



SHHH-NH

April 2005

A Little Listener

March, 2005

Reported by Barbara Hunter, San Antonio, TX.

"Our SHHH members, Amy and Clay Bosworth have three children and this is the newest. Because of the new law in most states that all newborn babies have to be tested for hearing loss, this little one is getting a head start. Baby Whitten is just 8 weeks old. He's our youngest San Antonio SHHH member!"

Proud Mom Amy says "People don't think of hearing loss in babies, they think Deaf or hearing, not somewhere in between. His early diagnosis and treatment will have a positive impact on not only his childhood but his entire life. I'm a big fan of infant hearing screening and know that SHHH was a huge part of implementation.

When Whitten got his first hearing aid turned on he immediately started babbling, cooing, turning to his name and giggling out loud.

The blue ear mold Anneliese picked out (Anneliese is Whitten's older brother) looks pretty snazzy. By the end of the day we were all a little overwhelmed and worn but happy and excited to know that he is getting sound. "

The hearing aid is visible in the Whitten's left ear



April 6th Meeting Topic's

Tonight we will view and discuss a video presentation on "How to communicate with someone who has hearing loss" A time for discussion will occur at the half way point of the video. The total length is 28 minutes long. This provides ample time for Melissa from NDHHS to inform us of the details of "Part B" Communication Access now in effect. She will also bring application forms we can fill out. Even though you might have been signed up under GSIL you will need to re-apply under NDHHS. Come on out and learn more.

OUR MEETING

- We meet at the Wm. Cashin Senior Center at 151 Douglas St in Manchester. Our meeting begins at 6:45 p.m. and concludes at 9:00 p.m. Go to the Granite St Exit from Route 293 then left on Granite straight ahead to traffic light at Main St turn right and then first left. Enter the first parking area on the right. Plenty of space with Van Accessible spots right in front of the entry doors. No steps to challenge and nice double wide doors to enter. Go right to the meeting room after entering.

- Bob



Problems Getting Interpreters or CART Reporters

Are you having problems getting interpreters/CART Reporters at: hospitals, doctor's offices, mental health centers, courts, and police situations? Do you want to know more about your rights?

The Disabilities Rights Center and Northeast Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services will have a meeting to tell you about your rights and find out from you what problems you have had.

Communication access service will be provided.

This will be on Thursday, April 26th at 6:00 P.M. at the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
30 Maplewood Ave. Portsmouth, NH

For more information, contact:

Northeast Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services

Voice 800-492-0407 or 603-224-1850

TTY 866-634-4764 or 603-224-0691 Email: casemgt@nhdeaf-hh.org

OR

Disabilities Rights Center 1-800-834-1721 or 603-228-0432 V/TTY

Email: juliaf@drcnh.org www.drcnh.org

Living Wills & Health Care Power of Attorney

Just a reminder that the LEARN program is offering a class next Wednesday, April 6th on Living Wills and Health Care Power of Attorneys. We will also discuss Do Not Resuscitate orders and what happens when the EMT's are called.

Please let people know this class is open to ALL (any age/don't have to be a Centennial member to attend) and the cost is \$10. We will be providing a copy of both documents to those who attends the program. Register by calling the Centennial Center at 228-6630.

If you have any questions call Chiara Dolcino at 228-6630
from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. here at the Centennial Senior Center.

Handicapped Parking Spaces - You can Help Stop Violations

Ever noticed how often accessible parking spaces are abused by people who aren't entitled to use them? If you use a wheelchair, have you been unable to use a space because it was occupied illegally? Or worse, you couldn't get back into your van because someone parked in the access aisle? There's something you can do to help. The Governor's Commission on Disability has a program where you can obtain official notices to alert people when they are abusing an accessible parking space. The notice goes on the windshield and a copy goes back to the Governor's Commission. Find out more by calling the Governor's Commission at 271-4177.



Fined Lines of Communication.

