

Welcome vlog

Welcome to the Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of hearing. My name is Steven Florio and I'm the Executive Director.

We want you to know that we are committed to serving all of Rhode Island's Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals through community engagement and collaborations with service providers, organizations, agencies and the community at large. It's our responsibility for raising awareness, advocating for Civil Rights and accessibility and expanding information and resources. Also identifying opportunities to remove disparities. That's our motto: Communication, Equality, Opportunity. Those are our three basic tenets. You may have noticed that we use those three basic tenets in our logo as well.

Our mission is to provide innovative leadership in public policy as well as service delivery and accessibility throughout the Ocean State. The Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of hearing ensures opportunities for each Deaf and Hard of Hearing person to become an empowered and contributing citizen.

We have three main programs within our agency. Firstly, Information and Referral services. Secondly, the Sign Language Interpreter & CART referral service and by the way CART means live captions. And lastly, the Emergency and Public Communications Access program (EPCAP).

We also work with legislators, policy makers and decision-making bodies to develop effective public policies that are in the best interest of Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals. We provide outreach and education opportunities which includes several things: the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Information about Civil Rights, Employment, New communication technologies, Hearing loss, Deaf culture, Languages, Communication strategies, and much more.

The most pressing areas we've been focusing on recently are: healthcare, public safety which includes the police and fire department as well as education.

Please feel free to contact us if you need information or any assistance.

Thank you!

Date: March 2018