

CIEP ALERT

COALITION ON INCLUSIVE EMERGENCY PLANNING
A Statewide Disability Advisory Group of the WASILC



CIEP'S NEW DISABILITY INTEGRATION MANAGER

Jim House has a strong background in advocating for people with disabilities, especially those who are deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened, deaf-blind, and deaf-plus. While representing [Hearing, Speech, & Deaf Center](#) in Seattle, he served as a co-chair for the Disability Advocacy



Group (DAG) in Seattle/King County, a coalition of disability service agencies and emergency management professionals. Recognized as an SME on communications as an access and functional need, Jim has given many presentations around the country, and serves on the Accessibility Committee for the National Emergency Numbering Association.

“I look forward to being a positive influencer and an asset to CIEP, WASILC, our

IL network, and most important, empowering the people we serve by our inclusive emergency planning,” said Jim House. He adds, “CIEP will highlight best practices on effective communication, physical access, and programmatic access within disaster preparation.”

In 2015, Jim’s grassroots campaign “[Captions On Now!](#)” in Portland, OR led to a model ordinance requiring all public TVs within the city to display captions during business hours. One of his strongest points was that the ordinance will empower all people to respond appropriately during a

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-Jim House

severe storm because the captions will provide visual access to evacuation information in breaking emergency news bulletins while away from home.

In his previous tenure as the Public Relations Director for [Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#), Jim worked in the nation's capital to improve access to telecommunication, media, and information technology. This work required collaboration with other organizations and cross-disability groups to pursue accessible public policy at the Federal Communications Commission and other federal agencies. In 2004, Jim helped develop a nationwide FEMA training program for community members and emergency management professionals on communications barriers and solutions.

As a graduate of Gallaudet University in Washington, DC, Jim learned about the IL Philosophy as a Peer Counselor at the [Endeppence Center of Northern Virginia](#) in 1996. Jim lives in Renton, WA with his wife Karen, and they both continue to support the disability rights movement.



Jim House and his wife, Karen Philo-House completed the East King County Accessible CERT Class in Redmond, WA during the fall of 2017



Editor's Note: Welcome to **CIEP Alert!** As your new Disability Integration Manager I am bringing a new look and title to this newsletter. Feel free to share this with your friends...

What is so special about SB-5046? This new law will require the Emergency Management Division to report to the Washington Legislature about their efforts to include people with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) in their community notification and other services. What is CIEP doing to make sure our access is ensured?

Also, you will see links to recent news about people with disabilities in emergency management. Living with a disability means you can bring new perspectives without being limited by what others consider "normal". During a disaster, you may discover new strengths and skills you never realized you had.

If you have any comments about this issue of **CIEP Alert** or suggestions for future issues, please send me an email at HouseJ@dshs.wa.gov. This email can also be used to subscribe or unsubscribe. Let me know if there are others who should receive this newsletter.

WHAT IS SB 5046?

Staff from CIEP and the Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) have had productive discussions on accessible communication for the deaf and hard of hearing community with the Inclusion and Equity Subcommittee (IES) of the Emergency Management Division (EMD), and EMD staff charged with the implementation of SB 5046. SB 5046 was recently passed by WA State legislature, which requires EMD to provide “state of emergency notices” ... “in a manner most effective at communicating with significant segments of the community who speak a language other than English”.

CIEP believes SB 5046 can open the door to more access through effective communications. By virtue of its civil rights status, CIEP believes that American Sign Language (ASL) should be part of this bill’s implementation. CIEP takes on a broad definition of Limited English Proficiency (LEP). Being proficient in the English language not only means you are fluent in English, but also you are able to communicate by listening, speaking, reading AND writing. If a person who is deaf cannot hear spoken English, the emergency message must be available in text. If a person who is blind cannot read written English, an audio or tactile (Braille) version must be provided. CIEP embraces new and emerging technologies developed according to Universal Design and other accessibility principles as codified in the ADA, the Rehab Act, the Communications and Video Accessibility Act, and other federal legislation, as well as current industry standards.

CIEP is proud to be a part of this conversation and looks forward to full implementation of SB 5046 incorporating best practices in effective communications.

Full text of SB 5046 at: <http://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2017-18/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Bills/5046.pdf>

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News & Resources

Text-to-911 Lags in Washington's Largest Counties

<http://q13fox.com/2018/01/05/text-to-911-is-here-for-some-but-lags-behind-in-states-largest-counties/>

Deaf Madison (WI) Woman Recounts False Bomb Scare

<https://www.channel3000.com/news/madison-woman-recounts-false-alarm-scare-in-hawaii/685618638>

Disability and Disaster Response in the Age of Climate Change

<https://psmag.com/environment/fixing-americas-disability-disaster-response>

Statewide Text-to-911 Service Available in Minnesota

<https://mn.gov/deaf-commission/news/?id=1063-320252>

University of Alabama Study Ways to Improve Tornado Sirens for Blind and Deaf

<http://www.tuscaloosaneews.com/news/20171209/university-of-alabama-will-study-improving-tornado-warnings-for-deaf-blind>

Deaf Residents Underserved by Emergency Management Services

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/emergency-management-systems-neglect-deaf-citizens_us_5a01ebebe4b02f3ab3377d6b?ncid=engmodushpimg00000003

Coming Events:

Quarterly CIEP Meetings

WHEN: 3/20/2018 10:00am—11:30am

6/19/2018 10:00am—11:30am

WHERE: DVR Headquarters, 4565 7th Ave. SE Lacey, WA 98503 (Conference Room)

Quarterly SILC Meetings— Day 1: 9:00am to 4:00pm and Day 2: 9:00am to 2:00pm

WHEN & WHERE:

4/12-13/2018 at Red Lion, 1101 N Columbia Center Kennewick, WA 99336

7/12-13/2018 at Oxford Suites, 9550 Silverdale Way NW Silverdale, WA 98383

10/11-12/2018 at Red Lion River Inn, 700 N Division St. Spokane, WA 99202

All meetings are open to everyone, per the Open Public Meetings Act (RCW 42.30). On Day 1 of the SILC meetings, the council hosts a panel discussion and public forum from 1:00 to 3:30 pm to gather information and advice from the disability community, consumers, service providers, and the public to identify what is working in their community, as well as to identify gaps and barriers. ASL interpreters are provided. For all other Reasonable Accommodation Requests, please contact Jim House at HouseJ@dshs.wa.gov at least two weeks prior to the meeting. Requests received less than two weeks before the event are not guaranteed.