



Washington State
Department of Social
& Health Services



ODHH Symposium: Past, Present, Future 1979-2009

Program Book

ODHH Symposium: Past, Present, Future

Friday November 13, 2009

Agenda

- 9:00 a.m. Welcome – James ‘Dino’ Christianson, Master of Ceremonies
- 9:10 a.m. Past: “Pre-1979” – Allie Joiner, Founding Member
- 9:30 a.m. Past: “1979-2003” – Leon Curtis, Retired ODHH Director
- 9:50 a.m. Past: “2003-2009” – Eric Raff, ODHH Director
- 10:00 a.m. Present: “One Department, One Vision, One Mission, One Core Set of Values” – Tracy Guerin, DSHS Chief of Staff
- 10:30 a.m. Present & Future: “What ODHH is Doing” – Eric Raff, ODHH Director
- 10:45 a.m. Break
- 11:00 a.m. Future: “Breakout Sessions” <OR> Lobby Exhibits
 - Education
 - Court Interpreting
 - Early Intervention
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Break (*not provided, cafeteria is nearby*)
- 1:30 p.m. Future: “Breakout Sessions” <OR> ODHH Open House
 - Employment
 - ADA Title II: State Government
 - Mental Health
- 3:00 p.m. Adjourn

ODHH Symposium

Locations:

| <u>11-12:30 Session</u> | <u>1:30-3 Session</u> | <u>Office Building 2 (OB2)</u> | <u>Floor</u> | <u>Maximum Seating Capacity</u> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--|------------------|---|
| Education | Employment | Auditorium | Service Level | 375 |
| Interpreting | ADA Title II | Lookout | 4th Floor | 75 |
| Early Intervention | Mental Health | SLO3* | Service Level | 50 |

* SL03 is in cafeteria

ODHH Symposium

About the Breakout Sessions

Presentations and suggested areas to discuss

- 1) What are the unmet needs and barriers?
- 2) What have we been doing and where are we now?
- 3) What policy changes are needed? (e.g. laws, regulations and policies)
- 4) What resources are needed? (e.g. funding, staff, training)

11:00 am – 12:30 PM

| SESSION 1 | LEAD AGENCY |
|--|---|
| Education | Office of Governor/Center for Childhood Deafness and Hearing Loss |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESSHB1879 • Statewide service availability and gaps | |

About Education – A law was signed which establishes the Washington State Center for Childhood Deafness and Hearing Loss (CDHL) and maintains the Washington School for the Deaf (WSD) as a residential school located in Vancouver. The role of CDHL is to research and identify existing strengths and gaps in the current statewide service delivery model for children. It authorizes CDHL to establish pilot sites, one of which must be in eastern Washington, to provide educational service regardless of communication modality. To accomplish these goals, a core group has been formed and stakeholder meetings will be conducted. All findings and recommendations generated through the process will be reviewed by the CDHL Board of Trustees. The Board will present its final recommendations to the legislature December 1, 2010.

| SESSION 2 | LEAD AGENCY |
|---|--|
| Court Interpreting | DSHS/ODHH <u>and</u> the Administrative Office of the Courts |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court Interpreting: Standards | |

About Interpreting – RCW 2.42 requires ODHH to establish standards for rates paid for court interpreters and to make available a list of interpreters to the courts upon request. ODHH partnered with the Administrative Office of the Courts to convene a workgroup of court administrators, a judge, legal interpreters, WSRID, and WSAD. The workgroup is nearing completion and will be making recommendations of what will need to be done in the future. This session is to share information and get feedback.

| SESSION 3 | LEAD AGENCY |
|---|---|
| Early Intervention | DSHS/Infant-Toddler Early Intervention Program <u>and</u> Department of Health, Early Hearing Loss Detection, Diagnosis and Intervention program. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newborn Hearing & Screening • Early Intervention | |

About Early Invention – Department of Health, Early Hearing Loss Detection, Diagnosis and Intervention program administers newborn hearing and screening. DOH has been addressing

gaps between diagnosis and referrals to the DSHS Infant-Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP) and hosted three statewide summits on this issue. ODHH contracted with Washington Sensory Disability Services to promote partnerships between the Regional Service Centers for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and ITEIP Family Resource Coordinators as well as conduct assessments of the Centers' capacity to provide support services to families and children.

