



**Western Colorado Chapter  
Hearing Loss Association of America  
Free Monthly Meeting  
Saturday, November 3, 2018**

**Lyra Replinger,  
Consumer Engagement Manager  
MED-EL Cochlear Implant Products**

Lyra Replinger will discuss updates in candidacy and hearing technology including cochlear implants, electro acoustic system and bone conduction solutions. She will also share listening strategies and resources for improved hearing experience and outcomes when talking on the phone, in noisy environments, and listening to music.

Lyra has her masters in deaf and hard of hearing education and worked with young children with hearing loss to promote auditory skill development and spoken language. Prior to working for MED-EL, Lyra was the director of the cochlear implant program at the University of Chicago.

Captioning for this meeting is sponsored from a grant from the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.  
An induction hearing loop is available. Refreshments will be served.

**People of all ages and all types of hearing loss are welcome!**

All HLAA chapter meetings are free to members and non-members, including family and friends. Meetings are held the first Saturday of the month, 10:30-12:30.

**Saturday, November 3, 2018  
10:30am - 12:30pm  
Center for Independence  
740 Gunnison Avenue  
Grand Junction, CO 81501**

**For questions or further information contact:  
Amy Becktell: [HLAAWCO@gmail.com](mailto:HLAAWCO@gmail.com) Or 970-241-2592**

More about the Hearing Loss Association of America: [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)  
More about the Center for Independence: [www.cfigj.org](http://www.cfigj.org)  
More about MED-EL products: [www.medel.com](http://www.medel.com)



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING HLAA WCO MEETINGS!**  
**People of all ages and all types of hearing loss are welcome!**  
**All meetings are free to members and non-members, including family and friends.**  
Meetings are the first Saturday of the month, 10:30 – 12:30  
(No meeting in June, July or August)  
Center for Independence, 740 Gunnison Avenue, Grand Junction  
Contact Amy Beckett: HLAAWCO@gmail.com or 970-241-2592

**Upcoming Events - Mark your calendar so you don't miss a thing!**

**December 1, 2018**

We will have our annual potluck luncheon. This is a great opportunity to meet with other who have hearing loss in a casual environment,

**Other meeting topics will be announced later. Dates are listed below.**

- |                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| January 5, 2019  | April 6, 2019 |
| February 2, 2019 | May 4, 2019   |
| March 2, 2019    |               |

**Rural Interpreting Services Project (RISP)**

Colorado's Joint Budget Committee (JBC) has recognized that there is a shortage of sign language interpreters in rural communities. This shortage has contributed to frequent barriers for "effective communication" for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind. As a result of this barrier in rural areas, the JBC funded the two-year RISP Pilot beginning July 2018, with \$700,000 allocated to the program for each year of the pilot.

People living on the Front Range already have access to established sign language interpreting services. In contrast, rural areas have less access to quality interpreting services. Interpreting services are very expensive because sign language interpreters often must be contracted from the Front Range. Thus, for the purposes of the RISP Pilot, "rural" areas have been identified as areas outside of the Front Range. Pueblo will be treated as a rural area for this project.

The RISP Pilot will arrange for and provide sign language interpreters in rural areas of Colorado at no cost to consumers or service providers for up to two years. Rural communities will have access to quality interpreting services for a variety of needs, including: medical, legal, community, or work-related situations. Note that school interpreting for Pre K-12th grade or college/ university interpreting is not covered. The RISP Pilot will also provide opportunities for initial and advanced sign language interpreter training to increase the availability of interpreting services in rural areas.

**An informational meeting about the new Rural Interpreting Services Project (RISP) is scheduled for the Grand Junction/Mesa County area from 2-4 p.m. on Monday, October 29, at the Center for Independence 740 Gunnison Avenue Grand Junction, CO 81501.**

The target audience is local first responders and service providers, such as firefighters, police, governments, agencies, employers, libraries, EMTs, medical care providers, mental health providers, social service agencies, dentists, etc. The goal is to increase awareness of the RISP Pilot's provision of qualified sign language interpreters at no cost to them to provide access to their deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind clients/patrons.

**For more information** about the RISP Program, or to request services, contact Trish Leakey, Auxiliary Services Manager, Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind, 1575 Sherman Street, Garden Level, Denver, CO 80203, [trish.leakey@state.co.us](mailto:trish.leakey@state.co.us)  
Phone: 720-949-7483

### **Hearing Loss Resources meeting summary**

At the October meeting, Chapter Leader Amy Beckett discussed the many resources, groups, organizations, and agencies that are available for people with hearing loss. The source of the material is taken from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, Directory of Organizations, at this link: <https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/directory>

In addition to the Hearing Loss Association of America, there are many ways to seek help and support for hearing loss across the nation. There are support groups to bring together people with a common interest such as parents of children with hearing loss, or those with specific types of hearing loss. Other groups are professional services organizations comprised of the people who serve those with hearing loss. Although a hard of hearing person may not be a member of such groups, it is good to understand the nature of the services provided and any certifications granted. We also talked about research organizations that provide grant or funds to people who are researching how to cure or provide solutions for hearing loss.

### **Please join Hearing Loss Association of America:**

Membership in HLAA provides many benefits. In addition to the bi-monthly magazine, discounts on products and services, and on-line webinars and training, you have the knowledge that you are an active participant in a group that is a force for change for people with hearing loss. Please go on-line today! [www.hearingloss.org/content/member-benefits](http://www.hearingloss.org/content/member-benefits)

There are many time-sensitive activities and notices that the National office sends to members via email and posts on their website, including bills that are being considered at the national level that impact people with hearing loss. Other notices are about training on-line classes or requests to participate in surveys.

The best way to get up-to-date information that affects YOU is to become a member! Take an active role in helping yourself by becoming a member!

### **Colorado Sprint Relay Sponsorship for the Western Colorado Newsletter**

Many thanks to Spring Relay for sponsoring the publication of the Western Colorado HLAA newsletter. Their generous gift of \$2,000 will allow the chapter to expand its reach to people with hearing loss in western Colorado.

One of the services that Sprint Relay Provides is Captioned Telephone Service. This service allows you to answer your calls with confidence and allows you to LISTEN and READ captions of everything your caller says during your phone conversations. Don't miss another word! For most individuals, the phones are provided at no charge.

Another service is Relay Conference Captioning (RCC). This is a free service available for Deaf and Hard of Hearing residents of Colorado, and allows these individuals to participate in meetings (in-person or remote), phone calls, videoconferences and multi-party teleconference calls. All you need is a phone and a connection to a website.

Production of this newsletter is sponsored by Sprint Relay.

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To learn more, visit  
[ColoradoRCC.com](http://ColoradoRCC.com)



For more information, check out our website at [www.hearinglossco.org](http://www.hearinglossco.org)

We are also on Facebook!  
<https://www.facebook.com/HLAAWCO/>

Also check out the national website:  
[www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)

Hearing Loss Association of America  
Western Colorado Chapter  
998 Crown Ct  
Grand Junction, CO 81505