

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 18 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 medical to technical schools and 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.

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. Her biggest takeaway from MHIT was 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.

Kara and her husband Caleb have three children, ages 12, 10 and 8. 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 currently the 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 35 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.

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John L. Moore, M.P.A.
CEO/Executive Director
Deaf Services Center, Inc.

John L. Moore is the CEO/Executive Director of Deaf Services Center, Inc. (DSC), a 501 (c) 3 organization that empowers those faced with communication barriers by promoting full and equal access to communication. Headquartered in central Ohio with satellite offices serving the northwest and southeast areas of the state, DSC is the largest provider of services for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind in Ohio.

At DSC, Mr. Moore is responsible for overseeing the agency and ensuring that fair and appropriate services are being provided through advocacy, education, and the provision of communication services. Some of the programs that are provided at DSC are interpreting services for American Sign Language and spoken languages, captioning services, case management, employment support and transition services, youth programming, sign language instruction, Early Intervention services, equipment needs, and cultural competency education.

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
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Vincent Sabino is the State Director of Ohio for RI International, where he is leading the establishment of Crisis Receiving Centers in Franklin and Montgomery Counties. Before this, Vincent served as Managing Director of Behavioral Health at Alvis, Inc., where he oversaw Amethyst and Recovery Choices. Amethyst is an intensive treatment program for women who are struggling with addiction and mental health disorders. Recovery Choices provides substance use treatment for individuals who are being released from correctional settings while being integrated back into the community. Previously, Vincent 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.

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. Vincent has a deep passion for those struggling with addiction and mental health, and has admiration for those in recovery.

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)



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