



Sunday, August 4, 2019

Breakout Session E30 • 10:45-11:45 am • Governors Lecture Hall

HKNC Programs Supporting Transition

Molly Sinanan, Helen Keller National Center
Michael Richards, Helen Keller National Center

Presenter Information

Molly Sinanan has worked for the Helen Keller National Center for 15 years in a variety of roles including: Vocational Training Specialist, Case Manager, Case Management Supervisor, Region 2 Representative, and currently as the Region 6 Representative covering Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. She received her bachelor's degree in Educational Interpreting and her master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling for the Deaf at the University of Tennessee. She currently resides in Buda, Texas with her husband and two-year-old son.

Michael Richards is the Coordinator of the Deaf-Blind Immersion Experience which became a full time department in October 2018. He has a long history with the Helen Keller National Center, beginning in September 1992, when he came on board as an instructor in the LIFE program. Later in 1996, the LIFE program morphed into the PATH program, where he first served as an evaluator and then as the supervisor. The PATH program provided individualized, person-centered instruction for individuals who were deaf-blind with intellectual disabilities. When the PATH program was suspended in 2008, Michael served as the program advisor of HKNC's community residence , Destiny. In 2009, he joined the Independent Living department until 2018. He also was an evaluator in the Community Services Program from 2016-18. When thinking about the Deaf-Blind Immersion Experience, Michael says: " I am excited and honored to be able to revive and revise this person-centered training that we previously offered to people who are deaf-blind with intellectual disabilities. This department is a vital part of empowering these individuals, their families and support teams. I am committed to ensuring that each person and their team is offered essential tools to further develop their preferred lifestyle in their home, work and community."

Presentation Abstract

The Helen Keller National Center is the only Federally funded training facility in the U.S. for adults and youth who are deaf-blind. HKNC believes in person-centered training that supports individuals to live and work in the community of their choice. This presentation will be an overview of training programs at HKNC for transition aged youth, with a special emphasis on HKNC's new Deaf-Blind Immersion Experience program. The presentation will include descriptions of programs and consumer testimonials, as well as, a brief overview of communication strategies that can be utilized in the community and at work.

Learning Objectives

- Each participant have an understanding of the programs offered by HKNC.
- Participants will gain an understanding of the need for specialized instruction for transition aged youth who are deaf-blind as a result of CHARGE syndrome.

Helen Keller National Center Programs Supporting Transition

Molly Sinanan, Region 6 Representative
Michael Richards, Coordinator for the Deaf-Blind
Immersion Experience

August 3, 2019



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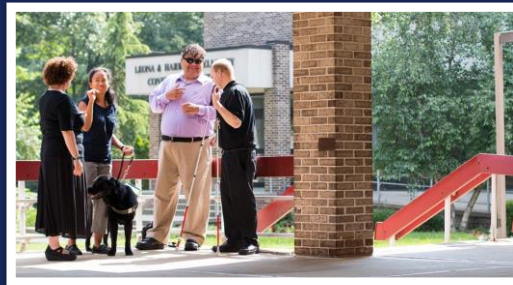
Helen Keller National Center

- HKNC was established in 1967 by an Act of Congress and is the only Federally funded training facility for individuals who are deaf-blind in the United States.
- Located in Sands Point, Long Island on 25 acres that was donated to HKNC in 1977
- Provides a variety of programs for individuals who are deaf-blind, as well as to professionals who serve them



Our Mission

Giving people who are deaf-blind the tools to live, work and thrive in the communities of their choice.



Role of the Regional Representative

- Resource for local and national services
- Provide on-site assessment, consultation and training
- Provide assistance with the application process
- Provide information about NDBEDP (iCanConnect)
- Link consumers to consumers and families to families, and provide advocacy



Role of the Regional Representative

- Collaborate on the transition of youth from educational programs to post-educational services
- Provide educational materials and training on the needs and capabilities of people with vision and hearing loss
- Maintain a **NATIONAL REGISTRY** of youth and adults with vision and hearing loss
- Assist with various local projects, for example Texas' iCanConnect Program



Our Programs

- Comprehensive Vocational Rehabilitation Program
- Confident Living Program
- Professional Learning and Leadership Institute
- Professional Training
- Youth Summer Programs
- Deaf-Blind Immersion Experience



Summer Youth Programs

- Summer Youth Vocational Program
 - *SYVP session I- June 8 through July 10, 2020*
 - *SYVP session II-July 13 through August 21, 2020*
- 8 Week Evaluation for Juniors and Seniors
- M-POWER, My Pursuit of Work, Empowerment, and Resources
 - *M-POWER- July 20 through August 7, 2020*
- College Program



Deaf-Blind Immersion Experience

- Begins with formation of the team.
- Provides person-centered assessment and training.
- Development of functional skills in home, work & community.
- Hands on coaching for staff and family members.
- Open to people of all ages.



