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DARS Office for Deaf and
Hard of Hearing Services
www.dars.state.tx.us/dhhs

ADVOCACY STRATEGIES

FOR ENSURING
COMMUNICATION
ACCESS FOR
SERVICES TO PEOPLE
WHO ARE DEAF OR
HARD OF HEARING



DARS Office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services

ADVOCACY STRATEGIES FOR ENSURING COMMUNICATION ACCESS

Training Objective

To provide training that will enhance the knowledge and ability of service providers to advocate for equal communication opportunities and effective communication for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Pre-requisite

Participants are required to complete and submit a research component in advance of the training date that requires 11-12 hours of work. Participants will earn CRC CEUs for this work as well as class time. The purpose of the research project is to get everyone on the same page with the knowledge needed to provide effective advocacy for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. This project will be due by a specified date prior to the training based on each training date given below:

Training Date	Location	Pre-requisite Due Date
February 21-22, 2008	San Antonio	February 11, 2008
March 6-7, 2008	Houston	February 25, 2008
March 27-28, 2008	Dallas	March 17, 2008
April 10-11, 2008	Lubbock	March 31, 2008

The training site will be provided for participants once their project has been submitted and accepted by Randi Turner, training coordinator. A list of local hotels near the training location will be provided after participants have registered.

Projected Learning Outcomes

Participants will be provided a check list of the threshold elements required for entitlement to reasonable accommodation;

Participants will learn how to apply the concepts of qualified individual with a disability, effective communication, auxiliary aids and services, undue burden/hardship, and direct threat, among others, to day to day advocacy strategies;

Participants will be acquainted with recent case law defining “mitigating measures” that can serve to disqualify individuals with disabilities from obtaining reasonable accommodations; and

Participants, through case examples presented in break out sessions, will learn creative and effective negotiation strategies to achieve reasonable accommodations and communication access for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Serving People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Presenters

Randi Turner, Communication Access Specialist, DHHS, Austin
Faye Kuo, Deaf Rights Specialist, Attorney, Advocacy Inc., Austin
Denette Sweeney, Regional Managing Attorney, Advocacy Inc., Lubbock
Chance Heinsohn, Senior Regional Attorney, Advocacy Inc., San Antonio

Target Audience

Directors and/or Interpreter coordination staff of independent living and deaf and hard of hearing centers, job development/job placement staff and Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors serving persons who are deaf/hard of hearing, and individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing who want to become effective advocates.

To Register

Send an email to dhhstraining@dars.state.tx.us, or call 512.407.3267 (V,VP), 512.407.3251 (TTY) requesting registration information.