

DEAF INTERPRETER-HEARING INTERPRETER TEAMS

Instructor Guide
Unit 4: Pre-conferencing with the Hearing and Deaf Consumers
Activity

The goal of this activity is for students to observe and analyze how a DI-HI team pre-conferences with consumers before their work.

Film: Deaf Interpreting: Team Strategies for Interpreting in a Mental Health Setting; (approximately 8 minutes)

Setting: A DI-HI interpreting team is preparing to interpret a counseling session in a mental health setting. Before their work begins, they pre-conference with the hearing counselor and the Deaf consumer.

Directions:

1. Begin viewing the scenario at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iF5Qq3CK47Y&list=PLmjvdaJRb2jWzcGG0NYF-61yLE81RYqe3&index=11>
2. While watching the pre-conferencing sessions, respond to the guiding questions below:

A) Mental Health Pre-Conference with the Counselor (counter #: 0:00 to 5:09)

1. Which of the two interpreters leads the introduction of the DI-HI team and explanation of the process?
Answer: The DI leads and the HI interprets the conversation
2. What are some things the DI-HI team cover when explaining how the DI-HI team will work?
Answers:
 1. The counselor should speak naturally as they normally would in any other counseling session.
 2. The counselor can address the consumer directly without using third person.
 3. The HI will sign everything that is spoken to the DI.
 4. The DI will interpret that communication to the Deaf consumer.

5. When the Deaf consumer shares her comments, the DI will relay them to the HI who will then in turn, voice them to the hearing counselor.
3. What information does the DI-HI team request of the counselor?
Answer: Is there anything you can tell us about what is about to take place that will help us prepare for our work here?
4. What in-team communication takes place between the DI and the HI during the pre-conference session?
Answer: The HI prompts the DI to ask the counselor about terms he might use in the session.
5. Why do you think this in-team communication happened?
Answer: The HI wanted to make sure that this question was asked of the counselor but because she was actively interpreting for the DI, she wanted to maintain her role as the active interpreter. By not stepping out of role to ask the question herself directly, she kept the interpreting roles clear and minimized confusion.
6. When describing the consecutive interpreting process that will occur, the DI does not use the term “consecutive interpreting.” Why do you think that term was not used?
Answer: Perhaps the DI-HI team wanted to avoid field-specific nomenclature that might be confusing or misunderstood. They instead chose to simply explain what would actually happen.
7. How does the team describe how interpreter-generated requests for clarifications will be handled?
Answer: The DI-HI team will specifically indicate that the question or need for clarification is coming from the interpreting team by prefacing it with something like, “The interpreting team has a request and would like you to clarify something.”
8. Are there other things the DI-HI team could/should have covered in their pre-conference with the hearing consumer?
Answers: Various

B) Mental Health Pre-Conference with the Client (counter # 5:16 - 7:46)

1. Which of the two interpreters leads the introduction of the DI-HI team and explanation of the process?

Answer: The HI takes the lead by introducing herself first.

2. Why do you think this was different from the initial pre-conference with the hearing counselor?

Answer: The HI indicated she and the client knew each other from a previous encounter so she initiated the introduction. The Deaf consumer had never met the DI before.

3. Why does the HI say she is working with a DI in this setting as opposed to other setting where she does not have a DI as part of her team?

Answer: The DI can communicate more fluently in a language more easily understood by the Deaf consumer. This allows for comfort and ease in communicating and ensure optimal understanding, minimizing communication misunderstandings and confusion.

4. What does the DI add about the Code of Professional Conduct and why do you think this was discussed with the Deaf consumer and not the hearing counselor?

Answer: The DI mentions that everything that happens in the session will be held to the CPC's code of confidentiality. This was important because both the DI and the Deaf consumer are members of the Deaf community and may see each other at times outside of this work. The DI wants to reassure the client that their confidentiality will be respected and maintained.

5. The DI explains how the consecutive interpreting process will work. What does he add and emphasize to the Deaf consumer?

Answer: He assures her that she can communicate freely using her natural language without needing to adjust her communication style or language in any way.

6. When the client begins to share details about why she is coming to see the counselor, the DI asks her to hold off and to share that with the counselor. Why do you think he may have done that?

Answer: He did not want to client to share pertinent details with the interpreting team that are details intended for the counselor to hear. He may have been concerned that she would share the details with the DI-HI team and then not share the same details with the counselor. It also helps to clarify the role distinction between the interpreting team and the counselor.