



May 2019

# Upcoming Events and Opportunities

## Mental Health Awareness Month 2019

ODR recognizes May 2019 as Mental Health Awareness Month. We aim to open the conversation and educate the public and advocates surrounding mental health and continue to fight stigma, attitudes and misconceptions associated with it. For ODR's statement on Mental Health Awareness Month and resources please visit: [odr.dc.gov/MHAwareness19](http://odr.dc.gov/MHAwareness19).



## District ASL Festival & Expo

Over 25 exhibitors, music and entertainment, cornhole, large outdoor TV Screen, and food! Washington Capitals' SLAPSHOT & Gallaudet Bison mascots will be there.

Free admission and all are invited!

**When:** Sunday, May 5th from 12:00 to 8:00 PM

**Location:** The Bull Pen, 1201 Half Street, SE



For further details and to sign up, visit [www.facebook.com/events/the-bullpen/district-asl-festival-cornhole-tournament/422613648268068/](https://www.facebook.com/events/the-bullpen/district-asl-festival-cornhole-tournament/422613648268068/).

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## The 2019 DC Advocacy Partners Application Now Open

The Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) and the DC Developmental Disabilities Council are very proud to announce the return of the DC Advocacy Partners Program for 2019!

IEL is seeking a diverse group of highly-motivated and enthusiastic individuals to participate in the seventh class of DC Advocacy Partners (DC AP). DC AP is a free eight-month leadership training program designed to develop and train self-advocates and family members of individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities in the policy-making, influencing, and implementing processes. DC Advocacy Partners is funded by the DC Developmental Disabilities Council.



**Applications are due no later than Wednesday, May 8, 2019.**

**Download the Application:** [dcpartners.iel.org/how-to-apply](http://dcpartners.iel.org/how-to-apply).

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## Rock the Mic Poetry Slam

The DC Department of Behavioral Health will be hosting "Rock the Mic", a poetry slam in honor of Mental Health Awareness Month!

The Rock the Mic is featuring the winners of the mini poetry contests, local artists, musical guests, and interactive activities. This exciting event is designed to entertain, empower and educate the community on the importance of mental health. It's a platform for children, youth and adults to share through spoken word, poetry, short stories and dance. Free food and beverages will be provided.



**When:** Wednesday, May 8th from 6:00 to 8:30 PM, Doors open at 5:00 PM

**Location:** Howard Theatre, 620 T Street NW

For more information and registration information:

[www.eventbrite.com/e/rock-the-mic-poetry-slam-tickets-45296056725?aff=ebdssbdestsearch](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/rock-the-mic-poetry-slam-tickets-45296056725?aff=ebdssbdestsearch).

For reasonable accommodation requests, contact

[Darrell.powe@dc.gov](mailto:Darrell.powe@dc.gov).

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## 5th Annual Children's National Childhood Mental Health Fair

The Parent Navigator Program Presents The

5th Annual Children's National Childhood Mental Health Awareness Fair "Suicide Prevention: Strategies that Work." Meet local health providers with information on services available in your community. There will be activities and giveaways including art therapy, raffle prizes, and musical activities.

**When:** Thursday, May 9th from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

**Location:** Children's National Main Atrium, 111 Michigan Ave. NW



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## Into the Woods - Sensory Friendly Performance

Tickets are now on sale for the sensory-friendly performance of Into the Woods, Stephen Sondheim's imaginative, darkly comical remix of beloved fairy tales, a baker and his wife set out to reverse a witch's curse in hopes of having a child of their own.

Sensory-Friendly performances are designed to create a theatre experience that is welcoming for individuals with sensory sensitivities and disabilities who might benefit from an adjusted environment.

**When:** Saturday, May 11th at 2:00 PM

**Location:** Ford's Theatre, 511 10th Street, NW

**Tickets and information:** 202-347-4833, option 7 or [access@fords.org](mailto:access@fords.org).



## Job Opportunity - DC Public Library

The DC Public Library (DCPS) is looking for a Center for Accessibility Manager. Work with the DCPS team to build a dynamic, inclusive experience throughout the library system. Participants reflect a wide range of socioeconomic, cultural and religious affiliations within their countries, including people with disabilities, and DCPS encourages people with disabilities and from other diverse backgrounds to apply.

