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Working with Deaf Individuals with Mental Illness

## What's New at NDA

National Deaf Academy would like to extend a warm welcome to our new CEO, Deana Goldstein. Deana has been with Psychiatric Solutions, Inc. for five years. Prior to relocating to NDA, Deana served as the CEO at Liberty Point Residential Treatment Center in Staunton, VA.

Deana brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her new position at NDA. With a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Michigan, Deana has developed expansive experience in psychiatric services, quality assurance, utilization review, case management, and JCAHO requirements. Deana is extremely passionate about "removing the stigma for mental health," and serving those in need. Please join us in welcoming Deana to the National Deaf Academy.

In the month of April, two of our esteemed professionals were recognized at the ADARA conference in San Antonio. Melissa Watson, Clinical Director at NDA, received the Eugene W. Peterson Award, awarded by ADARA to recognize individuals who have demonstrated exemplary direct service provision in the rehabilitation of Deaf adults with additional handicapping conditions.

In addition, Joseph "TJ" Murray, therapist at NDA, has been appointed to the ADARA Board of Directors. NDA would like to congratulate Melissa and TJ, as well as thank them for the hard work and dedication they bring to NDA. Please join us in congratulating Melissa and TJ!

NDA is excited to announce its upcoming Conference, Connections: Culture,

Collaboration and Creativity to be held June 11-12, 2009. Presenters from throughout the United States will come together to present and discuss issues surrounding the specialized and unique needs of Deaf individuals dealing with mental health issues. Workshops include a variety of topics including therapeutic approaches, health literacy, court-ordered assessment and treatment for Deaf defendants, Applied Behavior Analysis among others. Featured presentations include; Neil Glickman, PhD, author of the book *Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Deaf and Hearing Persons with Language and Learning Challenges*, Elizabeth Hill, Chairman of the Mental health Subcommittee for the National Association of the Deaf, and Robert Pollard Jr., PhD, Director of the Deaf Wellness Center and Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Rochester School of Medicine in New York. For further information please visit our website at [www.nda.com](http://www.nda.com).

NDA will continue to publish updated information in monthly newsletters, please check back often for What's New at NDA! Also be on the look-out for upcoming V-Logs featuring NDA professional staff members.

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## **Employee of the Month**

### **Harold Armstead, Mental Health Tech**

Harold Armstead is National Deaf Academy's May Employee of the Month! Harold has been employed at NDA for almost 1 year and works as a Mental Health Technician with our Special Needs and Autism Groups. Making a difference with both our clients and his peers is why he believes he is working here. He is a team player with a very positive attitude. When he's not working at NDA, Harold loves playing the keyboard and singing Gospel music. Harold has 5 children and 13 grandchildren.

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## **Inner Views: A Resident's Perspective**

What is it that you like the most about being at NDA?

"I have grown to appreciate NDA since first coming. I appreciate the staff and the relationships we have. We have activities scheduled with RT (Recreational Therapy) regularly, and those are fun. My favorite time is when we go to the pool!"

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## **Job Postings**

There are currently no positions available.

## Quote of the Month

"Change is the essence of life. Be willing to surrender what you are for what you can become."

- Author Unknown

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### - Residential Mental Health Care for Deaf Children, Adolescents and Adults -

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