1:30 – 3:00 PM

| SESSION 1 | LEAD AGENCY |
|---|--|
| Employment | DSHS/Division of Vocational Rehabilitation |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School-to-Work Transition Best Practices vs. Current Practices | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certified Rehabilitation Professional Employment in WA State Government |

About Employment – ODHH is partnering with Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to address underemployment of people with hearing loss. Issues raised were lack of certified rehabilitation professionals proficient in sign language, rehabilitation providers not accepting DVR referrals because of accommodation costs, lack of school-to-work transition programs for youth as well as taking a look at gaps between the national Model Service Plan for Rehabilitation of Persons who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, Hard of Hearing or Late Deafened and actual practices in Washington State. Office of Diversity Affairs is working to increase the number of people with disabilities employed within DSHS.

| SESSION 2 | LEAD AGENCY |
|---|--|
| ADA Title II: State Government | DSHS/ODHH |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reasonable Accommodations Assistive Technology | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Real-Time Captioning |

About ADA Title II: State Government – The State of Washington government agencies have obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act to provide reasonable accommodations in making its' programs, services and activities accessible to persons with disabilities. For deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind, the need for effective communication is essential to allow them to participate and benefit. ODHH provides ADA-related resources, services and technical assistance to DSHS. This includes sign language interpreters, assistive listening systems, Braille, real-time captioning. ODHH is exploring whether a statewide program should be created to centralize such accommodations for all state agencies and their clients with hearing loss.

| SESSION 3 | LEAD AGENCY |
|--|--|
| Mental Health | DSHS/Health Recovery Services Administration |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inpatient & Outpatient Counseling Individual, Couple, Family Counseling | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Service Network (RSN) |

About Mental Health – Issues raised were lack of accessible inpatient/outpatient services for individuals, couples and families with children. One significant issue is the geographical-jurisdictional boundaries as established for the Regional Service Network (RSN) delivery system. Various mental health agencies within RSNs lack culturally competent counselors proficient in sign language or may lack provision of reasonable accommodations. The Health Recovery Services Administration oversees the RSNs and will facilitate discussions about this and other unmet needs.

About the Keynote Speakers

James Christianson, Master of Ceremonies

James Christianson Jr. resides in Bellingham with his wife and a 5-year-old daughter. He attended California School for the Deaf at Fremont and graduated in 1988. He attended the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) in Rochester, NY and graduated in 2000 with a Bachelors of Fine Arts. He was employed as an Advocate for two years at Deaf Community Services in San Diego, CA prior to moving to Washington State. He is currently working at Hearing, Speech & Deafness Center in North Sound (Bellingham) since 2004. He is active with the Washington State Association of the Deaf (WSAD) and is currently President for the 2009-11 term.

Allie Joiner, ODHH Founding Member

Allie Joiner, better known as “AJ” taught for 13 years, teaching the Deaf in South Carolina, New Mexico and Colorado before moving to Seattle in 1971 to do her DVR internship with the late Mildred Johnson who was considered the “Godmother of the Deaf community.”

AJ became a vocational counselor at Seattle Hearing and Speech Center (SHSC) later renamed Hearing and Speech Deafness Center (HSDC). Working with the Deaf Citizens of King County, she was instrumental in establishing the Community Service Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CSCDHH) in 1977. After 6 years at SHSC, she attended California State University at Northridge for her 2nd Master’s degree.

Returning in 1978, AJ was actively involved as a volunteer with several organizations including the Governor’s Committee on Employment of the Handicapped (GCEH) later renamed Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities and Employment Issues (GCDE). She was employed as an advocate for the “hearing-impaired” with the agency now known as Disabilities Rights Washington (a Washington ‘Protection & Advocacy’ agency).

AJ later worked as “Consumer Advocate” with Community Service Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CSCDHH) for 12 years and then Tacoma Area Coalition of Individuals with Disabilities (TACID) for the next 5 years. AJ came back to Seattle and worked with Abused Deaf Women’s Advocacy Services (ADWAS) for 9 years. During these years AJ remained actively involved with GCDE.

