech Reading Test

▶ ISLE OF VIEW

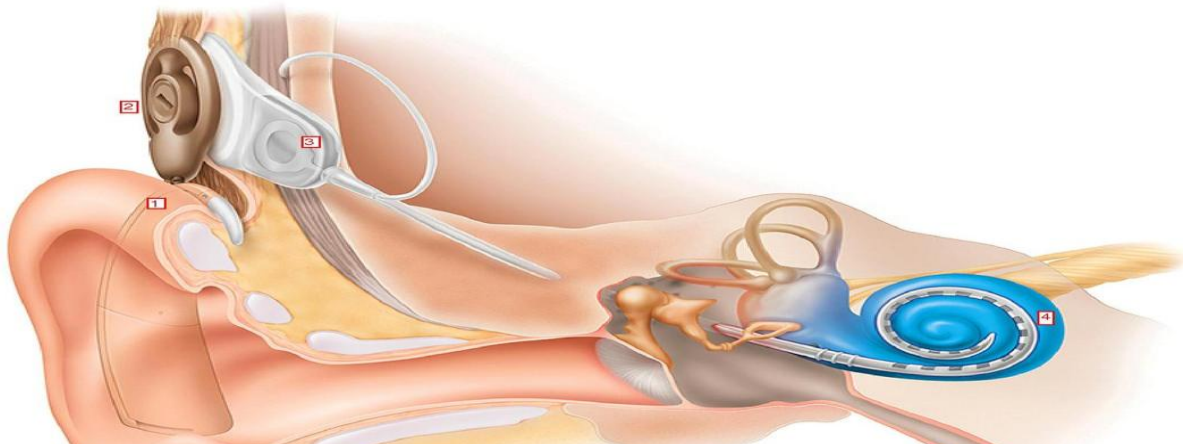
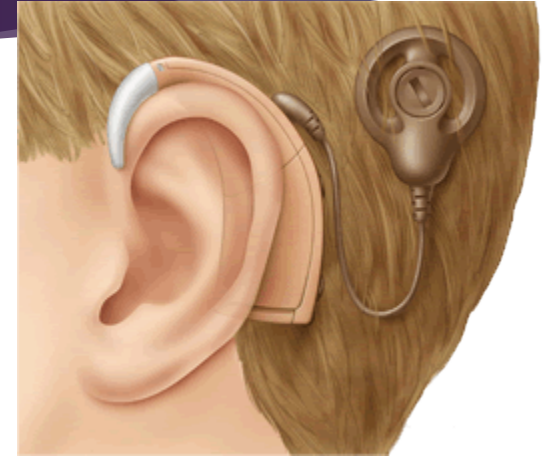
Communication AIDS

Hearing Aids



Communication AIDS

Cochlear Implants



Auditory Assistive Listening Devices

Pocket Talkers

Comfort Duetts



Education

Residential School

Each state has one

Dormitory Living increases social emotional development with access to culture and linguistically-competent role models

Question: What's your name? Where's your school?

Education

Mainstreamed School

Multiple programs in the region or school district

Lives at home and travels back and forth to school

Attends classes with adult interpreter

May or may not have a resource teacher of the Deaf

86 percent of deaf students in the U.S. are in mainstreamed programs all or part of the day and may be the only deaf or hard-of-hearing student in their school.

Education

Self Contained Classroom

Multiple programs in the region or school district

Lives at home and travels back and forth to school

Attends classes with teacher who may or may not be sign fluent and may have students with other disabilities in the class

May be the only deaf or hard-of-hearing student in the class or the school.

Education

Post-Secondary Education

Gallaudet University

National Technical Institute for the
Deaf

Accommodations in other universities

MENTAL HEALTH

- ▶ **Incidence:** Occurs in the population at the same rate as for hearing folks.
- ▶ **Most common diagnosis**
 - Depression
 - Substance Abuse
 - Personality Disorders
- ▶ **Barriers**
 - Communication
 - Understanding Culture
 - Trust
 - Lack of experience in the Deaf Community with Mental Health Issues

SOCIALIZATION

Deaf Clubs

Virginia Association of the Deaf

Churches

TECHNOLOGY

Videophone

ILS Technology: Fire Alarms, Wake up Alarm

Smartphones: Texting or FaceTime



Advocacy

Virginia Association
of the Deaf

Why Do We Need ASL Interpreters

Many deaf individuals use American Sign Language (ASL)—a manual language with its own grammar, syntax, and vocabulary.