Pre-Employment Transition Services (PRE-ETS)

- Job exploration
- Work based learning
- Workplace readiness training
- Self – advocacy

Job Exploration

- Begins with personal futures planning.
- Team meetings to discuss preferences and experience
- DBIE team helps with job “matchmaking” ideas.
- Work schedule prepared.

Work-Based Learning

- Task analysis of job duties.
- Staff instruction in individual's communication mode.
- Identification of strengths and needed supports.
- Soft skills.

Workplace Readiness Training

- Independent Living skills- grooming, time skills, meals.
- Communication skills – using cards with boss and co-workers, developing communication systems.
- Technology – for communication, work tasks.
- Mobility- travel to work , safe navigation at work site.

Self-Advocacy

- Team
- Highlights strengths in all areas.
- Communicates expectations.
- Encourages independence.
- Provides positive reinforcement.

Funding sources

- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Developmental Disabilities offices
- Deafblind Projects
- PRE-ETS- Pre-employment Transition Services

Application of DBIE

- Action planning throughout the experience.
- Team receives written report and video
- Community of practice- quarterly meetings.
- Follow up –calls, emails, visits.

T.E.A.M.

- T - ackling trials together
- E - veryone's efforts energizes
- A - cknowledging anothers assets
- M – easuring minute milestones

Contact Information

- Michael Richards, HKNC Coordinator for DBIE

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- Molly Sinanan, HKNC Region 6 Representative

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Helen Keller National Center Programs Supporting Transition

Slide #1:

Molly Sinanan, Region 6 Representative

Michael Richards, Coordinator for the Deaf-Blind Immersion Experience

August 3, 2019

Slide #2:

Helen Keller National Center

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- Located in Sands Point, Long Island on 25 acres that was donated to HKNC in 1977
- Provides a variety of programs for individuals who are deaf-blind, as well as to professionals who serve them

Picture Description: Sign at the front of HKNC reads

Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults

In small print:

Dedicated to the fulfillment of her dream of equal opportunity for all who are deaf-blind to live as valued members of their homes and communities.

"While they were saying among themselves it cannot be done, it was done"

Helen Keller

operated by The Industrial Home for the Blind

Slide #3:

Our Mission

Giving people who are deaf-blind the tools to live, work, and thrive in the communities of their choice.

Picture Description: Two women and two men stand in the courtyard at the Helen Keller National Center. The two gentlemen have white canes and one of the woman has a guide dog. They are chatting and signing to one another.

Slide #4:

Role of the Regional Representative

- Resource for local and national service
- Provide on-site assessment, consultation and training

- Provide assistance with the application process
- Provide information about NDBEDP (iCanConnect)
- Link consumers to consumers and families to families, and provide advocacy

Picture Description: Colorful Map of the United States.

Slide #5:

Role of the Regional Representative

- Collaborate on the transition of youth from educational programs to post-educational services
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- Assist with various local projects, for example Texas' iCanConnect Program

Slide #6:

Our Programs

- Comprehensive Vocational Rehabilitation Program
- Confident Living Program
- Professional Learning and Leadership Institute
- Professional Training
- Youth Summer Programs
- Deaf-Blind Immersion Experience

Slide #7:

Summer Youth Programs

- Summer Youth Vocational Program
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Slide #8:

Deaf-Blind Immersion Experience

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Slide #9:

Pre-Employment Transition Services (PRE-ETS)

- Job exploration
- Work based learning
- Workplace readiness training
- Self – advocacy

Slide #10:

Job Exploration

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Slide #11:

Work-Based Learning

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- Staff instruction in individual’s communication mode.
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Workplace Readiness Training

- Independent Living skills- grooming, time skills, meals.
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Slide #13:

Self-Advocacy

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Slide #14:

Funding sources

- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Developmental Disabilities offices
- Deafblind Projects
- PRE-ETS- Pre-employment Transition Services

Slide #15:

Application of DBIE

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Slide # 17

Picture Description: A Red background with the text "That's All Folks!"