**Application Deadline:** Saturday, May 18th

**For full detail on the position and how to apply, visit:**

[careers.dc.gov/psp/erecruit/EMPLOYEE/HRMS/c/HRS\\_HRAM\\_FL.HRS\\_CG\\_SEARCH\\_FL.GBL?Page=HRS\\_APP\\_JBPST\\_FL&Action=U&FOCUS=Applicant&SiteId=1&JobOpeningId=7054&PostingSeq=1](https://careers.dc.gov/psp/erecruit/EMPLOYEE/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM_FL.HRS_CG_SEARCH_FL.GBL?Page=HRS_APP_JBPST_FL&Action=U&FOCUS=Applicant&SiteId=1&JobOpeningId=7054&PostingSeq=1).

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## Technology Access Program

Join the Hearing Loss Association of America, DC Chapter, Dr. Christian Vogler, Director of the Gallaudet's Technology Access Program (TAP), and Linda Kozma-Spytek, Senior Research Audiologist, talk about TAP research on communication technologies and services.

TAP leads a number of research projects in telecommunications, captioning and hearing device technologies. Many of TAP's findings have made their way into technologies that people with hearing loss use every day. The program provides information to consumers, industry, & policy makers, and also education for students through coursework and mentored research projects related to TAP's research mission.



The meeting room will be looped, and real-time captioning will be provided.

The meeting is free and all are welcome.

**When:** Sunday, May 19th at 2:00 PM

**Location:** DC Public Library at Tenleytown, 4450 Wisconsin Ave NW

**For further information and questions,**  
**contact:** [hladcchapter@gmail.com](mailto:hladcchapter@gmail.com).

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## DCCPD May Meeting

Join the Commission on Persons with Disabilities for their May Meeting which will take place by conference on Thursday, May 23rd. Public members are encouraged to attend.

**When:** Thursday, May 23rd at 10:00 AM

**Location:** Teleconference, The Open Conference Line Number is 866-628-2987. Participant Code: 8488992.

To learn more about the Commission and their upcoming meetings, visit [odr.dc.gov/DCCPD](http://odr.dc.gov/DCCPD).



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## Transition and ASD: What You Need to Know

This workshop seeks to increase understanding of the transition process for youth and young adults with autism spectrum disorders. An overview of the four pillars of transition—education, medical, employment and independent living—will be provided.

**Presenters:**

Yetta Myrick, CASD Community Outreach and Allysa Ware, MSW, LSGW, Project Director for Family Voices and Formers CASD Social Workers, both mothers of autistic teenagers, connect families with resources and services. They work together to provide the best possible care for autistic youth, and facilitate research participation among interested families.



This workshop is **free** and open to parents, family members and professionals.

**When:** Thursday, June 20th from 6:00 to 7:00 PM

**Location:** Children's Health Center at THE ARC - West, 1801 Mississippi Ave, SE

**Registration is required:** Please contact Yetta Myrick at [ymyrick@childrensnational.org](mailto:ymyrick@childrensnational.org) or 301-765-5488.

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## Taxi to Rail Program

The Department of For-Hire Vehicles (DFHV) has created the Taxi-to-Rail (T2R) pilot program for residents of Wards 7 & 8.

The service will offer residents a four dollar (\$4.00) taxicab trip to and from their home to one of the following eight Metro Stations located East of the Anacostia River: Deanwood, Minnesota Avenue, Capitol Heights, Benning Road, Anacostia, Congress Heights, Southern Avenue, and Naylor Road.

Interested residents must live in one of three zip codes; 20019, 20020 and 20032 and submit proof of residency.

For additional information about the program and to seek assistance with enrollment, please call 202- 645-7300 or visit: [dfhv.dc.gov/page/taxi-rail-t2r](http://dfhv.dc.gov/page/taxi-rail-t2r).



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## Call to Action to Promote the All of Us Research Program to People with Disabilities

**The All of Us Research Program** is **your** chance to make an impact and get involved in direct, cutting-edge research to find solutions that could help people with disabilities. For the first time, people with disabilities are being encouraged to participate and are being asked to enroll in a study that can directly impact how health care is received in the future. If we truly believe in the concept of “nothing about us without us,” then we must answer the call when asked to participate.