Ideal situation is that every service provider could communicate in the person's preferred language, but this is not the current situation in Virginia.

Why Do We Need ASL Interpreters

The ADA requires that title II entities (State and local governments) and title III entities (businesses and nonprofit organizations that serve the public) communicate effectively with people who have communication disabilities. The goal is to ensure that communication with people with these disabilities is equally effective as communication with people without disabilities

Why Do We Need ASL Interpreters

▶ American Sign Language Interpreter

▶ <https://www.pbs.org/video/meet-the-helpers-asl-interpreter-crisis-jdl4lw/>

Why Do We Need ASL Interpreters

- ▶ **CDI**
- ▶ <https://youtu.be/wOvw0FYFaN4?si=FBvt1kazjyBhlAqB>

Why Do We Need ASL Interpreters

Certified Sign Language Interpreter is fluent in American Sign Language and a second language and has been specially trained in the subject matter being interpreted, i.e., mental health, legal, medical, education

Why Do We Need ASL Interpreters

Determine Your Resources

- ▶ Determine if there are assistive listening devices available in your office
- ▶ Determine if there are staff who can communicate in the consumers preferred mode of communication
- ▶ Have a list of contracted interpreters for your area or contact the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for hiring an interpreter

Interpreter Guidelines and Agency Recommendations

- ▶ Every agency should have a written plan for how to manage interpreter requests.
- ▶ Hospitals are now using iPads with video remote interpreting and you may be able to use this. Determine who and how costs of interpreter services will be paid
- ▶ While waiting for the interpreter you can try writing or speechreading or gesturing but only as a way to initiate communication, not for your assessment

How to use the ASL interpreter

Working Conditions

- ▶ **Video relay service (VRS)** is a free service that is funded by the FCC to provide interpreting services for telephone calls between sign language users and voice users. The interpreter connects to the Deaf caller via a video screen and to the hearing caller with a regular phone line and interprets the call in real time.
- ▶ **Video remote interpreting (VRI)** is a fee-based service by video on a laptop or iPad that is usually funded by the facility where interpreting is happening. While often used for any sort of language interpretation, with ASL the demands for a clear video connection makes the service more unreliable. If effective communication isn't possible, it is considered the same as not providing an ASL interpreter. **(ADA.GOV)**

How to use the ASL interpreter

Working Conditions

- ▶ Limits to using remote interpreting
 - ▶ Body language is limited to the amount of screen size and/or size of group
 - ▶ Facial expressions are limited by screen size and/or size of group
 - ▶ With unclear video, all visual information is lost even if there is still audio

How to use the ASL interpreter Communication Process

Speak to whom: The provider and Deaf person are speaking to each other, not to the interpreter. Use first person: I and second person: You

Never use: Tell him/her

Exceptions with high levels of dysfluency

Look at whom: Eye contact is maintained with Deaf person

Be prepared for delays: Interpreting can be a slow process; be patient.

What to say or not say: Remember the interpreter will usually interpret everything that's said.

Pre- and post- session: The interpreter needs to know the history of the person and goals for the session before it starts. Debrief afterwards about communication issues and what the interpreter observed.

How to use the ASL interpreter

Environmental Considerations

Lighting

- ▶ Keep light sources above or in front of interpreter. Light from behind causes silhouettes

Seating

- ▶ Interpreter sits slightly behind and to the side of the non-signer, facing the Deaf person

Pace

- ▶ Speak at your normal pace. If the interpreter needs anything they will ask.

Safety

- ▶ Interpreter should always have quick access to the exit.

