



Understanding Deafblindness and the Role of the Intervener

Sponsored by the Minnesota DeafBlind Project

BrightWorks Virtual Workshop

Wednesday, August 14, 2024

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

For: Parents, family members, teachers, related service providers, school nurses, ASL educational interpreters, certified orientation and mobility specialists, and administrators who support children who have combined hearing and vision loss (deafblindness)

Cost: **No cost** for participants who support and educate infants, children, and youth (birth to age 22) who are deafblind in Minnesota.

Virtual: Zoom Registration Link for participation will be emailed to registrants.

CEUs: Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) and School Administrators (BOSA), Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists (ACVREP) will be available.

CEUs for licensed teachers, related service providers, and school nurses, including practical nurses who work in schools, will also be available.

ASL Interpreter and Communication Access Real-Time services are provided by Northeast Metro 916 Intermediate School District.

Workshop Description: Deafblindness is the rarest of low-incidence disabilities, and because of this, most parents and school team members who are supporting and teaching deafblind children have limited information about the impact of combined hearing and vision loss on a student's access to communication, learning, curriculum, people (social/emotional development) and cognitive skill development. This introductory workshop is designed to provide participants with information about deafblindness, its impact on access, and the role of the intervener. The importance of collaboration with team members will also be discussed since many children who have combined hearing and vision loss have other needs met by multiple team members. School teams are encouraged to attend together, especially when they are new to intervener services, or when a new intervener is joining the team, in order to develop shared understanding and support for the student.

Presenter: Carolyn Monaco has worked in the field of deafblindness for over 40 years. Her experience includes working in the role of the intervener, consulting, training, and teaching in the Intervenor Program at George Brown College in Toronto, Canada. Carolyn has also been one of the key presenters in MN DeafBlind Project's intervener weekend training series for many years and continues to support interveners through facilitating the Open Hands, Open Access cohorts. Her passion is assisting others to gain the skills and knowledge they need to improve the lives of

those with deafblindness. She received an Anne Sullivan Macy Medal in 2018 for her outstanding work.

Program and Registration Questions:

Ann Mayes at 612-638-1527 or ann.mayes@brightworksmn.org

Registration: [Understanding Deafblindness and the Role of the Intervener Registration Link](https://forms.gle/dkxcXMAT7q6iEAeX7) (<https://forms.gle/dkxcXMAT7q6iEAeX7>).

ASLIS is an Approved RID CMP Sponsor for continuing education activities. This General Studies program is offered for 0.5 RID CEUs at the little/none or some content knowledge level.



Funding for this grant activity is made possible with a grant from the MN Department of Education. The source of the funds is from a federal award – CFDA #84.326, Special Education - Technical Assistance and Dissemination to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities. The contents of this workshop do not necessarily represent the policy of the federal Department of Education or the state Department of Education and you should not assume endorsement by the federal or state government.