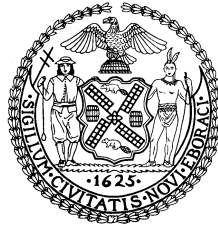


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**The City of New York**  
**Manhattan Community Board 8**

**Health, Seniors, and Social Services Committee Meeting**  
**Marymount Manhattan College**  
**221 East 71<sup>st</sup> Street**  
**Regina Peruggi Room**  
**March 28, 2013**  
**6:30PM**

**Community Board members in attendance:** Jacqueline Ludorf, Hattie Quarnstrom, Barbara Rudder

Mr. Jeff Wax from the Center for Hearing spoke to the Health Seniors and Social Service committee on March 28, 2013. He works with mental health patients who are deaf. He said some of the examples of his patients are those who are having problems in the work place. There are certain things the law requires an employer to provide for them as devices. This may turn into a legal issue. Communications such as speech reading classes and many babies in need of rehabilitation.

Many have Cochlear implants. This is basically electric impulses that go to the brain. The rehab is to identify what the sound is. They don't hear as we do but they have to be trained in how to interpret the sound. Most devices are not covered as they are too expensive. Now the devices are analogue. A hearing aid can be \$6,000. Their funding is basically fee for service. Jeff also discussed how hearing loss can be attributed to cognitive decline. Hearing loss can result in feeling socially isolated. Jeff does a lot of family work. If a husband or wife has trouble hearing they have to be trained in understanding each other.

How does the organization get the word out of their existence. Doctor referrals are one way. There are apps available. He also discussed how texting helps the deaf. There are also video interpretative services. For the deaf function best when things are made visual. He said probably the best kind of work is that which has little phoning. He also said sign language users are not as grammatical.

Dragon ware is another good app for the deaf. All his therapy sessions are done in sign language. Sometimes he can do therapy via the computer. He also said there is an increase of hearing loss in teenagers. Many Rock stars have hearing loss. Hearing loss usually occurs over time. Construction rules also try to limit how much noise is made and for how long jack hammers can operate.

When we asked what we could do he said just to get the word out. He said there was a monthly Cochlear newsletter. They have a new service for auditory processing that assists parents who don't know what is going on. They often mimic hearing loss but they are not processing the auditory information. He said this is difficult to diagnose. He teaches such people how to understand what they are hearing.

Jeff said all adults should have their hearing tested once a year. He also said anyone can go to their site for a hearing test. The cost is 250.00.

The group discussed how many people do not like to wear a hearing aid. Maybe because hearing with the hearing aid is not exactly the same and sometimes the hearing aid does not fit. Jeff thought it was about loss. The media still depicts people who are with it as individuals that can hear without the use of a hearing aid. Hearing aids go against this image.

Submitted by: Jackie Ludorf

**Jackie Ludorf**  
**Chair, Health, Seniors, and Social Services Committee**