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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Working Together for a Healthier Deaf Community!**

The Deaf Health Community Committee (DHCC) and the National Center for Deaf Health Research (NCDHR) at the University of Rochester are working together to develop a health survey in American Sign Language. Look for it soon!

It will help us to better understand the health of Deaf people and their families. The survey will have nothing to do with hearing loss. It is about your health and the health of all people in the Deaf community.

NCDHR is supported by the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, based in Atlanta, Georgia.

In photo #1 is Patrick Graybill signing questions in ASL for the survey. Robyn Dean, along with Julianna Aggas and Susan Demers Postlethwait in the background, watched and helped him during the studio filming at RIT. They are members of the NCDHR's Translation Workgroup (TWG) along with Betsy Finigan, M.D. and Robert Pollard, Ph.D. The TWG worked for many months translating English written questions into American Sign Language. Those questions were chosen from other health surveys used with hearing people.

Another team of translators is currently working to develop an English-based Sign Interpretation of the same questions. One of the translators is Patrick Sullivan of the DHCC.



These translations will allow deaf people to choose the most comfortable way for them to take the survey. The survey will also include a caption option. This is a first!

The ASL Health Survey is “user-friendly.” No computer skills will be needed to complete the survey on a computer laptop. All survey questions and answers will be shown in American Sign Language or English-based signing through videos and captions, if desired. Most importantly, the survey will be anonymous. Your name will never be attached to your answers. Photo #2 shows how the ASL Health Survey will look.



Members of Deaf Health Community Committee plan to give presentations about the ASL Health Survey and how it works. If your club or organization is interested in having a presentation, please contact NCDHR at (585) 267-2122 Videophone, or e-mail [ncdhr@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:ncdhr@urmc.rochester.edu).

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