How to use the ASL interpreter Self Care

- ▶ Triggers from the content of the session
- ▶ Pre/Post Check in with the provider
- ▶ Even if an interpreter does not work for more than an hour by themselves, interpreting work on a Zoom call is more exhausting than face-to-face interpreting.
- ▶ Freelance have been impacted by the fact that they have not been able to get work, or they have had a reduced amount of work and reduced or no work means reduced or no income.

Interpreter Resources

- ▶ **Civic Access:** <https://civicaccess.com/>
- ▶ **IBrothersInterpreting Services:**
ibrothersinterpreting@gmail.com
- ▶ **Mosaic Interpreting Services:**
<https://www.mosaicinterpretingservices.com/>

Mental Health

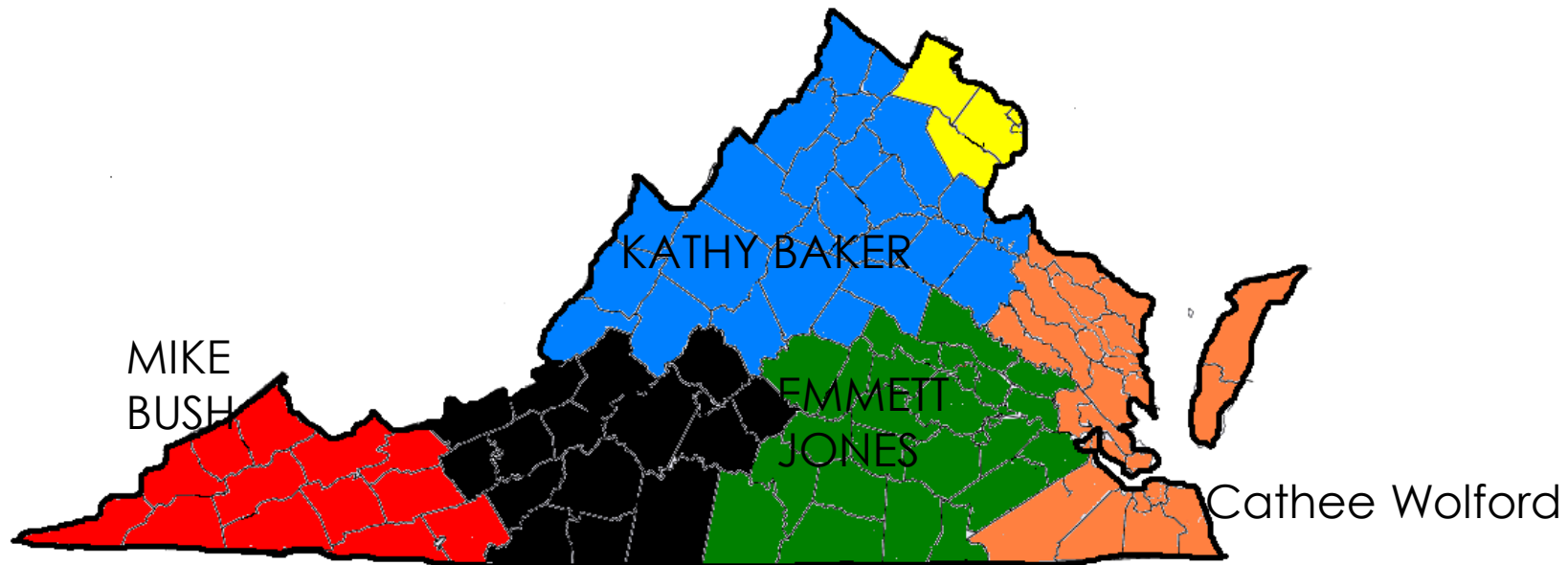
Substance Use

Intellectual Disabilities

► Community Services Boards

Regional Services for Persons who are Deaf
Hard of Hearing Late Deafened or
DeafBlind

REGIONAL COORDINATORS



STATE COORDINATOR

Kathryn A. Baker, LPC
State Coordinator
Valley CSB
85 Sanger's Lane
Staunton, VA 24401
Voice: 540-213.7527
VP: 540.416.0115
FAX: 540-887-3295
kbaker@rappahannockareacsb.org

Valley Community Services Board

HPR One

The therapist is knowledgeable in deafness, hearing loss, deafblindness and the implications for mental health. The therapist is fluent in sign language and provides therapy in the person's preferred mode of communication. All contacts are kept confidential.