Because they failed to provide proper emergency information to deaf and hearing-impaired viewers during the 2003 wildfires, three San Diego television stations face fines of \$20,000 or more each. The Federal Communications Commission proposed the fines Wednesday in what outgoing Commissioner Michael Powell said was its first ever action enforcing closed captioning rules. Midwest Television, Inc., owner of KFMB (channel 8); Channel 51 of San Diego, Inc., parent of KUSI (channel 9 or 51); and McGraw-Hill Broadcasting Company, parent of KGTV (channel 10), allegedly broke stipulations that closed captioning, graphics or other visual information must be provided for hearing impaired viewers in the same fashion as they are for other viewers in times of emergency. The FCC reports state that information on road closures and pollution prevention many times took at least several hours to be converted into the acceptable visual format after being aired aurally. Station representatives said they did the best they could in a time of crisis.

Hearing in China

BEIJING, March. 17 -- A three-day-old baby girl was sleeping well yesterday morning after being fed, when Dr Shi Yingying came to check her hearing. Her left ear passed the test but the right failed the test twice. Dr Shi cleaned the inside of the troubled ear with a cotton bud and tried again. This time, the result was good. A nurse wrote down the results in a notebook, one of many such tests which are recorded at the International Peace Maternity and Child Health Hospital, under the China Welfare Institute.

Dr Shi, director of the Neonatology Department, said: "Each day, we conduct hearing tests for some 20 newborns when they are three days old. If babies fail the first check, they have another 42 days later. After the second check, babies with hearing defects will be checked out further in hearing and speech centers. Some will have surgery, be given hearing aids or artificial cochlea implants to help with speech. In many developed countries, hearing tests are a legal requirement for newborns. However, in China, this kind of hearing test has just begun with Shanghai taking the lead. With the aim of "curing" those babies who are deaf or mute, in 2002 the city's Health Bureau initiated a full-scale "Newborn Hearing Screening Program" for all infants born in Shanghai's hospitals. By 2004, 90 % of newborns had been tested. Statistics show that in the last three years, among 260,418 newborns in the city, 233,853 had received hearing tests and 3,710 of them (1.41 per cent) had been found to have hearing problems. "Shanghai is the only city in China to require hearing screening for all newborns, and the coverage exceeds many other big cities in developed countries," said Professor Wu Hao, director of the Hearing and Speech Centre. Statistics show that one to three newborns in every 1,000 are born with serious hearing defects, but usually their hearing problems were discovered quite late. Thus, the best time for language development is missed. "Many babies with hearing defects become mute because they cannot hear what is going on around them. Research shows that if there is medical intervention in the first six months, the deaf baby can still acquire language and communication abilities, just like normal children," said Professor Wu.

Screening of newborns and early medical intervention have proven to be the most effective preventive measures.

The screening program benefits parents and society too. In 2001, the Public Health School of Fudan University and the Shanghai Municipal Health Bureau conducted research and found the social costs of supporting a deaf person, for example, special education and their inability to do some jobs, were seven times more than the cost of treatment. "In the long term, it saves money if we carry out hearing tests and offer treatment. It also reduces many social problems among deaf and mute groups," said Wu.

Problems adapting to everyday life, learning difficulties and psychological problems are common results of hearing defects. "We hope the joint efforts of doctors and parents will reduce hearing defects by 95 per cent and hopefully within 10 years, schools for deaf-mute children will be unnecessary in Shanghai," said Wu.

Recently, medical experts from across China gathered in Shanghai with plans to promote the city's hearing program in 10 provinces and big cities including Jiangsu, Beijing and Helongjiang. Wu said Shanghai's success has a lot to do with its financial strength and it will take a long time to promote the program nationwide. In Shanghai, the government sometimes gives money to families to help pay for hearing aids which can cost 50,000 yuan (US\$6,000). The cost of an implanted cochlea is at least 140,000 yuan (US\$17,000).

It costs 40 yuan (US\$4.8) for the first hearing test which is still a lot of money for many rural residents, said Wu. He wants a foundation to be set up to help children with hearing problems.



We meet at the William Cashin Senior Center at 151 Douglas St in Manchester on the first Wednesday evening of the months September through June of each year. 6:45 to 9 p.m.

What's happening with HB 617 ???

I received this in mail earlier this month. I have modified the message minimally.

It unanimously passed out of the subcommittee and then passed out of the full committee

18-1. It was set to go on the consent calendar, meaning there would be no debate. Instead, the Supreme Court called up the House leadership and said they want the bill killed. It is now expected to be pulled from the consent calendar and debated.

