Deaf VR Professionals & Designated Interpreters

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NIEC Project Coordinator
Consortium Mission

• to connect and collaborate with diverse stakeholders in order to create excellence in interpreting
Outcomes

• Designated Interpreting:
  – Define
  – Identify Issues
  – Explore Techniques

• Listen to a Deaf VR Professional and Designated Interpreter discuss their work
Valuable Resource

Deaf Professionals and Designated Interpreters: A New Paradigm. Peter C. Hauser, Karen L. Finch and Angela B. Hauser, Editors
Poll Question

• Are you currently, or have you previously served as, a Designated Interpreter?
Definition

Designated Interpreting is the “marriage between the field of interpreting and the deaf professional’s discipline or work environment”.

(Hauser & Hauser)
Designated Interpreter

• Highly skilled
• Understands role of Deaf professional
• Knows roles of others in the workplace
• Knows the workplace culture
• Knows the jargon of the field
• Unlimited availability
• Member of a team
Designated Interpreter Con’t.

• Passionate about interpreting
• And, passionate about VR
• Commitment to teamwork
• Cognizant of dress & demeanor
• Can balance invisibility & participation
Deaf Professional

Deaf Individuals achieving professional positions where their contributions outweigh the cost of interpreting services.

(Hauser & Hauser)
Deaf Professional Con’t.

• Primarily educators and RCDs until civil rights legislation
• More educational and vocational opportunities beginning in late 70’s
• VR as role model
• Now more senior managers in VR
The Organization

- Culture
- Four Variables:
  - Dynamism
  - Rivalry
  - Control
  - Unity
- VR Agencies
  - Control/Hierarchy Culture

Are they compatible?
What is Interpreted?
Conversational Style
Interpreting Considerations

- Social Settings
- Working with non-designated Interpreters
- Deaf Professional fatigue in long meetings
- Dual Roles
- Interacting with co-workers
- Fostering rapport between Deaf Profession and consumer.
Social Interpreting

- Facilitate Deaf Professional’s participation
- Office Parties: Attend or Interpret?
- Eat or not?
Dual Roles

- Define each role
- Downtime management
- Interaction:
  - With Supervisor(s)
  - With Co-Workers
- Socialization

Quinn Dumbrowski
Some Techniques

• When Deaf Professional is presenting:
  – Pause
  – Nod
  – Eye contact

• When Deaf Professional is fatigued:
  – Confer in advance
  – “Clarification” strategy
  – Summarize for Deaf Professional
Interpreting Considerations

• Register:
  – Flexible when interpreting with consumers, peers & superiors
  – Comfortable with public speaking/platform interpreting
  – Strategically places oneself for each setting

• Ethics:
  – Not “neutral”
Working with Freelance Interpreters

• Be cognizant of dynamics
• Advance preparation
• Establish rapport
• Include Deaf Professional
Always be aware of connections between Deaf Professional and others:

- Peers
- Supervisor
- Consumers
More Resources!

• NCIEC Resources for Interpreting in VR Settings
  – Glossary
  – Bibliography
  – DVD 6-pack
  – And More!

Poll Question

• If you have not been a Designated Interpreter, would you consider becoming one?
A DI-DP Team

• Mark Dore, Area Director, Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) & Statewide Coordinator of Deaf and HH Services (SCD)

• Mary Jo Schwie, Designated Interpreter, MRC
Questions and Answers

Use the chat function to state your question. Trudy will facilitate.
Training Opportunities

• Next webinar:
  – **Topic:** Skills Development for VR Interpreters: Models and Resources
  – **Presenter:** Anna Witter-Merithew
  – **Date:** 11.24.2014
  – **Time:** 7-8:30 pm Eastern, 6-7:30 pm Central, 5-6:30 pm Mountain, 4-5:30 pm Pacific
  – **For more information:** www.unco.edu/marie
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Connect with us on

www.interpretereducation.org
www.unco.edu/marie/

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