Regional consultation and advocacy are available upon request.

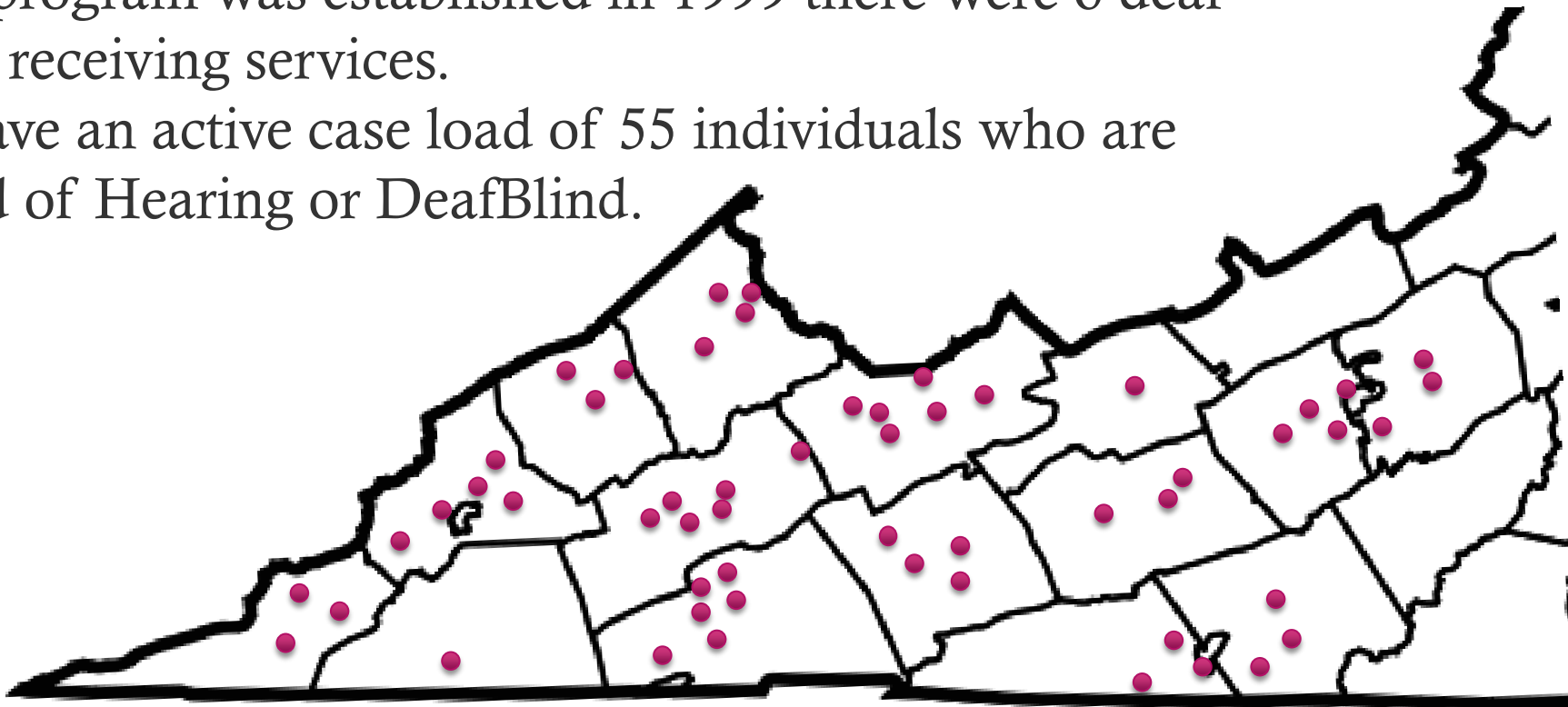
- Individual, couple, group and family therapy
- Children, adolescents and adults
- Psychiatric services
- Parenting skills
- Sex abuse treatment
- Emergency services — 24 hours

