

**Virginia's  
Fifth Annual  
Ask the Experts Conference and Webinar  
“Cool Tools to Access”**



**April 24, 2009**

***Sponsored by the Virginia ADA Coalition and  
The Virginia Department for the  
Deaf and Hard of Hearing***

***Questions About the Americans with Disabilities Act?***

***Answers Anytime!***



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## Conference Schedule

**8:15 - 8:45 Registration**

**8:45 - 9:00 Welcome: Kelly Gonzalez, Virginia ADA Coalition Coordinator**

**9:00 - 10:30 Creative Solutions to Title II Challenges:  
Marian Vessels, DBTAC**

This session will provide ADA coordinators and others interested in maximizing the few financial resources available to enhance the accessibility of government programs and services. Strategies and resources will be discussed with ample time for questions.

**Marian Vessels** is the Director of the DBTAC/Mid Atlantic ADA Center. In this role, she is responsible for the daily operation of the Center. Previously, Ms. Vessels was the Executive Director of the Maryland Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. She also worked as the Director of the Maryland Governor's Office for Individuals with Disabilities and was an Executive Board Member for the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities.

**10:45 - 12:30 Assistive Technology and Cool Tools:  
Sinclair Hubard, Department of Rehabilitative Services**

This workshop will help attendees understand how assistive technology (AT) and cool tools can support employees and provide program access to people with disabilities. Learn what assistive technology means, what services are available to help find assistive technology that works for your needs and get hands on demonstration on low to high assistive technology. All participants will receive a resource packet on AT to take with them.

**Sinclair Hubard** is a Senior Disability Navigator with the Department of Rehabilitative Services. Ms. Hubard has an extensive background in disability services with agency program management, job placement, on-the-job training, career development and job seeking skills.

**12:30 - 1:45 Lunch**

**1:45 - 3:15 Relaying the Message:  
Matt Myrick, Virginia Relay**

This presentation will focus on discussion and demonstration of the latest relay technology available to individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, Deafblind or speech impaired. Presenter will discuss text to voice relay, voice to text relay, voice carry-over, hearing carry-over, speech to speech, captioned telephone relay, relay text messaging, video relay, and the Virginia Relay Partner Program. There will also be a brief discussion on new technology available to the deaf and hard of hearing communities.

**Matt Myrick** is the AT&T Channel Manager for Virginia Relay. Mr. Myrick develops support materials for statewide outreach programs, conducts training exercises for employees and relay consumers, attends statewide events, expositions, workshops and forums. Prior to joining Virginia Relay, Mr. Myrick worked at the Office of Admissions of his alma mater, Gallaudet University, in Washington, DC where as a university recruiter, traveled across the United States and Canada extolling the university's virtues to prospective students.

**3:30 - 4:00 Why it Matters:  
Kelly Gonzalez, Virginia ADA Coalition**

Do you know the numbers? How many people with disabilities are currently in the United States? At what rate is this population growing? What does this mean in terms of access needs in the future?

**Kelly Gonzalez** is the Coordinator for the Virginia ADA Coalition, a grant funded project at the Endependence Center providing training, resources and technical assistance around Virginia on the ADA. Prior to this role, Kelly supervised supported living and supported employment programs for people with disabilities.

**4:00 - 4:15 Closing**

Turn in your Conference Evaluation and get a Prize!!!!

Thank you for coming!

## **What is the Virginia ADA Coalition?**

The Coalition is a grant-funded project managed by the Endependence Center, which provides training, resources and technical assistance on the Americans with Disabilities Act across Virginia. The Coalition is funded by the DBTAC: Mid-Atlantic ADA Center, one of 10 regional centers funded by the National Institute on Disability Rehabilitation and Research (NIDRR), the US Department of Education, Grant #H133A060085) to provide technical assistance, training and materials on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

### **Contact the ADA Coalition:**

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### **Many Thanks to:**

Marian Vessels, DBTAC/Mid Atlantic ADA Center; Sinclair Hubard, DRS; Matt Myrick, Virginia Relay; Clayton Bowen, Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing; Jeanne Goldberg, EEOC; Richard Kriner, DRS/SILC; Betsy Bondurant, ECI; Catherine Rector, ECI; Tammy Manno, ECI; Cheryl Simpson, ECI; Linda Johnson, ECI. Also thanks to Ask the Experts Advisory Members: Mary Mathena, advocate; Abra Jacobs, ESCIL; Cheron Sutton-Brock, Service Source; Lorie Moore, City of Virginia Beach; Brenda Estes, ECI; Cathy Spriggs, Center for Aging.

# **Increasing Accessibility in Virginia!**

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ADA questions or  
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