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
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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
  • ADA.ta.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.

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 accommodations, 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

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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
- ADAinfo.org