Making Arrests and Detention Accessible for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People

Will begin at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time
- Audio and visuals are provided through the online webinar platform
- Access to presentation handouts was included in the email reminder you received for this session
- This session will be open-captioned

Technical Assistance
- If you experience technical difficulties
  - Use the QUESTIONS panel to let us know
  - Call 301-217-0124
Audio

• Expand the audio panel to select computer audio or phone call

Video

• Use the divider line to enlarge or reduce the video feed
Questions and Comments

• Use the QUESTIONS panel

Archive

• This webinar is being recorded and can be accessed next week
  • You will receive an email with information on how to access the archive
Presentation Accessibility

• For the benefit of participants who are not able to see the presentation slides on the webinar platform, speakers will
  • Announce slide numbers
  • Describe images that are meaningful to the content of the session

About Your Hosts…

TransCen, Inc.

• Improving the lives of people with disabilities through meaningful work and community inclusion

Mid-Atlantic ADA Center, a project of TransCen, Inc.

• Funded by National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
ADA National Network

- Ten regional centers provide guidance, training, and materials on the ADA
  - 1-800-949-4232
  - ADAta.org

Making Arrests and Detention Accessible for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People

Bill Lockard
Program Director, DeafCAN! (Deaf Community Action Network)
For D/HH People, REALLY Making Arrests, Detention & Supervision Accessible

• **Introduction**: Program Director for human services in a Deaf Church
• **DeafCAN!** - 35% fee-based services
  • County contracts, interpreting, ASL classes, & training
  • 65% from donations and grants for most vulnerable:
  • In PA, only dedicated programs for D/HH
  • immigrants/refugees
  • inmates & returning citizens
  • first to provide SSP services for DeafBlind

My Background

• 41 years working with D/HH people & their families
• D/HH experience in education, health & human service (children & families, mental health & developmental disabilities, & aging)
• Criminal justice with local police & courts, state & county jails, parole, probation, forensic hospitals, crime victims & domestic violence
• 23 year volunteer D/HH inmates at SCI Graterford, now Phoenix, on communication & decision making
COMMUNICATION

• Some key elements to communication: clarity, empathy, listening, consistency, flexibility … all critical for effective interaction at school, work, home, the playground, and the criminal justice system

• Add deafness / hearing loss – how do you get anything, let alone clarity, empathy…

• Now add MH, IDD, D&A, physical disabilities, aging, other health challenges

• If 95% of our work is communication, how can we serve D/HH???

Myths

• Lipreading / speechreading: Yes you can. NO YOU CAN'T! Masks!

• Deaf & Dumb: hearing loss has no connection to intellectual ability

• Better labels – Deaf, hard of hearing, hearing-impaired? Are you Deaf-impaired?

• Nope, signs are not universal. Nope, signs are not simple or basic.

• Nope, D/HH are no more impulsive, explosive, or introverted

• Nope, hearing aids & cochlear implants don’t ‘cure’ hearing loss

• Diversity of D/HH people: degree, age of onset, family support, mode of communication, other challenges …. – DeafBlind??
General Accommodations

Other assistive devices: hearing aids, cochlear implants, alerting devices (vibrating watches, flashing lights, digital message boards)

Special phones: video, captioned, amplified, braille

• Sign language interpreters and CART – captions (remote or in person)
• How much access is enough? ALL programs & services?
• Healthcare, required programs, optional, work, meetings, socials?
• Staff awareness & training

What We Found in PA’s Four Prisons

No CART /captioning (live or remote) ever been used
Primary ‘interpreters’ at 2 of 4 prisons were other hearing inmates, sometimes staff with beginning level skill
    Intimate personal, family, health, financial information – any room for extortion or abuse?
Some used “VRI”, Video Remote Interpreting, only for required classes
In person interpreting rarely used at 3 prisons and, at best, for about 10% of the needs
What We Found Part 2

All had video phones, some amplified, none had caption phones
Some had assistive devices & digital signage but rarely used
No staff engaged any level had any special training or experience with & virtually none since being hired
So, decisions about accommodations made without knowledge
No staff could remember ever providing any interpreting for RHU
No coordination or guidance between state & local systems re D/HH

Two-Tiered, Discriminatory Program Access

1. Like others, you must qualify for a program or service – OK
2. D/HH must also ‘apply’ for an accommodation resulting in

**Deny or Delay/Deny:**
Considerations of costs, coordination, security, should not be considered here but already in place
RESULT- if not denied, ‘approval' comes too late

Even the most tenacious & ambitious eventually stop asking!
Impact

Imagine **constantly** being in a foreign country and not understanding

**Longer** sentences cause can’t complete requirements

**Harsher** sentences because of isolation, anxiety, brutality

**Less prepared** when return home

**MORE** likely to reoffend

Families, friends, employers

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D/HH Access

- **What is Needed:**
  - Until EQUIVALENT access proven, all states should hire D/HH, ADA Coordinator to implement, train, & oversee entire state/county systems
  - Standardized intake required, with communication assessment & resulting accommodations needed assigned that stays with person
  - Eliminate two-tiered accommodation application
  - **Each** D/HH person given minimum 10 hrs per week for accoms, CART or interpreters
  - All prisons/jails/halfway houses… must have access to all special phones
D/HH Access

- **COSTS** – prohibitive? hardship? alter services? security?
- D/HH ADA Coordinator + travel training ? $200,000 or 250,000?
- $100 per hr x 10 = 1,000 per week per inmate or $52,000 a year
- 30 inmates x 52,000 = 1,560,000
- Extra 200,000 for assistive technology
- Total roughly 2 million per state to be budgeted
- Actual use probably no more than 1 million
- **ONLY** skilled D/HH ADA Coordinator can ensure effective access & $$

Wrap Up, Contact Info, & Questions

- Criminal Justice System is responsible for & overwhelmed by much, the safety, security, and vast programming for the broadest area of individuals imaginable
- This actually confirms the need for specialists to serve special needs
- We believe full D/HH access is **only** achievable with comprehensive, state-wide approach as we have outlined
- Thank you and now accept your questions and discussion
- [BillLockard@deafcanpa.org](mailto:BillLockard@deafcanpa.org)  [www.deafcanpa.org](http://www.deafcanpa.org)  484-477-6489
Certificates and Credits: CODE

• If you paid for a certificate of participation or credits, check the reminder email you received about this session for instructions

• Please email the code above to ADAtraining@transcen.org by 5 PM E.T. on June 23, 2021

Thank You for Joining Us!

Mid-Atlantic ADA Center

Toll-free: 800-949-4232 (DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV)
Local: 301-217-0124

ADAinfo@transcen.org
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