

WHAT DO SERVICES COST?

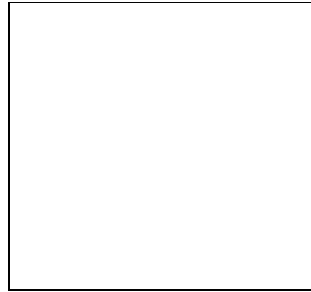
The cost of meeting with a counselor, doctor, or case manager depends on what services you receive. In many cases private insurance or publicly funded insurance, such as Medicaid, pays for some or all of the costs. For those without insurance the program has a “sliding fee scale.” This means the cost may be reduced based on your income. Services will not be refused if a person is unable to pay.

PROGRAM FUNDING

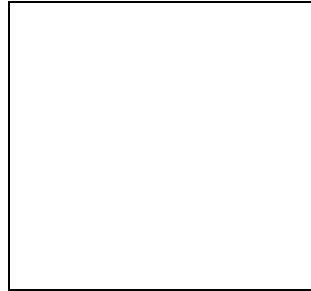
The Regional Deaf Services Program is partially funded by the Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services, who provides funding to Cumberland Mountain Community Services (CMCS). CMCS administers the program and works in cooperation with your local Community Service Board to provide services across the region. Our partners include:

- Highlands Community Services
- Frontier Health and Planning District One Community Services,
- Mt. Rogers Community Services
- Dickenson County Community Services

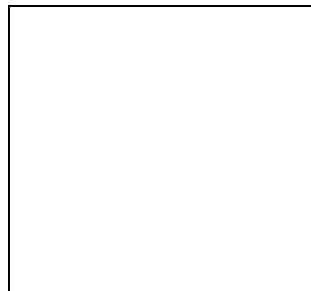
Regional Deaf Services Program Staff



Michael Bush, LPC, coordinates RDSP and provides counseling and crisis services. Mike has a Master’s Degree in Counseling from Gallaudet University and is a Licensed Professional Counselor.



Jana Dreyzehner, M.D., provides psychiatric and medication services for RDSP. Jana is Board Certified in General Psychiatry and in Child & Adolescent Psychiatry in the State of Virginia.



Lorrie Taylor, BSW, is the Regional Case Manager for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Lorrie has a Bachelor of Social Work degree from Radford University.

Regional Deaf Services Program

Southwest Virginia

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HEARING LOSS & MENTAL ILLNESS

There are an estimated 34,000 persons living in Southwest, Virginia who are deaf or hard of hearing. When persons with a hearing loss seek treatment for a mental illness they often find that services are not accessible to them due to language barriers or misunderstandings about the unique culture of deaf persons. For this reason, the Regional Deaf Services Program works in cooperation with local Community Service Boards to provide language accessible and culturally sensitive services to persons with a hearing loss.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Hearing loss poses its own challenges in coping with the stresses of daily life; it does not *cause* mental illness.
- The Surgeon General reports that 1 out of every 5 people will need mental health services during their lifetime.
- People who are deaf or hard of hearing need mental health services as often as hearing people.
- Living in a rural community where very few people know American Sign Language can be socially isolating.
- Less than 2% of all people who are deaf and need mental health services ever receive them.

REGIONAL DEAF SERVICES PROGRAM

PROGRAM SERVICES

Counseling: Like hearing persons, people who are deaf or hard of hearing have problems with depression, anxiety, drugs and alcohol, and other mental health issues. Some people accept having “bad nerves” and never receive help. Talking with a professional about a mental health concern can be very helpful in understanding the cause of the problem and in relieving the symptoms.

Medication and Psychiatry:

Many mental health problems have a *biological* base. The Regional Deaf Services Program has a doctor that can work with you to evaluate these medical conditions. Often the doctor can prescribe medication that will help relieve the symptoms. The decision to use medication is always *yours*.

Case Management: Many deaf or hard of hearing persons with mental health concerns have other needs such as: building a support network, reducing stress, accessing community resources, coping with symptoms, finding interpreters, or improving living arrangements. Staff of the RDSP can help with these kinds of issues. Meetings with a case manager can occur in the home, in the community, or in a local office.

COMMUNICATION

Having a one-on-one relationship with a counselor, doctor, or case manager is an essential part of mental health treatment. The staff of RDSP are fluent in American Sign Language so deaf persons can talk without an interpreter. The staff can also use assistive technology, such as portable loop systems, to improve communication.

CULTURE

People who are deaf or hard of hearing often share a unique culture that is quite different from the culture of persons who hear. Staff at RDSP understand, respect, and affirm the special cultural aspects of being deaf or hard of hearing. The focus of treatment will be on your issues and concerns, not on misunderstandings about communication or culture.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Many persons who are deaf are concerned about other people finding out they are receiving mental health or substance abuse services. At the Regional Deaf Services Program your rights will be respected. Information about you, including the fact that you receive services, will not be shared with *anyone* without your written permission, unless required by law or in an emergency situation.