**What is this Call to Action?** The American Association on Health and Disability (AAHD) is calling on YOU to learn more about and consider involvement in the National Institutes of Health’s



(NIH) All of Us Research Program. If you are interested in participating in the research program, enroll at [www.JoinAllofUs.org/together](http://www.JoinAllofUs.org/together).

For further details and the original outreach flyer, please visit: [odr.dc.gov/Action-AAHD](http://odr.dc.gov/Action-AAHD).

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## Olmstead Corner

### A Place to Call Home

June, we will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Olmstead Supreme Court case. In that case the Court said that states must give people with disabilities the proper supports to make an informed choice about how they wish to participate in and contribute to their community.

Check out this short video, "A Place to Call Home" to learn about the independence and quality of life Olmstead has brought to people with disabilities and their families across the nation: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=luwl0FmsGV4&app=desktop](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luwl0FmsGV4&app=desktop).

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## Preparedness Corner

### Home Fire Campaign

The Home Fire Campaign helps save lives by installing free smoke alarms in homes that don't have them, and by educating people about home fire safety.

This spring the American Red Cross needs your help to install 100,000 free smoke alarms and raise funds for lifesaving services in more than 100 cities in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands during Sound the Alarm home fire safety and smoke alarm installation events.

One day of your life can change someone else's forever. Join the Red Cross in DC on **Saturday, May 4th**.



**Sign up to volunteer:**

[www.redcross.org/local/washington-dc/about-us/our-work/home-fire-campaign.html](http://www.redcross.org/local/washington-dc/about-us/our-work/home-fire-campaign.html).

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## District of Columbia Homeland Security and Preparedness Symposium

The DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA) and Georgetown University's Emergency and Disaster Management Graduate Program are privileged to host the inaugural Homeland Security and Preparedness (HSP) Symposium to be held May 13th. This event will be held at the Georgetown University School of Continuing Studies state-of-the-art campus located at 640 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC.



**When:** Monday, May 13th 9:00 AM

**Location:** Georgetown University School of Continuing Studies, 640 Massachusetts Ave NW

**Register:** [attendify.co/symposium-day-one-9am-530pm-YZdUUFF](http://attendify.co/symposium-day-one-9am-530pm-YZdUUFF).

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# Looking Back

## Fair Housing Month

ODR was fortunate to be involved with two events celebrating the Fair Housing Act in April. Both events included incredible speakers and panelists representing various communities, the issues they have faced and what they have done to obtain a solution.

**Key Take-aways:**

- The Civil Rights Act of 1968, also known as the Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination based on; race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status and disability.
- For individuals who believe that they may have experienced housing discrimination, they may file a formal complaint with the [Office of Human Rights](#) and reach out to the [Equal Rights Center](#) for assistance.
- DC, [Code 2-1402.21](#) prohibits housing discrimination and discriminatory practices on the actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, sex,



age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, family responsibilities, disability, matriculation, political affiliation, source of income, status as a victim of an intrafamily offense, or place of residence or business of any individual.



## Fair Housing Speaker at DCCPD Meeting

The DC Commission on Persons with Disabilities was privileged to host Michael Pearlman, ADA/504 Program Coordinator of the District of Columbia Housing Authority. Mr. Pearlman provided detailed information on the process for Housing Authority voucher holders to request reasonable accommodations for their housing and answered great questions posed by Commission Members and Public attendees.



For more information about the ADA/504 Program at the DC Housing Authority, contact: [ada504@dchousing.org](mailto:ada504@dchousing.org) or 202-535-2737.

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For Information about ODR's Newsletter call (202)724-5055 or visit the web at [odr.dc.gov](http://odr.dc.gov).

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Fax: (202)727-9484. E-mail: [ODR.Complaints@dc.gov](mailto:ODR.Complaints@dc.gov)

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the District Office of Disability Rights (ODR) is to ensure that the programs, services, benefits, activities and facilities operated or funded by the District of Columbia are fully accessible to, and useable by people with disabilities. ODR is committed to inclusion, community-based services, and self-determination for people with disabilities. ODR is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the City's obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as well as other disability rights laws.