

# Developing Competency in Mental Health Interpreting: A 4-Part Series



**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.

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