

OACCD

The Ohio Alliance of Community Centers for the Deaf

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For Immediate Release

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OACCD enters exciting partnership with CAC/UrRELAY!

Columbus, Ohio -- The Ohio Alliance of Community Centers for the Deaf (OACCD) is proud to announce their partnership with Communication Access Center (CAC) and UrRelay to provide additional services throughout 10 Community Centers for the Deaf (CCDs) in Ohio. This will provide additional revenue to support the valued services we offer to the community we serve.

The official launch of the partnership occurred during the DEAFNation Expo, held in Columbus, Ohio on April 28, 2007 and kicked off our partnership into high gear. The partnership will allow the 3 entities to work together to provide quality and effective video relay, video remote interpreting and Relay Instant Messaging services with the 10 CCDs.

Through this exciting partnership, the 10 CCDs will be able to expand their current programs and add new projects benefiting the deaf, hard of hearing and deaf blind Ohioans. Interpreting, case management, advocacy, education and leadership are the cornerstones of the programs. Check www.oaccd.org for more information about each CCD in your area of the state.

The CCDs also provides a bridge between the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, the Ohio Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Community in ensuring independent living and employment retention for deaf, hard of hearing and deaf blind individuals are maintained

Together with our partners, Communication Access Center, a 501©3 organization based in Flint, Michigan and NXi Communications and UrRelay, Inc., we are pleased to provide our consumers choices in how to make communication more effective through Video Relay Service (VRS) that enables people to use sign language when making calls, Instant Relay Messaging or Internet-based Relay.

To utilize OACCD's VRS services, dial OACCD.TV on your existing videophone to make relay calls. To make a Relay call, go to www.oaccd.org and look for the OACCD button to click on to activate the call.

To make a Relay call from any pager that has AIM service, simply add OACCD on your buddy list on your AIM server and make your Relay calls from your pager at your convenience, 24/7, 365 days a year.

In addition, OACCD provides Interpreting Online (IO) Service which is an easy to use service that utilizes video conferencing and web based technologies to access sign language interpreting services without an interpreter on site. The interpreter is located at one of the CCDs and facilitates communication remotely through video. To schedule an Interpreting Online (IO) assignment, please call 1-888-353-3363 and give the scheduler information to make your IO request.

An Across the State Town Hall tour will be held in July and August throughout the State of Ohio to provide opportunities for consumers to learn more about the services we provide. Please check back to www.OACCD.org soon for CCD locations, dates and times for open houses at your local CCD.

About OACCD: The CCDs are the only centralized programs for people who are deaf/hard of hearing that provide access to a wide range of community based services and activities. The CCDs inform people who are deaf/hard of hearing and their families of their rights and responsibilities as citizens and taxpayers of our society, and support their ability to overcome barriers to living independently.

The CCDs provide critical services, which allow persons who are deaf/hard of hearing equal access to basic community services such as legal protection, health/mental health care, telecommunications, public transportation, governmental services, police and fire protection, and other basic social services. The local deaf/ hard of hearing community plays an important role in each CCD's program development and delivery of services. While all CCDs share similar goals, each CCD has a different philosophy and, depending on local needs, is free to give certain goals priority over other goals.

About CAC: Communication Access Center, (CAC), a private, 501(C)(3) non-profit United Way agency, has been providing services which bridge the communication, cultural and environmental barriers to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing since 1965. It was one of the first such service agency to be established within the United States. Over the years, CAC has expanded its programs and service areas to meet the growing demand. CAC has been and continues to be devoted to the concerns of Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons.

About UrRelay: URrelay.com is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There are no limits on the length of your calls or how many calls you make. With URrelay.com there is no cost to download the application or to place a call. There are no long distance charges when using URrelay.com. Check them out at www.urrelay.com

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