REGIONAL COORDINATORS

Michael Bush, LPC
Regional Coordinator,
Cumberland Mountain CSB
PO Box 486
Lebanon, VA 24266
Voice: 276-889-3785
TTY: 800-347-4939
FAX: 276-889-2842
mbush@cmcsb.com

Deaf Services, Southwest Virginia

- When the program was established in 1999 there were 6 deaf consumers receiving services.
- We now have an active case load of 55 individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or DeafBlind.



REGIONAL COORDINATORS

Emmett Jones, Ph. D.
Regional Coordinator
Deaf & Hard of Hearing Community Counseling
Services
2819 Parham Road, Suite 120
Henrico, VA 23294
Voice: 804-813-8111
FAX: 804-282-3266
dremmettjones@gmail.com

REGIONAL COORDINATORS

Dr. Cathee Wolford
Regional Coordinator
Hampton-Newport News CSB
200 Medical Drive, Suite B
Hampton, Virginia 23666
Voice: 757-788-0261
TTY: 757-245-3089
FAX: 757-245-5015
cathee.wolford@hnncsb.org

Regional Deaf Coordinator and Counselor Region V

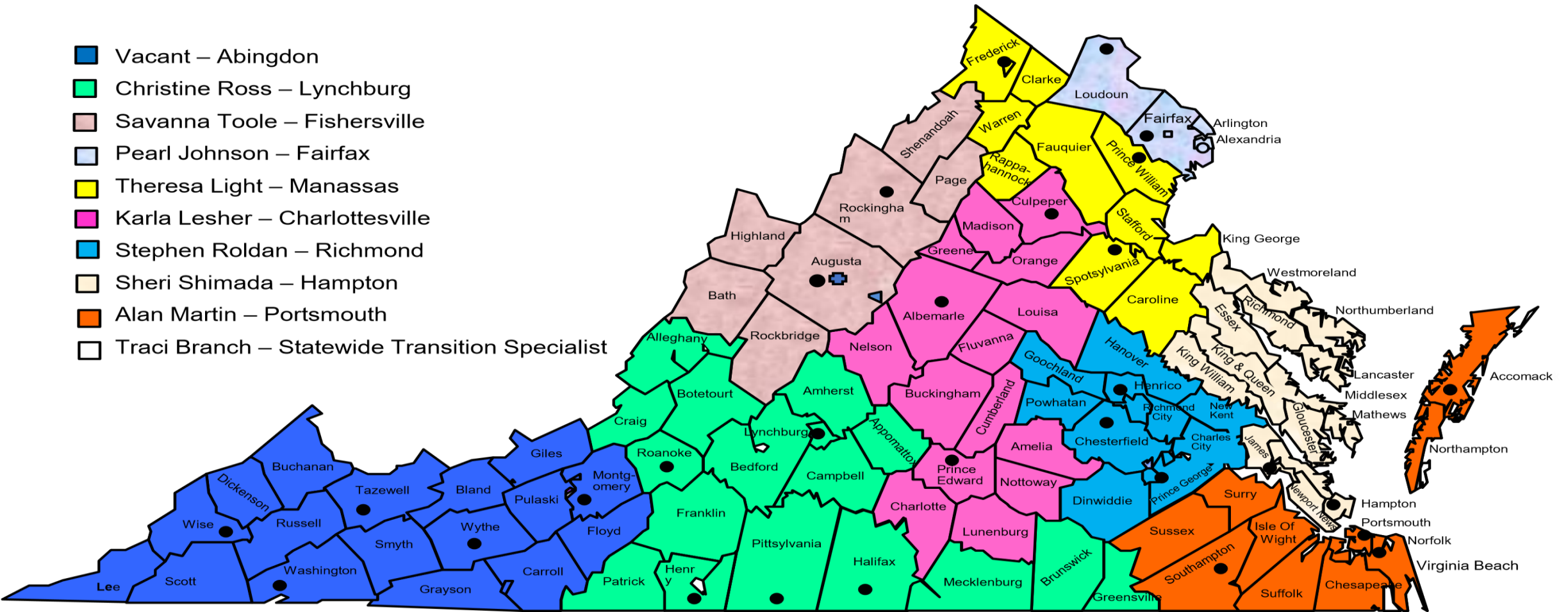
- ▶ Mental Health Case Manager Jacqueline Ambrose- Deaf
- ▶ Psychosocial rehabilitation counselors Wanda Leggett and Mary King- Deaf
- ▶ Clubhouse Model of Psychosocial Rehabilitation includes:
 - ▶ Treating patient as a member
 - ▶ Activities are structured-employment development
 - ▶ Community as Therapy-activities focused on wellness

