

Vibrant Symposium Keynote Speech

May 25th, 8:30a-10:00a

Opening – Introduction (starting around 9:05am-9:30a) (5 minutes)

- Good morning greeting and thanks (Vibrant, interpreters, and all those in attendance)
- Name and role
- Non-Profit Organization
 - DeafLEAD
 - Executive Director (Est./worked 28+ years)
 - Services
 - Crisis Intervention
 - Advocacy
 - Case Management
 - Training
 - Mental Health
 - Emotional Support
 - Trauma-Centered Trauma Sensitive Yoga
 - Trauma-Informed Interpreting, Crisis Interpreting, or Interpreting
 - And more.

Videophone Crisis Line Programs

- Disaster Distress Helpline Videophone
 - Launched May 2021
- Deaf Crisis Line (brief)
 - Launched October 2017

Personal stories of disaster experiences (10 minutes)

- 6th Street Mass Shooting – Austin, TX (Sisters' story)
 - June 12, 2021 just before 1:30am
 - After brother's HS graduation
 - 1 person died
 - 14 injured
 - Sisters were 5 ft away from the shooter, witnessing someone getting shot, people running everywhere
 - This event impacted my sisters for months and months.
 - Where to seek disaster impact support? Who to talk to about this?
- M 7.9 Earthquake Impact/Tsunami Warning - Anchorage, AK (Olivia's story)
 - January 23, 2018 at 12:31am
 - 7.9 magnitude earthquake struck 350 miles south of Anchorage in the Gulf of Alaska
 - Evacuation siren, warning of tsunami went out at 12:31am
 - As a result, impact was minimized because of the mile distance
 - This event impacted Olivia mentally and emotionally afterwards
 - Where to seek for support? How to talk about this?
- Las Vegas Strip/Concert Massacre - #VegasStrong – Las Vegas, NV (Sister's and mother's story)
 - October 1, 2017 – still the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history
 - Shooter shot from Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino on 32nd floor
 - 58 died
 - 546 injured
 - Total of 604 victims
 - Shooting lasted 10 minutes

- Sister and mother last minute decided not to go to the concert, even when they had it all planned out, their outfits and tickets. They decided to go out for dinner.
 - This event impacted them emotionally as they were in shock and disbelief.
 - This event impacted the whole family. And everyone else's lives that night.
 - Where to seek disaster impact support? How to talk about this? Who to talk to?
- In all these events, imagine all the other disaster survivors, loved ones, losses, etc. but those Deaf/HH that experience these?
 - Mental health impacts, disaster distress, years of emotional trauma and lack of resources to reach out to.

Deaf Services & Event Theme Put into Work-Collaboration, Teamwork, Connection (10 minutes)

- Barriers
 - Communication and language differences
 - Scarce with resources
 - Lack of identifying needs

Collaboration

- Importance of keeping our services separate to serve our communities but aligned.
 - Identify gaps between sufficient hearing resources and limited Deaf resources
 - What does your organization lack for the needs of D/HH individuals? What do you need to do to gather knowledge and needs for these individuals? Do you have a connection with interpreter agency(ies) in your state? Could you provide/reach out to an interpreter readily hands on if a Deaf person reaches out to your organization and needs someone in their language to translate/communicate?
 - Ask yourself these questions. Reach out to DeafLEAD, and other Deaf organizations in your state to collaborate
 - Applies to both rural and urban areas
 - Deaf living in rural areas have much less access to resources than those Deaf living in urban resources
 - Trained crisis counselors fluent in ASL have been identified as effective in communication support and direct access
 - Collaboration with Vibrant has shown us that they are here to listen and provide our needs
 - Direct two-way communication for immediate support
 - VRS interpreters are not trained for this type of conversation

Teamwork

- Choose partnerships, build relationships, create strategies
 - Take and share our resources if you interact with D/HH folks at your agency or in your community
 - Learn what is needed for the D/HH folks in your community, connect with Deaf organizations in your area, or reach out virtually
 - It takes one/or a whole organization (Hearing) to get to know one/or a whole organization (Deaf).
- Equity over equality
 - It may seem accessible, but it is not when it's not a resource that serves and provides our language.
 - Comprehension and connection are important during a crisis distress.

Connection

- Productivity
 - Have an open mind, be ready and willing to work with us, learn from us, and offer that support.

- Continuous connection will happen when we have listening eyes and hands from our collaborators.