DHCC

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First Open House of 2013

Come visit the Saunders Research Building for a short film viewing, community discussions, and much more!
First Open House in 2013

NCDHR is happy to host the first Open House of 2013. Please join us on: **Monday, February 11, from 5:30-7:30pm at the Saunders Research Building.**

We will review a short film and engage in a community discussion regarding the new Deaf Health Survey for 2013. We will also provide a tour of our new offices, complete with informational tables with our community partners and current research opportunities.

Come learn more about NCDHR’s goals for 2013!

Refreshments and parking will be provided.

For our address and any additional information, please click on the flyer to the right.
DHCC to Host the First Ever Deaf Health Fair
By Arlene Sankey

Deaf people living in the greater Rochester area are fortunate that the city and its surrounding towns are one of the most deaf-friendly areas in the country. Rochester is the home of the NCDHR as well as several ASL fluent Deaf health professionals. Hospitals, clinics and many doctors’ offices in our area also provide professional sign language interpreters in the healthcare settings. The Deaf Health Community Committee (DHCC) and the Rochester Recreation Club for the Deaf sponsor monthly “Deaf Health Talks,” interactive presentations that are conducted in ASL. The University of Rochester’s Center for Community Health received a five-year grant that focuses on improving the health of our entire community, including our Deaf residents. However, one thing is missing -- an accessible health fair for Deaf people. Project Hope Program by DEAF, Inc. in Boston, Massachusetts will be having its 12th annual health fair for Deaf Bostonians this April. Yet, Rochester is the home of one of the largest concentrations of Deaf people in the country and we do not have a health fair!

DHCC, which is comprised of dedicated members from the local Deaf community, has decided to roll up their sleeves and correct this “deficit.” We are thrilled to announce our first ever Finger Lakes Deaf Health Fair (FLDHF) on April 20! It is an all-day event targeting Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing residents from the greater Rochester area and beyond. This culturally and linguistically appropriate health fair will provide accessible information for those whose primary language is American Sign Language (ASL). This event will be held at the Rochester School for the Deaf, which is providing free space for the event’s educational exhibition tables and presentations. This would not have been possible without the support of the Genesee Valley Region Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (GVRRID), who is co-sponsoring this event. The FLDHF’s Planning Committee consists of Sharon Haynes and Arlene Sankey as co-chairs. They represent the DHCC. Other DHCC members on this committee are Beth Metlay, John T. Reid, Valerie Pruner, Dr. Mike McKee and our NCDHR Community Liaison, Matthew Starr. Our GVRRID representative is Sherry Ientilucci.

We will be promoting this event not just to the Rochester Deaf community, but also to Deaf communities in upstate NY cities and towns such as Buffalo, Syracuse, Utica/Rome and Albany. Anyone from our neighboring states, such as Pennsylvania and Ohio, are welcome too!

Our primary goals of the Finger Lakes Deaf Health Fair are to educate the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing community on a variety of vital health topics in ASL as well as to improve our community’s awareness on existing accessible health resources. We also plan to offer some free health screenings. Several ASL-fluent licensed healthcare professionals (physicians, psychologists, physical therapists, etc.) have committed their time to give free presentations. We will even have a Deaf veterinarian at the event since pet care is important to the well-being of pet owners!
Many health-related organizations have quickly signed up to have educational exhibition booths. Many are still in the process of signing up. We hope to have at least 15 to 20 booths at the FLDHF. See below for the list of vendors that are currently planning to attend:

1. National Kidney Foundation: blood pressure screenings
2. The Monroe Plan: healthcare insurance coverage
3. Greater Rochester Physical Therapy
4. Dr. Mike McKee’s research on health literacy
5. NCDHR
6. SAISD (Substance and Alcohol Intervention for the Deaf)
7. Deaf Roots & Wings
8. GVRRID: related to medical interpreting
9. Dr. Kim Dodge on pet care
10. DWC (Deaf Wellness Center)
11. Foodlink on healthy nutritional information
12. ASADV (Advocacy Services for Abused Deaf Victims)
13. ParkWest Women’s Health
14. Healthy Hero Program
15. American Diabetes Association

We have posted a vlog about our Deaf Health Fair and plan to add more vlogs as we get more details. Please click here to see the Vlog. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at FLDeafHealthFair@gmail.com. Help us spread the word to your families, friends and co-workers! The DHCC and our planning committee are looking forward to seeing you at our first ever health fair! We will never beat Boston’s record, but at least we will have our own health fair on our home turf!