Determine Your Community Resources

- ▶ Know the Regional Coordinator for Services for Persons who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late Deafened or DeafBlind and make contact for assistance: Emmett Jones/Kathy Baker
- ▶ Know the State Coordinator for Services for Persons who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late Deafened or DeafBlind and contact for assistance: Kathy Baker
- ▶ Know the Regional Counselor for the Deaf from the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services: Stephen Roldan
- ▶ Know the Outreach Specialist from the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing: vddhh.org
- ▶ Know the DeafBlind Specialist from the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired: Elizabeth Spiers

Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services Counselors for the Deaf

- Vacant – Abingdon
- Christine Ross – Lynchburg
- Savanna Toole – Fishersville
- Pearl Johnson – Fairfax
- Theresa Light – Manassas
- Karla Lesher – Charlottesville
- Stephen Roldan – Richmond
- Sheri Shimada – Hampton
- Alan Martin – Portsmouth
- Traci Branch – Statewide Transition Specialist



VDDHH Outreach Specialist

- ▶ To find out who your local Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialist is, please visit our Directory of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialists, at VDDHH.org
- ▶ Or contact the VDDHH Central Office at 804-662-9502 or 1-800-552-7917. (Note: relay users; please dial 7-1-1 before dialing our number)

Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired: DeafBlind Specialist

Elizabeth Spiers Program Director, DeafBlind Services

Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired

395 Azalea Avenue Richmond, Virginia 23227

Voice/Videophone: 804-325-1282

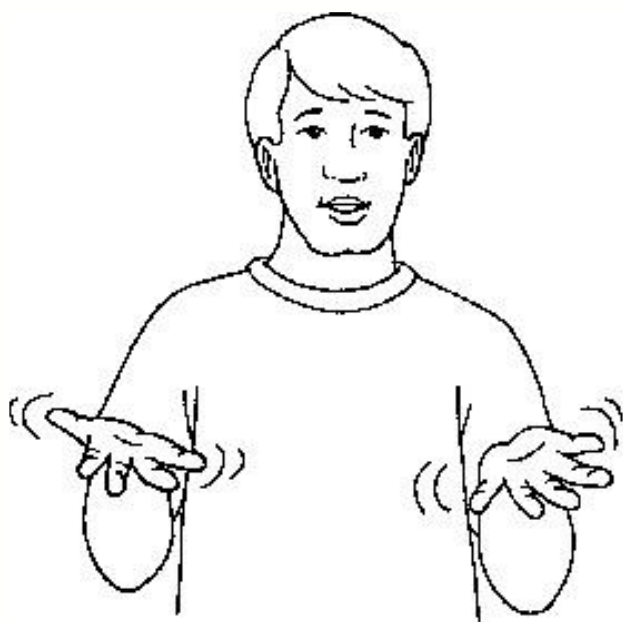
Secondary phone: 804-212-1905

Cell Phone Number: 804-921-5667 (text only)

Toll Free: 800-622-2155

Fax: 804-371-3092

Email: elizabeth.spiers@dbvi.virginia.gov



QUESTIONS