AJ is currently on the Board of Trustees at the Washington School for the Deaf, now renamed Childhood Deafness and Hearing Loss (CDHL) and is semi-retired, working part time as a Senior Citizen Advocacy Specialist with the Deaf Blind Service Center.

Leon Curtis, Retired ODHH Director

Leon Curtis attended the Utah School for the Deaf in Ogden, Utah and graduated in 1952. After working 15 years in the printing industry, he went to college, Weber State University, where he graduated with a BA degree in Sociology/Psychology. He continued his education at University of Arizona in Tucson and graduated with a MS degree in Rehabilitation and Guidance Counseling in 1973. Later he did a post graduate study at San Diego State University in Management in 1990.

After obtaining his MS degree, Leon was employed at Arizona School for the Deaf as a school counselor. In 1979, he was offered a position at the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) as a Statewide Coordinator for the Deaf. When ODHH continue to grow from 2 to 12 staff, his title changed to Director of Deaf and Hard of Hearing in 1986. He was awarded the Governor's Award for WA State Sustaining Leader in 2003 and retired in September 2003. He and his wife, Connie, live in Lacey having raised five daughters now with 16 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

Eric Raff, ODHH Director

Eric Raff, born deaf, grew up in Kentucky in the 1970s and early 80s without any K-12 educational support services. He graduated from Gallaudet University at Washington, D.C. with a Bachelor in Accounting in May 1990. He was employed as an accountant for three years before making a career change. His years at Gallaudet had instilled a life-long passion to address the needs of all people with hearing loss: the deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind communities regardless of their communication preferences.

For the next 10 years he was employed at National Institute of Mental Health for the Deaf, Kentucky Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and a few others, working in various specialty fields including case management, mental health, interpreting, telecommunication equipment distribution, and information & referral. In his spare time, he volunteered as a grassroots activist and served on various boards of directors. He was involved with the Kentucky and Indiana Association of the Deaf and other organizations serving people who are deaf and hard of hearing as well as people with disabilities.

He met his wife, Lauren, a Deaf social work counselor, and together they moved to Indiana working in a statewide mental health outpatient program for the deaf and starting a family of two daughters. He graduated from Indiana University with a Masters in Public Affairs in December 2002. Moving to Washington State when he was appointed as ODHH Director, he started working in September 2003. Into his 7th year as Director, he oversees six service-delivery programs, strategic-business planning, finances & budgeting, information technology and human resource management of 16 staff.

Tracy Guerin, DSHS Chief of Staff

Tracy Guerin is the new DSHS Chief of Staff. Tracy brings with her 25 years of experience in Washington state government, including several key management positions. She came to DSHS from the Department of Information Services (DIS) where she has served as Deputy Director for the past four years. Her new role as Chief of Staff replaces the previous Deputy Secretary position.

Tracy is a graduate of The Evergreen State College and has completed leadership training at Harvard and Duke. Prior to DIS, she held management positions within the Department of Corrections and the Secretary of State.

About the Agencies and Session Speakers

Education Session

Office of the Governor/Center for Childhood Deafness and Hearing Loss (CDHL)

Washington School for the Deaf (WSD) is now Washington State Center for Childhood Deafness and Hearing Loss (CDHL). On May 7th, 2009 House Bill 1879 was passed into law establishing CDHL as a new agency. CDHL oversees and supports the WSD as an ASL-English Bilingual Residential School.

Rick Haun, Director

Previously, Rick served as Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent for Washington School for the Deaf. Prior to his work at WSD he worked as a special education director for Anacortes School District where he worked with other special education directors to create and establish an educational coop for deaf/hard of hearing children using ASL. He received his Masters Degree in Deaf Education from Western Oregon University.

Kris Rydecki, Outreach Director

She moved to Washington last year from the California Bay Area where she worked for Center for Early Intervention on Deafness (CEID) as a Home Visit Specialist and taught parent-infant classes. She also coordinated community sign language playgroups and presented at state, national and international conferences. Kris received her Masters degree in Deaf Education and California Teaching Credential from San Francisco State University.

