



Division of Services for the Deaf and  
Hard of Hearing

# The Basics...

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# Basic Terms You Need Know

- **Deaf**
- **Hard of Hearing**
- **Deaf-Blind**
  - **Deaf or Hard of Hearing with Low Vision**
- **Late Deafened**
- **Deaf Plus**
- ~~**Hearing-Impaired**~~
- **Hearing Loss**
- **Intersectionality**

# “People-First Language”

- **Widely used by people with disabilities.**
- **Exception: Culturally Deaf people – those who use American Sign Language (ASL) and are members of the Deaf community**
  - **Reason: Deaf identity as a source of pride and view of Deafness as a culture**
- **This sentiment is not as strong among hard of hearing people, though it is acceptable to many to say “Hard of Hearing people.” More commonly-used is “people with hearing loss.”**

# American Sign Language

- **A true language that meets all linguistic requirements for a language**
- **Not “universal” – there are hundreds of sign languages around the world as well as regional dialects**
- **Rich and sophisticated – capable of conveying complex, nuanced, and/or abstract concepts**
- **Prelingually Deaf children face challenges in acquiring language, usually because the early intervention and education systems are inadequate in ensuring language acquisition and literacy**

# Communication Rules

**Given the wide variety of communication methods used by meeting participants, communication rules serve to ensure all meeting participants have an equal opportunity to participate in a meeting.**

- Raise your hand if you want to speak
- Wait for facilitator to recognize you before speaking
- State your name before speaking so that the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or Deaf-Blind participants know who is talking

# Sign Language Interpreters

- Lag Time
- Look at the speaker, not the interpreter
- Speak normally – they will tell you if you speaking too rapidly, too quietly, etc
- They are not participants
- Conduct governed by Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) Code of Professional Conduct



***Communicate***



***Collaborate***



***Connect***