If you are willing and have the time, could you please forward this information to others who would be interested? It would be wonderful and very helpful if you would call your house representatives. The more people we get to call to support the bill, the more likely it will be to keep live reporters in the court. The Supreme Court is convinced that if they take reporters out of the court it will save \$300,000. We think the figures are wrong and seek to prove so in the Senate

if we can get the bill to pass the House.

Here are a couple links that will take you to your elected official:

Who's my legislator? The following websites will help you.
www.gencourt.state.nh.us/ns/whosmyleg/default.asp

All the legislators and phone numbers, click here:
www.gencourt.state.nh.us/ns/house/members/hroster.asp

Assistive Technology Solutions in Minutes: New Publication

Therese Willkomm's book is finally available, and it's a keeper. Everything you want to know about low-cost AT solutions. You won't believe the things you can do with Epoxy Putty. Price is \$35, and proceeds go to ATECH Services. To get your copies, call ATECH Services, (603) 226-2900.





Announcing Two Events

GSIL Access Expo

April 9 at the Mall of
New Hampshire.

Mark Your Calendars!

Test equipmentSee
new products ask
questions. Learn more...

Special Education Fo-

ums: What's Working?
What's Not?

The NH Department of
Education will hold fo-
rums in Nashua, Ports-
mouth,
Claremont/Newport, and
Gorham. See flyer:

[http://www.ed.state.nh.us/
educa-
tion/doe/organization/instru-
ction/SpecialEd/d](http://www.ed.state.nh.us/educa-
tion/doe/organization/instru-
ction/SpecialEd/d)

Vocational Rehabilita- tion State Data Now on ICI Website

Searchable database for VR
services state trends, state
comparison, and
individual outcomes. Go to
<http://www.statedata.info/>

Electronic Newsletter

The time has come for most of us to receive the newsletter through the internet. I know many groups in SHHH do this to reduce mailing costs. Finances are a large consideration in any non-profit group and we are no exception. I have set up a separate mailing address for this purpose. It is **shhhbobford@msn.com** It will be used only for sending out the newsletter and any essential information between monthly newsletters. So I need those of you with internet access to send me a mes-

sage to that address so I can get things in motion for May. This will reduce printing and postage expenses. I have tried this using an existent address but it has resulted in mailings to people not connected to our group. I'm hoping this will be more effective. Thank you for your understanding.

Bob Ford

Newsletter Editor

Communication Access Part B

We will be having a presentation on Part B access for communication needs on April 6 during our meeting.

Ms. Melissa from Northeast Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services will be present-

ing and will have application forms with her for us. Have your questions ready . Even though you might have been enrolled through GSIL you will need to re-apply through NDHHS of Concord.

So get your pencil sharpened and fill out your application.

Coffee will be available.



APRIL 6 TOPIC HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS HEARING LOSS

Hearing Loss is the most common communication problem that we may experience as we get older. Approximately 17 million Americans over the age of 65 have significant hearing loss affecting self-perception, relationships, work, and play. The person with hearing loss is not the only one who suffers. Family and friends often feel frustrated and angry because of their failed attempts to be heard and understood.

So join us for a brief video as a springboard for roundtable discussion. Learn and share. Topics covered are:

- Importance of Communication
- The Causes of Hearing Loss
- Symptoms of Sensorineural Hearing Loss
- Audiologist Evaluation
- Effective Communication Techniques
- Communication Techniques Outside the Home
- Listening
- Hearing Aids
- Assistive Listening Devices
- Resources

Join us for viewing and discussion Coffee will be available

SHHH-NH

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03060-3862

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Email: shhhbobford@msn.com

Where Do We Meet ???

We meet at the William B. Cashin Senior Center at 151 Douglas St in Manchester. Meeting on the first Wednesday evening of each month except July and August. Our meeting begins at 6:45 p.m. and finishes at 9:00 p.m. We primarily discuss Hearing Loss related issues and issues of great relevance to our Hearing Loss Community. We strive to encourage, educate, and mutually support each other in the journey of hearing less. Come and join us each month.

Bob Ford

Editor of Newsletter

Contact Bob at shhhbobford@msn.com

If you have information for the newsletter send it to me there. This is a new address set up for this purpose.

Thanks

Bob