

About the Program...

The DHHS Deafness Resource Specialist Program contracts through local service providers to assist state and local governments, organizations and private entities in making their services accessible and readily available to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The program also addresses attitudinal and cultural barriers of the target populations which may hinder successful service delivery, provides information and referral services, and may provide training geared toward the needs of both the service population and the service providers.

Deafness Resource Specialists work with consumers with hearing loss, their families, state, local and federal agencies, courts, schools/colleges, law enforcement, public and private businesses and service organizations. They provide Advocacy and Consultation, Community Outreach, Mediation, School-to-Work Transition, and Training in a variety of issues. Such issues include Cultural Sensitivity, ADA-Americans with Disabilities Act, IDEA-Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Federal and State Laws, Communication Access, 911 and Assistive Technology and Deafness 101.

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About our Specialists...

Detra Stewart

Detra Stewart has held her Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) designation for more than 20 years and has a Bachelor of Science degree in Deaf Education from Lamar University. She has graduate training in Deafness Rehabilitation from Northern Illinois University and extensive training on the ADA-Americans with Disabilities Act and other federal mandates regarding equal access. For the past three and a half years Detra has worked as Regional Specialist; serving Harris and the 12 surrounding counties. She provides numerous workshops and training to deaf and hard of hearing consumers, government/social service agencies, schools, and healthcare providers.

Brian R. Determan

Brian R. Determan is a graduate of Rochester Institute of Technology - National Technical Institute for the Deaf (N.T.I.D.) and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from University of Houston. Brian has worked extensively, over 14 years, with deaf and hard of hearing individuals in social services such as job placement coordination, addiction, and

advocacy was involved. He also has 11 years experience working with various healthcare providers, helping foster awareness of the deaf and hard of hearing's communication access needs. He also has had served on numerous committees and associations.

Mark Dickson

Mark Dickson has had severe hearing loss in both ears since the age of two. He has a Mechanical and Electronics degree from TSTI and currently studies business management with South Plains College in Lubbock. He has 20 years experience in working with Deaf and hard of hearing people.

Sonia Quintero

Sonia Quintero is the Deafness Resource Specialist in Region 11b. She has formal educational training as a Speech Pathologist and Hearing-Impaired Therapist from Fundación Iberoamericana INPI - University in Colombia. She has worked with people with disabilities, including deaf or hard of hearing, and their families to promote their self-determination, independence, productivity, vocational skills, integration and inclusion in the community. Sonia is trilingual, Spanish/English and American Sign Language.



Offices located in Houston, Beaumont, Midland and McAllen, TX

She has held positions in a variety of areas providing support services to persons with disabilities and has received numerous awards for her accomplishments.

Donald Landry

Donald Landry has been a Resource Specialist for Region 5 since 2001, serving the deaf, hard of hearing and service provider communities in the 15 counties of Southeast Texas.

Born and raised in the Groves area, he is a hearing aid user, as well as a CODA (Child of Deaf Adults). He has the skills to communicate by sign language and is knowledgeable of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and its mandates.

Donald has worked with area businesses, organizations and entities to promote effective communication access for individuals with a hearing loss.

Programs funded by:
TX DARS - Office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services.

Beaumont/Region 5 - Donald Landry - deafnessRS5a@dars.state.tx.us

Houston/Region 6a - Detra Stewart - deafnessRS6a@dars.state.tx.us

Houston/Region 6b - Brian Determan - deafnessRS6b@dars.state.tx.us

Midland/Region 9 - Mark Dickson - deafnessRS9a@dars.state.tx.us

McAllen/Region 11b - Sonia Quintero - deafnessRS11b@dars.state.tx.us