Early Intervention Session

Department of Health/Early Hearing-loss Detection, Diagnosis, and Intervention (EHDDI)

The EHDDI program was created to help improve and support screening, diagnostic, and early-intervention services for infants born with hearing loss. The primary goals of the EHDDI program are to ensure that infants born in the state of Washington:

- Are screened for hearing loss before hospital discharge or by one month of age
- Receive a diagnostic hearing evaluation by three months of age if they do not pass hearing screening
- Are enrolled in early intervention services by six months of age if they are found to have a hearing loss

Karin Neidt, Health Services Consultant 3

Karin Neidt currently works for the WA State Early Hearing-loss Detection, Diagnosis, and Intervention Program implementing and managing the newborn hearing screen follow-up and tracking/surveillance system. Karin previously worked for two years with the Washington State Department of Health Newborn Screening Program, consulting health care providers and families in the appropriate follow-up for infants with abnormal screening results. Karin received her Master in Public Health from the University of Washington in Seattle, WA, and her Bachelor's degree in Microbiology from Montana State University in Bozeman, MT.

DSHS/Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP)

The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) is the state lead agency under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, (IDEA) Part C, responsible for implementing and

coordinating a statewide system of early intervention services, for infants and toddlers, birth to age three, with disabilities and/or delays, and their families known as the Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP)

Kathy Blodgett, Social and Health Program Consultant 2

Kathy has worked as a Program Consultant/Contract Manager for ITEIP since 1994. She provides statewide training and technical assistance to early intervention contractors, parents, state and local agencies staff related to the implementation of the law.

Court Interpreting Session

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

Created in 1957, the Administrator for the Courts serves the Washington judicial branch in carrying out its constitutional mission to provide equal justice under law. The AOC is the central support entity for the Judicial Branch. It provides a wide range of administrative, legal, financial, management, program, and information technology services to the state courts. The AOC facilitates communications within the Judiciary and with the Legislative and Executive Branches, and the public on behalf of the Judiciary.

Katrin Johnson, Court Interpreter Program Coordinator

She oversees spoken language interpreter testing and training, staffs the Interpreter Commission, and provides assistance to courts statewide on interpreter matters. Before joining the AOC, she was the Coordinator for Minnesota's Court Interpreter Program, as well as a managing attorney with the Minnesota's Public Defender's Office. Ms. Johnson has a J.D. and a Masters Degree in Public Administration.

DSHS/Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH)

The Sign Language Interpreter Management (SLIM) program and position was created in 2005 when the statewide contract created in 2003 was transferred from General Administration (GA) to the Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH). The statewide contract continues to be available to state and local agencies and nonprofit organizations through the GA Washington State Purchasing Cooperative (WSPC). ODHH is finalizing a project with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to establish standards for sign language interpreters in court.

Emily Hill, SLIM Program Manager

Emily administers numerous sign language interpreter contracts with interpreter referral agencies and some freelance interpreters. She is currently focused on the ODHH-AOC partnership addressing standards for interpreters in court. Emily has two bachelor's degrees: one in Administrative Management and the other in Deaf Culture Studies. She is preparing to take the performance and interview test for the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf's National Interpreter Certification, and will soon complete the Washington State Certified Public Manager (CPM) program.

Employment Session

DSHS/Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

The mission of the DSHS Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is to “empower individuals with disabilities to achieve a greater quality of life by obtaining and maintaining employment.” We believe every person has the right to work and that work contributes to our independence and well being. DVR assists eligible individuals with disabilities to prepare for and achieve competitive employment. Vocational rehabilitation counselors throughout the state provide one-on-one counseling to assist each person in deciding on a job goal and developing an individualized plan for employment. As part of the planning process, DVR helps the individual identify resources for obtaining the services needed to reach his or her job goal. Services available include vocational assessment and exploration, vocational/technical training or education, assistive technology, job placement, job retention and other services

Lynnae Rutledge, DVR Director

In October, Lynnae was nominated by President Obama to serve in the U.S. Department of Education as the Rehabilitation Services Administration Commissioner and is awaiting Senate confirmation. Lynnae has served in policy development, program management and key leadership positions in independent living, vocational rehabilitation, workforce development and business leadership networks in Michigan, Oregon and Washington.