Heather Kirsebom

Heather was one of the three interns (with Tara Holaday and Kyle Gahagan) from the summer of 2011. She returned back to Minnesota to complete her undergraduate degree in ASL interpreting and Psychology. Heather graduated December of 2011 and continued to be involved in local public health projects. In May of 2012 Heather decided to return to graduate school at Argosy University to get her Masters in Public Health, focusing in on epidemiology. In addition to school, Heather has began working for a few research projects, and is working with some of the Minnesota community health workers. She hopes to continue her journey in school and eventually earn her PhD in public health. Eventually Heather hopes to work for a University as a professor to teach and conduct research studies within the public health field.
HL2 Making Strides

Determining the Health Priorities of People with Hearing Loss

HL2 (Healthy Living with Hearing Loss), a community partner of NCDHR, has made a lot of progress over the last few months. HL2 includes members from the Hearing Loss Association of America – Rochester Chapter along with individuals with hearing loss and healthcare providers from the community. After solidifying a vision and mission statement, as well as coming up with their group name, HL2 distributed informal questionnaires to the local community of people with hearing loss. These questionnaires asked people with hearing loss about their health concerns.

During HL2’s recent January meeting, the group worked hard to consolidate the list of health concerns into a list of health topics. HL2 members will next rank each of these health topics along two scales: 1) the importance of the health topic; and 2) the likelihood that a research project could address or resolve the health topic. The result will be a prioritized list of health research topics. HL2 and NCDHR will use this prioritized list to select research topics for collaborative grant proposals.

This HL2 process is similar to the process of the 2004 Rochester Deaf Health Task Force (RDHTF). The RDHTF, comprised of Rochester area leaders, noted limited data from the Rochester Deaf community on health and healthcare. This led to the first core research project for NCDHR and DHCC: The 2008 Rochester Deaf Health Survey (DHS). The collaborative process of identifying Rochester Deaf community health research priorities continued. Informed by findings from the DHS 2008, the Rochester Deaf community selected three health disparities as health research priorities: obesity, suicide risk, and intimate partner violence. DHCC and NCDHR worked together to develop research grant proposals for each of these three priorities, and now have three funded research projects focused on those three priorities.

Over the next few months, HL2 will develop its own list of health research priorities. HL2 and NCDHR will then work together to develop community-based participatory research proposals to begin to address the list. This process is consistent with NCDHR’s mission: To promote health and prevent disease with communities of Deaf ASL users and people with hearing loss through community-based participatory research (CBPR).

To learn more about what is happening at NCDHR and its community partners, contact Jamie Marsden, NCDHR Secretary, to be listed on NCDHR-News listserv (Jamie_Marsden@urmc.rochester.edu).

HL2 has developed communication strategies for speaking with individuals who have hearing loss and do not use sign language. While there are some similarities between the Deaf community and the community of people with hearing loss, not all of their communication and accessibility needs are the same. The communication strategies focus on the needs of the community of people with hearing loss and can be used as a tool for anyone wishing to better understand how to communicate with people with hearing loss. The goal is to alleviate the confusion and misconceptions of what to do when speaking with someone with hearing loss.

To view the Communication Strategies for HL2, please click on the box above.
NCDHR Supports Rochester View Apartments

Housing for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Residents

If a “picture is worth 1000 words” then a video in ASL may be worth a million! NCDHR supported the recent application submitted to the NY State Housing and Community Renewal for the establishment of the Rochester View Apartments. With the hard work of DePaul Properties, partnering with Deaf community leaders and advocates, the application outlined the plans for construction of a 60 apartment unit complex with enhancements throughout to make the complex uniquely accessible and enjoyable for Deaf and Hard of Hearing residents. NCDHR was instrumental in recording and producing a ASL video (with English captions) of “letters of support” from Deaf community members. This is a novel approach to letters of support, which traditionally are submitted from concerned and supportive parties in any grant seeking process, where the community most involved with the project was able to share their support for the project in their preferred language. We are hopeful for the success of this application – to develop affordable Deaf and Hard of Hearing housing in the Rochester Community.

