



# ADA TODAY



## Newsletter

**Volume 3 Issue 10**

**July 2013**

### **ODR Celebrates the 23<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of ADA**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed on July 26, 1990 to ensure the civil rights of citizens with disabilities. On this 23<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of ADA, the DC Office of Disability Rights (ODR) affirms the principals of equality and inclusion for persons with disabilities as set forth for the District of Columbia Government and as embodied in the ADA, and other civil and human rights laws of the District of Columbia.

The Office of Disability Rights along with the DC Commission on Persons with Disabilities, the Department of Disability Services, and other District agencies have made substantial contributions to the quality of life for District residents with disabilities, as we work with constituents and communities to bring forth the promise of hope and freedom that is envisioned by the passage of the ADA.

On July 26, 2013, ODR will reaffirm its commitment of upholding the principles of ADA and continue to dedicate itself and its work to achieve greater social, economic and personal independence for individuals with disabilities;

The Office of Disability Rights extends greetings and best wishes to all observing July 26, 2013 as Americans with Disabilities Act Awareness Day.

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Derek Orr, Director

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### **DC Commission on Persons with Disabilities ~ Upcoming Meeting ~ Wednesday, July 31, 2013 at 9:00 AM**

The Commission serves as an advisory body to the Mayor, all meetings are open to the public. I am excited to announce our next full committee meeting is Wednesday, July 31 at 9:00 AM. We look forward to allowing the new Commissioners a chance to introduce themselves. A meeting agenda and more information are forthcoming.

To learn more about the DC Commission on Persons with Disabilities (DCCPD) or request reasonable accommodations to participate in the meetings, contact Christina Mitchell in the DC Office of Disability Rights by July 24, 2013 at 202-481-3877 or [christina.mitchell@DC.GOV](mailto:christina.mitchell@DC.GOV).

# **ODR Launches New Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) Center**

## **Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) Services**

The Office of Disability Rights (ODR) is pleased to announce the inauguration of its VRI Center at its location at Judiciary Square, Suite 729N. Video Remote Interpretation (VRI) is the use of a computer, webcam and a high speed Internet broadband connection to access a qualified American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter online.

### **Q. What is Video Remote Interpreting (VRI)?**

A. VRI is the use of a computer, webcam and a high speed Internet broadband connection to access a qualified American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter online.

### **Q. When should a District Agency use VRI Services?**

A. In situations where District agencies have a need for short communications between deaf and hearing individuals, but an in-person sign language interpreter (SLI) is not available. VRI is perfect for last minute or emergency situations at District Agencies, such as walk-ins, interviews, or short meetings.

### **Q. Where would a District Agency get VRI Services?**

A. The Office of Disability Rights (ODR) is able to provide Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) services at its VRI Center, located at ODR's location, Suite 729N, Judiciary Square.

### **Q. When are ODR's VRI Services available?**

A. ODR's VRI services are available during regular business hours for walk-ins, short meetings, interviews, discussions, lasting up to one (1) hour.

### **Q. Who can benefit from ODR's VRI Services?**

A. ODR's VRI services are available on a first-come first-served basis for walk-ins who are dealing with DC Agencies located at Judiciary Square, if not arranged in advance.

- ODR's VRI services are not provided for events lasting over an hour or with more than five (5) participants.
- VRI services are not provided to DC Government Employees or Agency contract vendors or consultants.
- Please review our VRI Services Request Process, and share with all staff who work with the public.

### **Q. How can a District Agency secure ODR's VRI Services?**

A. VRI Services can be arranged in advance or requested on-demand by contacting ODR at 202-724-5055 or Haydn Demas at (202) 442-4692 or haydn.demas@dc.gov.

### **Q. Who will be responsible for payment of VRI Services?**

A. ODR will cover the cost of the VRI Services during the pilot program (unless agency payment is arranged).

ODR's VRI services enable District Agencies to comply with the DC Government's Effective Communication Policy and adhere to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations. For more information, please contact Haydn Demas at (202) 442-4692 or haydn.demas@dc.gov.

## Local News and Information

### 5th Annual Moving Forward Together Secondary Transition Fair & Community Forum

**Where:** Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Public Library 901 G Street, NW Washington, DC 20001

We are pleased to invite you to exhibit at the **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Moving Forward Together Secondary Transition Fair and Community Forum** on **October 25-26, 2013**. The DC community is coming together to support the successful transition of DC youth with disabilities into additional education, employment, and independence.

**Friday, October 25th, from 10:00am - 3:00pm** is a special event for local schools serving DC students - DCPS, Charter, non-public. You are invited to exhibit during this fair and share your resources and services and how your organization helps youth with disabilities transition into employment, education, and independence.

**Saturday, October 26th, from 9am - 1pm** is a community forum open to DC youth and young adults with disabilities, parents/caregivers, educators, employers, community organizations, government representatives, and community.