Stephen Roldan, DVR Statewide Coordinator for Deaf Services

Stephen joined DVR in 2003 as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor and currently serves as the Statewide Coordinator for Deaf Services. Steve earned his Master’s Degree in Rehabilitation, specializing in deafness, from San Diego State University.

Kelly Boston, Planning and Evaluation Administrator

Kelly currently serves as an Administrator for the DSHS Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in the areas of policy, planning and program evaluation. Kelly has been with DVR for 20 years and has served as a member of the Senior Leadership Team since 2003.

Americans with Disabilities Act, Title II: State Government Session

DSHS/Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH)

The Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has the statutory authority to make available to DSHS the provision of auxiliary aids per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to ensure deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind have equal opportunity to access effective communication to benefit from DSHS programs, services and activities. The provision of such auxiliary aids include sign language interpreting, assistive listening systems, computer assisted real-time translation (real-time captioning), and publications available in alternative format(s).

Robert “Bob” Lichtenberg, ODHH Assistant Director

Bob has worked for the ODHH in several key capacities since 1998. He is currently responsible for coordination of contracting activities and supervision of service-delivery programs. He is also involved in risk management, policy development, emergency management and advises the Director on strategic planning, program budgeting and stakeholder relations. He has a Bachelor of

Science (Economics) degree from Lewis and Clark College, a Juris Doctor from the University of Washington, School Of Law and has a post-graduate level Certificate in Rehabilitation Management from San Diego State University.

Mental Health Session

DSHS/Health Recovery Services Administration (HRSA)

HRSA is committed to its clients' needs and to the providers who furnish health-care services. HRSA strives to improve the health of Washington citizens by providing access to quality care for all eligible clients. Health care services include not only treatment for acute physical conditions, but inpatient and outpatient services for mental health and substance abuse. HRSA embraces the value of consumer and family participation in the development of mental health policy, planning and service delivery.

Alison Robbins is a native Washingtonian who graduated with a BA in History from Central Washington University. She began her career with the Washington Department of Social and Health Services in 1982 in the Central Contracts Office. In 1995, Alison joined the Medical Assistance Administration in the Office of Managed Care. In 2000, Alison joined the Office of Care Coordination where as a two-person team she and Alice Lind began implementation of Washington's first disease management program. Currently, Alison is the Unit Manager for the Care Coordination Unit in the Office of Quality and Care Management, and also acts as a liaison between OQCM and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

C. H. Hank Balderrama was a founder and first executive director of Consejo and Counseling Referral Service in Seattle in 1978, an agency that continues to serve a target population of Hispanics. He co-chair of a national panel that developed standards of care for Latinos in a mental health environment. He has been assigned to promote cultural competence at the Washington State Mental Health Division since March 1989. He provides staff support to the Mental Health Division's Ethnic Minority Advisory Committee. In addition he has worked in the areas of co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders, service to homeless, mentally ill individuals and various other assignments.

Vazaskia V. C. Caldwell is the Health Disparities Reduction Initiative Manager (HDRIM). As the HDRIM, she provides consultation and leadership on issues ranging from health disparities, health equity, social determinants of health, and cultural and linguistic competency, to eliminate disparities in health care access and outcomes. Prior to her employment with Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Ms. Caldwell was the Director of Racial and Social Justice Programs with the YWCA. As Director, she had responsibility for eliminating racism and economic empowerment programs.

ODHH MILESTONES

1978 Deaf Services Coordinator Task Force with the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped seeks a state position for the deaf within DSHS

1979 14 people applied for State Coordinator for Deaf Services position

Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing - *Serving Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deafblind People*

CURTIS ADMINISTRATION

1979 G. Leon Curtis was appointed as State Coordinator for Deaf Services

1986 The title "State Coordinator for the Deaf" changed to "Director of Deaf Services"

1987 Created the TTY Relay & Distribution Program Manager position

1998 Created the Assistant Director position

2003 Leon Curtis received the Governor's Distinguished Leadership Award as Sustaining Leader. Leon Curtis retired after 24 years of service. He has served 5 Governors and 12 DSHS Secretaries

