

Statewide Deaf and Hard of Hearing Coordinator

Jessena Williams,
MSW, LCSW

217-786-0023 Voice

217-786-0024 Fax

Video Phone: 217-303-5807

[Jessena.Williams@](mailto:Jessena.Williams@illinois.gov)

[illinois.gov](mailto:Jessena.Williams@illinois.gov)

Office located at:

McFarland MHC

901 Southwind Rd

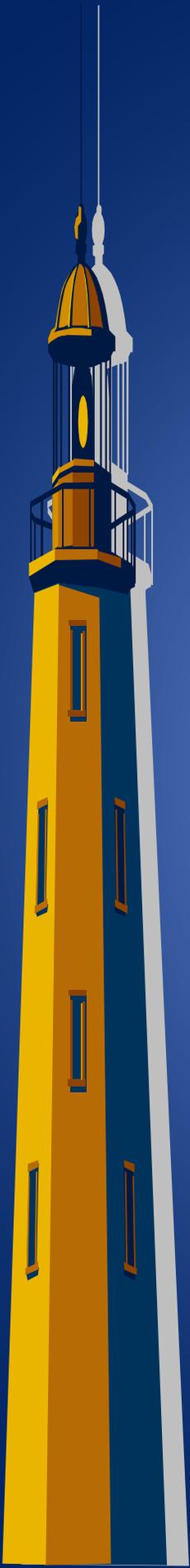
Springfield IL 62703

Who is the Target Population?

- Anyone with Hearing Loss with a mental health need who is served by Division of Mental Health (DMH) services
- Can be either Adults and Children
- Hearing Loss includes: Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf-Blind, and Late-deafened
- Coordinator can work with consumer, provider agency, and/or state-operated facility

Focus of Position

- Advocacy
- Awareness and Education
- Accessibility



More than just counseling....

DMH programs offer:

- Counseling: group and individual
- Case Management
- Psychiatric Services
- Individual & Placement Support: supported work program
- Recovery Services: Peer Support Specialist- individuals who are currently in recovery with mental illness and/or substance abuse are employed as peers to empower recovery with others

Collaborating Deaf-Specific Community Agencies with DMH

- Advocate Healthcare (located within Illinois Masonic Hospital) Chicago, IL
- Anixter Center – Chicago, IL
- Mt. Sinai Psychiatry & Behavioral Health (located at Mt. Sinai hospital) – Chicago, IL
- Center on Deafness – Northbrook, IL
- Mental Health & Deafness – Northbrook, IL
- Thresholds – Chicago, IL

DMH Announcement

The Division of Mental Health would like to welcome Jessena Williams, MSW, LCSW, who joined the Department of Mental Health on June 2, 2015 in the position of **Statewide Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**. Jessena comes to us from the Veterans' Administration in St. Louis and was a liaison for transitional housing programs for homeless veterans. Previously, Jessena worked for the State of Illinois collectively for 11 years in various capacities including the Illinois School for the Deaf, the Department on Aging's Senior Helpline and Division of Developmental Disabilities' Bureau of Quality Management.

Jessena graduated from MacMurray College with a Bachelor's in Social Work and a minor in Deaf Education and Liberal Arts. She earned her Master's in Social Work degree from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She completed her MSW internship at McFarland Mental Health Center, and this led to eventual employment there as an inpatient social worker. In this capacity, Jessena worked with both the civil and forensic populations of individuals served. She obtained social work licensure in 2010. Jessena also has experience with free-lance interpreting.

While busy with her husband and two young children, Jessena is eager to have a positive impact on the delivery of mental health services for the deaf and hard of hearing. Please join me in welcoming Jessena as she begins her new role in serving the mental health needs of this special population.