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**COMMISSION FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING**  
**ISSUES ‘SAVVY CONSUMER GUIDE TO HEARING LOSS’**

**BOSTON** – The Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH) today announced the publication of its updated *Savvy Consumer’s Guide to Hearing Loss*. The new guide serves as a reference tool specifically for individuals who have lost all or much of their hearing during their teenage or adult years. Topics include the impact of hearing loss; available resources and services; communication options; assistive technology; and coping strategies.

“Each year, hundreds of people with hearing loss in Massachusetts contact the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in search of information, resources and strategies for managing their disability,” said MCDHH Commissioner Heidi L. Reed. “Our goal in publishing the *Savvy Consumer’s Guide* is to offer the most comprehensive, insightful and practical information available for adapting to life with hearing loss.”

Dr. Karen Rochow, Ph.D., who authored the updated guide, added, “No one is born knowing how to cope with hearing loss. We need information and support from those who have traveled this road before us, and we need to learn how to live by a new set of rules.”

This second edition was updated to reflect changes in communication access, technology and available resources. First published in 1997, the *Savvy Consumer’s Guide* is the Commission’s most frequently requested publication, with over 50,000 copies in circulation.

Consumers interested in obtaining copies of the guide are encouraged to contact the Commission at 617-740-1600 or 617-740-1700 (TTY). The guide is also available online at: [www.mass.gov/mcdhh](http://www.mass.gov/mcdhh).

***About the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing***

MCDHH provides services to over 500,000 deaf, hard of hearing and late-deafened adults and children across the Commonwealth. The Commission works collaboratively with other state agencies and advocates to ensure effective communication and enhance quality of services and to ensure that deaf and hard of hearing individuals have access to information, services, education and opportunities equal to those of people who hear. MCDHH is committed to supporting deaf and hard of hearing individuals to live productive, independent lives.