RAFF ADMINISTRATION

2003 Eric Raff was appointed as the new ODHH Director

2004 Created the Information & Referral, Advocacy position

2005 Created the Sign Language Interpreter Management position

2007 Eric Raff was nominated for the "Governor's Award for Leadership in Management"

2007 Created the Information Technology Manager and Database specialist positions

Telecommunications - *Achieving Functional Equivalent Access to Telecommunication Services*

CURTIS ADMINISTRATION

1987 One of the first states to establish a "TTY Distribution Program" One of few states having contracted trainers providing installation, troubleshooting and training at clients' homes continuing to this day

1989 First state to fund telecommunication relay service as a direct provider with its own call center and relay agents prior to passage of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

1991 With the recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Committee, and the Legislature approved to abolish the state running relay program

1992 AT&T won the bid to run the TTY relay program

1998 Sprint won the bid to run the TTY Relay Program

- 2001 First state to fund video relay service (VRS) as a pilot project, collaborating with Sprint and Communication Services for the Deaf (South Dakota).
- 2002 First state to distribute web cameras and videophone (DLink DVC-1000)
- 2002 First state to participate in Captioned Telephone relay service and equipment trial
- 2003 Contract with Provail to serve clients with speech disabilities in Western Washington

RAFF ADMINISTRATION

- 2007 Contract with Eastern Washington University to provide installation, troubleshooting and training of equipment, serving clients with speech disabilities in Eastern Washington.
- 2007 First state to fund “Communication Facilitator” to promote deaf-blind access to Video Relay Service.
- 2007 First state to fund research, design and development of new “DeafBlind Communicator” telecommunication device
- 2009 “DeafBlind Communicator” released to public
- 2009 Telecommunication Equipment demonstration sites established in Bellingham and Pasco

| |
|--|
| <p>ADA Reasonable Accommodations – <i>Achieving Functional Equivalent Access to DSHS Services</i></p> |
|--|

CURTIS ADMINISTRATION

- 1997 Creation of the “Communication Access Taskforce” (CAT) to review accommodations options
- 2003 CAT resulted in creation of statewide interpreter services contract under General Administration

RAFF ADMINISTRATION

- 2005 GA transfer contract to ODHH. ODHH begins the provision of statewide interpreter services for deaf and deafblind to access DSHS and state government activities
- 2005 Provision of ODHH owned Assistive Listening Systems at all Regional Service Centers for hard of hearing to access DSHS activities
- 2007 Provision of Visual Magnification Device at Southeast Service Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing-Yakima office for deaf-blind access to DSHS print
- 2009 *Coming Soon* - Provision of statewide Communication Access Real-Time Translation (captioning) services for deaf and hard of hearing access to DSHS and state government public meetings
- 2009 *Coming Soon* - Provision of statewide Video Remote Interpreting services for deaf access to DSHS and state government services

Human Services – Closing Gaps in Services

CURTIS ADMINISTRATION

- 1981 ODHH establishes Regional Coordinator covering Region 1 and 2 with a YMCA office near the Spokane Falls River
- 1981 Legislature approved a grant of 25 million dollars, which is known as Referendum 37. With funds available from this grant, 4 deaf service centers were established in Seattle, Tacoma, Spokane and Yakima
- 1983 Regional Coordinator office move into the new Spokane Deaf Center, serving only Region 1
- 1984 ODHH and Mental Health Division Project: Statewide Mental Health Coordinator. Dr. Tina Wax was first coordinator and later it was Dr. Thomas Golder until budget cuts eliminated the position in 1987
- 1986 Legislature approved \$90,000 for the Yakima Deaf Center (nonprofit) to serve Region 2. Gary Mann was 1st Executive Director
- 1988 Legislature approved funds for the 7 “Deaf Centers” in Seattle, Tacoma, Vancouver, Yakima, Tri-Cities, Spokane and Bellingham
- 1990 ODHH and Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Project: Statewide Coordinator. Bryon Bridges was first coordinator.
- 2002 ODHH and Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (DASA) Project: Establishment of Northwest Deaf Addiction Center (NWDAC) based in Vancouver that is still operating today.
- 2004 ODHH and DASA receives “Governor’s Award for Public Value and Benefit” for the NWDAC project