

Martin O'Malley  
Governor

Anthony G. Brown  
Lt. Governor



Lisa H. Kornberg  
Director

Julie Anne Schafer  
Assistant Director

## FACT SHEET

### Our Mission:

ODHH represents the Governor and his goal of promoting equal access for all Marylanders –by providing expertise that enhances the general welfare of Maryland's deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind residents.

### Our Vision:

All Maryland citizens who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind will have equal and full access to resources, services and opportunities for participation in all aspects of community life.

### What we do:

ODHH was established to:

- Promote the general welfare of deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing individuals in Maryland
- Serve as a coordinating agency that reports directly to the Governor's Office
- Work with various state and private agencies to ensure appropriate delivery of services to all of Maryland's diverse citizens
- Supports the development of public policies, regulations and programs that will benefit the community
- Work to improve access to communication to existing services and programs
- Advises State government and the General Assembly on the needs of deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing individuals
- Coordinates with other units of the State and the federal governments about the services provided to deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing Marylanders

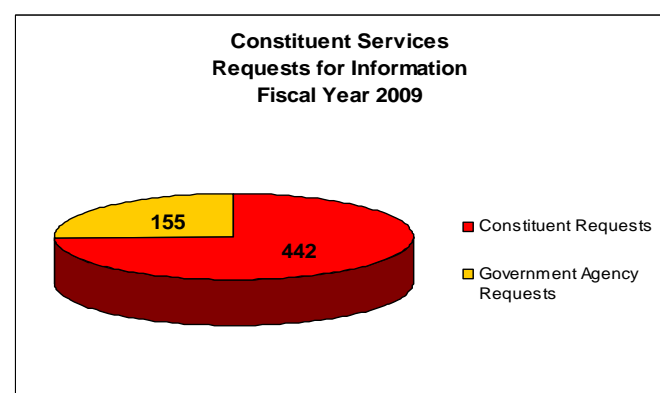
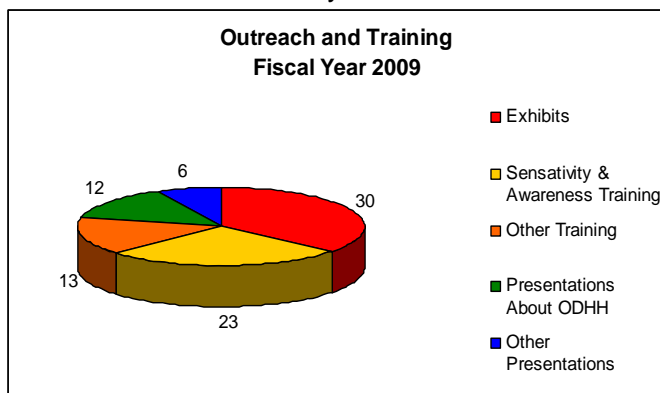
### Who we serve:

ODHH has a two part mission – to provide advocacy, referral and information services to deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing Marylanders and to provide expertise to state and local government agencies.

### Community Services

ODHH provides information and referral services to the community. ODHH operates three programs:

- Awareness Training and Technical Assistance
- Constituent Services (Information & Referral and Advocacy)
- Community Outreach and Education



## State and Local Agencies

ODHH provides information to state and local agencies to improve the quality of life of Marylanders who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind. Information provided includes:

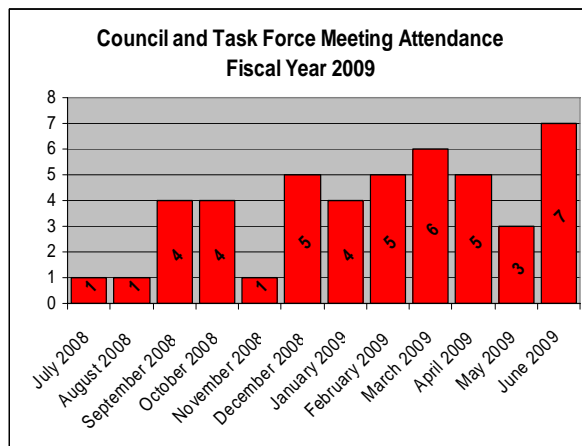
- Technical assistance which includes communication accessibility assessments and the review of policies, procedures and practices in comparison with effective services for deaf and hard of hearing individuals
- Trainings on a variety of topics including, but not limited to, ADA compliance, the use of adaptive equipment and sensitivity and awareness trainings
- Individualized responses to inquiries received in person, via email, telephone or fax

ODHH helps develop new programs and policies to meet the needs of our community. ODHH is working with the following agencies and projects:

- 1. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation:**
  - a. Employment – to increase employment opportunities for deaf and hard of hearing Marylanders by providing training at State One-Stop Centers
- 2. Maryland State Department of Education:**
  - a. Team Maryland – to develop a comprehensive state plan for the education of deaf and hard of hearing students
- 3. Maryland Department of Disabilities/Maryland Emergency Management Agency**
  - a. Emergency Preparedness – to include the communication access needs of deaf and hard of hearing people
- 4. Maryland Department Public Safety and Correctional Services**
  - a. Law enforcement – to increase sensitivity and awareness among first responders and officers to the communication needs of Marylanders with hearing loss
- 5. Secretary of State/State Board of Elections**
  - a. Voter accessibility – to educate the community and assist with voter registration

ODHH also attends and participates in a number of committee and taskforce meetings to make sure these committees include information on issues of importance to the deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing community. Examples of task force and committee meetings attended by ODHH staff include:

- ODHH Advisory Council
- Universal New Born Screening
- Alliance/County Commissions on Disabilities
- Interagency Council on Aging
- State Highway Administration (SHA) ADA Advisory Board
- Maryland Commission on Disabilities
- Maryland State Steering Committee for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students
- Community Provider boards and councils



## How to contact us:

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