

Developing Competency in Mental Health Treatment for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals: Approaches and Considerations for Culturally Affirmative Care



Kara Bull

Kara Bull has been an ASL Interpreter for 20 years and holds her National Interpreter Certification from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. She has a bachelor's degree in American Sign Language/English Interpreting from Bethel University (Indiana). Her interpreting experience includes a wide variety of settings from employment to medical and technical schools to university courses. Her current focus is interpreting for d/Deaf and hard of hearing individuals that use language atypically. She is employed by the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities as a Certified Sign Language Interpreter/Deaf Services Specialist.

Over the past ten years, Kara has encountered many challenging linguistic situations and has sought multiple opportunities to study atypical language and language dysfluency among Deaf people. In August 2021, she completed the rigorous, 40-hour Mental Health Interpreter Training sponsored by the Alabama Department of Mental Health's Office of Deaf Services with additional classes in October 2022. Her biggest takeaway from MHIT 2021 is that the goals of the therapist and the interpreter may seem at odds with each other; therefore, pre and post conferences are crucial to the success of the session. MHIT 2022 highlighted the ongoing research into Language Deprivation Syndrome and the far-reaching effects of this devastating condition.

Kara and her husband Caleb have three children, ages 14, 11 and 9. Their youngest was adopted at the age of 3 1/2 and is hard of hearing. Her communication needs are unique and she uses a combination of speech and sign language both expressively and receptively.



Dr. Jerry Hayes

Dr. Jerry Hayes is a clinical psychologist practicing in the Cleveland area since 2003. He has been involved with Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center's Community Center for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing for the past 16 years as a member of the Deaf Advocacy Committee. He has experience providing assessment and therapy to the deaf and hard of hearing community and has been involved in providing training to clinicians and interpreters in the area of mental health and deafness for the past 22 years. Dr. Hayes is also the Director of the Counseling Center at Notre Dame College in the Cleveland area and has presented on a variety of topics including suicide prevention, de-escalation skills, working with students on the spectrum, self-care and boundaries. As the director and owner of Shoot for the Moon Video, LLC, Dr. Hayes also has a background in videography and film editing and serves as the project's lead for video deliverables. Dr. Hayes received his bachelors for The University of Florida and later received a Master's in Mental Health Counseling from Gannon University. He received his PsyD from the School of Professional Psychology at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio.



Maria O'Neil Ruddock, Psy.D.

Maria is the former Director of Community Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at the Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center (CHSC). The Community Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing provides support services, vocational rehabilitation & advocacy to individuals and families in both the Deaf and hard of hearing communities as well as information and referral, consultation, training, and education to agencies and organizations that interface with individuals who are Deaf or hard of hearing (e.g. hospitals, social service agencies, mental health agencies, police departments, schools, private corporations, government agencies, etc.). Maria oversees all programs and services in the Community Center including: Vocational Services, Support Services (Case Management), Sign Stage, and ASL Programming. In addition, Maria has led and now continues to be involved in a project funded by the Office on Violence Against Women studying the incidence, prevalence and impact of domestic and sexual violence in the D/deaf community. Prior to joining the staff at the CHSC, Maria worked in the field of Mental Health and Deafness as a clinician, doing individual and family therapy, psychological assessment and consultation for a variety of social service organizations, schools, and mental health facilities. She has been working in the Deaf community here in Cleveland and elsewhere for over 40 years. Maria holds a Bachelors in Special and Elementary Education from the University of Hartford; a Masters in School Psychology and a Doctorate in Clinical Child Psychology from New York University. Currently, Maria serves as a consultant to the Community Center for the Deaf and is directing several grant projects for the agency focusing on training and educating mental health professionals and other community agencies.



This training was made possible by a grant from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

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John L. Moore
Customer Success Manager
Sorenson Communications

John L. Moore is currently the Customer Success Manager at Sorenson Communications which is responsible to ensure communication accessibility through sign language, captioning and other needs.

While at Deaf Services Center as their CEO, Mr. Moore was responsible for overseeing the agency and ensuring that fair and appropriate services are being provided through advocacy, education, and the provision of communication services.

Mr. Moore has filled a number of roles in various capacities to further partnerships with like-minded agencies and organizations. He has been involved in various deafness and disability organizations on a local, state and national level. His work on statewide mental health standards has been invaluable in helping to raise standards of mental health services provided to Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals. He has utilized his skills and abilities to foster partnerships for a statewide camp for the deaf, a summer youth work experience program and to enact vital policy changes on the state and local level. Mr. Moore's involvement in these and other organizations over the years has given him an extensive range of experience in dealing with organizations, agencies and interest groups on the state and local levels.

Mr. Moore earned a Bachelor of Science in Government and History from Gallaudet University in Washington D.C. In addition, he received his Master's in Public Administration from Northeastern University in Boston. He and his wife, Marsha, live in Dublin and have four children.



Vincent Sabino, MBA, MSW, LISW-S, LICDC-CS
State Director of Ohio, RI International
Vincent.Sabino@riinternational.com

Vincent is a 20 year veteran of the Franklin County community mental health system and has extensive experience in working with highly vulnerable populations such as those who have severe and persistent mental illnesses, dually diagnosed individuals, severe substance use, the chronically homeless and the deaf/hard-of-hearing populations. Vince has a deep passion for those struggling with addiction and mental health, and has admiration for those in recovery.

Vincent Sabino has worked at the Alcohol Drug and Mental Health (ADAMH) Board of Franklin County. In this role, he managed over \$19 million worth of alcohol and drug treatment programs through ADAMH's Provider Network and spearheaded the Opioid Initiatives throughout Franklin County. Some of the initiatives were the Quick Response Teams, the Addiction Stabilization Center, services for Pregnant Women who are substance using and innovative programs for substance using individuals who interface with the criminal justice system.

For over two years, Vince worked at Alvis where he was the Division Director of Behavioral Health where oversaw the division providing behavioral health care to individuals who were criminal justice involved and women who were in treatment with their children.

Currently Vince is at RI International tasked with bringing the full continuum of crisis care to Franklin and Montgomery Counties. Each county will have their own crisis receiving facility that will feature a "no wrong door" and "peer first- peer last" model.

Research Interests: Addiction, Mental Health Disorders, Peer Support Services, Recovery Housing, Innovative Treatment Programs, Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Population, Pregnant and Substance Using Population

Education: Masters of Business Administration (MBA), Franklin University
Masters of Social Work (MSW), East Carolina University (*Concentration- Direct and Indirect Practice, *Deaf and Hard of Hearing Graduate Certificate Program)
Bachelors of Social Work (BSW), Rochester Institute of Technology (*Minor in Psychology)