An Update on the Deaf Health Pathway Projects

Jenie George

Currently, Jenie George is a 4th year medical student at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry and in the Deaf Health Pathway. Her final research project for the pathway includes interviewing the Deaf Weight Wise counselors to better understand their experiences after the 2012 Deaf Weight Wise (DWW) groups ended in order to enhance the 2013 DWW groups’ experiences. In October, she met with the Deaf Health Community Committee (DHCC) and explained the goals of her project. At this point in the project, she has finished interviews with five counselors and currently is analyzing the results to look for similar themes among the responses. She plans to meet with the DHCC after her analysis to report her findings. Overall, she feels it has been a great experience.
Jennifer Choudri and Lindsay Rubenstein are fourth year medical students at the University of Rochester where they are enrolled in the school’s Deaf Health Pathway. Jennifer and Lindsay are both native Rochesterians who have had a long-standing interest in ASL and Deaf Culture. As part of the pathway, they have elected to do a project to help educate medical students on provider and Deaf patient interactions. Their project, which they are working on with Dr. Steve Barnett, involves developing and implementing an educational online video module to address some of the issues Deaf patients may face in health care settings. Their goal is to improve cross-cultural and language communication with the Deaf Community, and hopefully, as a result, improve health care while reducing known health disparities. The audience for the module will be University of Rochester medical students, with the hope of expanding this to medical students from other schools, as well as residents and attending doctors. Last month, Lindsay and Jennifer met with a panel of members from the DHCC to present their project and gather feedback on what should be included and most strongly emphasized in the module. They are currently in the process of using this feedback for script development and are in the planning stages for filming the video segments of the module.

Lori DeWindt Reflects

Her trip to the National Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH) forum

2nd National Community Partner Forum on Community-Engaged Health Disparities Research
December 5-7, 2012 ~ Washington DC

I attended the National Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH) forum in Washington, D.C. with support from the University of Rochester Medical Center’s Center for Community Health. The goal for this working forum was to encourage fairness and equal access for health through partnerships between communities and academic institutions. Ultimately, a successful community-academic partnership can eliminate health disparities. Health disparities are large differences in health results, quality of health care and service between two communities (often a majority community and a minority community). Forum participants came from all walks of life, of all ages, ethnicities, shared common interests or causes, values and norms. Like the Deaf community in Rochester, NCDHR, as an academic partner, has worked with support from the Deaf Health Community Committee (DHCC), a community partner, towards understanding, identifying and prioritizing the health needs of the Deaf community.
The forum’s main “take-home” message was that a stronger voice by community partners is needed in decisions related to community-based participatory research (CBPR). This includes better collaboration between universities and community-based organizations (CBO) such as better infrastructure to engage community partners as equal research partners with institutions, receiving funding to conduct their own health disparities research and using the CBPR approach which must include an investment in training and mentoring of community partners.

One presentation that I attended talked about “food desert.” A food desert is an area where residents have limited access to affordable and healthy food market (i.e., a large grocery store). Instead, several convenient and fast food stores (with unhealthy food) saturate the area. Food deserts do exist in our city, affecting its residents, including Deaf people. NCDHR and the Rochester Recreation Club for the Deaf have collaborated with Foodlink to provide farm stands for the Rochester Deaf Community to circumvent the undesirable food desert problem. NCDHR and its community partners plans to have the farm stand again this year.

Many issues and struggles related to language barriers and cultural identities, brought up from the forum participants, were similar and dissimilar with our Deaf Community’s experiences. Certain hearing linguistic groups were able to overcome language barriers through radio and TV. For example, Spanish-speaking people can watch Spanish TV at home in their native language. This is not the case for the Deaf Community as we struggle with poor quality TV captioning and/or who do not have adequate English literacy to understand English-based captioning. TV shows in American Sign Language are almost nonexistent and most of us cannot use radio. While cultural identity is very important in our Deaf community, I learned that other people of different ethnicities and nationalities have struggled to establish their own culture identities by trying to meld their norms into the American’s way of life. Other issues including trust and respect between communities and academic institutions were also discussed. An important issue mentioned at the forum was the challenge of translating information into policy. I found it fascinating that many of us at the forum had different definitions of “what is community.”

Overall, I found the forum to be informative and interesting. I was pleased and honored to get to meet individuals from different community and academic partners. It is important that the American Deaf community must be “visible” during community-academic forums that promote health and prevent disease for all Americans!
Mission of NCDHR: To promote health and prevent disease in the Deaf and hard of hearing populations through community-based participatory research.