This event is sponsored by DC Partners in Transition, which is local group made up of government organizations, community organizations, educators, parents, and youth. Our goal is to support DC youth with disabilities successfully transition into adulthood.

For planning purposes, we are asking exhibitors to **pre-register and make requests for reasonable accommodations by October 11th, 2012**. Space is limited and priority will be given to exhibitors that register to attend both days. We will follow up to confirm participation following the registration deadline. For more information contact Sarah Grime at SchoolTalk [sarah.grime@schooltalkdc.org](mailto:sarah.grime@schooltalkdc.org) or 202-907-6887

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### From Assistive Technology Program for DC "Making Independence Possible July 2013"

#### AT: Making a Difference

##### DC SHARES



DC Shares was contacted by an individual requesting equipment for her father who was being released from a nursing home after suffering from a stroke. DC Shares was able to provide an electric bed and air mattress, hoist lift and sling, high manual wheelchair, a transfer board, bedside commode and depends with the tab plus bed pads free of charge, saving the individual \$4,063 for the cost of the durable medical equipment.

##### DEVICE LOAN PROGRAM



An individual who is hard-of-hearing borrowed an amplified talking telephone through the ATPDC Device Loan Program. The telephone allowed the individual to hear what a caller is saying over the phone and she also liked the programmable features and the large-picture buttons. She was highly satisfied with the devices she has borrowed from the AT Device Loan Program and DC RSA purchased an amplified telephone, a Victor Reader Stream, and a Ruby video magnifier for the consumers use.

## DEVICE DEMONSTRATIONS



A high school student with limited mobility was provided a demonstration by the AT Specialists for different options on how to better answer her Android-based smartphone. The Assistive Technology Specialist provided a demonstration of two Android apps, *Shake Call* and *Whistle Call Answer*. The student determined that the *Whistle Call Answer* App met her needs because she was able to set it to answer the phone call automatically after 4 seconds as well as automatically put the phone call on speaker phone.

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## Federal News

[EveryBody: An Artifact History of Disability in America](#) The Smithsonian Institution has a Web exhibit of the history of people with disabilities in America shown through photos. From the 1800s through the present day, these photos of people, places and technology show that people with disabilities have always been an important part of American life. You can [download](#) and print disability history posters for classrooms, offices, dorms or presentations.

[Bureau of Labor Statistics Releases June Employment Numbers](#) The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics has reported that the unemployment rate last month was unchanged at 7.6 percent. Disability [employment statistics for June](#) show an unemployment rate among people with disabilities that increased to 14.2 percent. The percentage of people with disabilities in the labor force was 20.2 percent, and the percentage of people with no disability in the labor force was 69.7 percent. A year ago the unemployment rate among people with disabilities was 13.3 percent.

[EmploymentManagement Consulting Company Sued for Denying Reasonable Accommodation & Firing Employee with Eye Condition](#) The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has charged Riviera Consulting & Management Consulting, LLC with [disability discrimination](#) under the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#). The San Jose, CA-based company denied an employee a [reasonable accommodation](#) and fired him. The employee, a bookkeeper, has [retinitis pigmentosa](#) and was asked to drive to deliver paychecks and pick up mail, which he couldn't do due to his eye condition. The lawsuit requires the company to prevent future discrimination.

[HUD Reaches Settlement with Housing Authority for Denying Reasonable Accommodation to Mother & Son with Disabilities](#) The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has reached a [settlement agreement](#) with the Housing Authority of Baltimore City for violating the [Fair Housing Act](#) (FHA). The housing authority allegedly denied a request for reasonable accommodations for a mother and son with disabilities to be moved to a larger unit closer to family support. Under FHA, housing providers must make reasonable accommodations to provide persons with disabilities an equal opportunity to use or enjoy a dwelling.

[Medical Services Provider Sued for Denying Reasonable Accommodation & Firing Employee with Rheumatoid Arthritis](#) The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has charged Detroit Community Health Connection with [disability discrimination](#) under the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#). The Detroit medical services provider allegedly denied an employee a [reasonable accommodation](#) of medical leave to accommodate her [rheumatoid arthritis](#). The company then fired her because of her disability. Under

the lawsuit, the company must provide reasonable accommodations to employees with disabilities in the future.

[The Access Pass - Free, Lifetime Admission to National Parks & Other Recreation Sites for People with Disabilities](#) A free, lifetime entry pass is available to U.S. residents who have a permanent disability to visit more than 2,000 federal park and recreation sites. Many sites also give the pass holder a discount on related fees (camping, swimming, boat launching, and guided tours). Learn more about [requirements](#) and how to get your pass. You can also download this PDF document that lists [federal recreation sites](#) where you can get a pass.

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



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### **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.