

HKNC Helen Keller NATIONAL CENTER for DeafBlind Youths and Adults

The Helen Keller National Center for DeafBlind Youths and Adults is proud to announce an Emergency Preparedness Overview Training presented by Valerie Chmela on **July 14, 2022 at 9:00AM-11:00AM CST via Zoom** (see the link information below). This training is being provided at no cost to attend and open to anyone who is interested.

Description:

This training will teach participants the importance of having an emergency and disaster preparedness plan for personal safety and its impact of their ability to provide support to others. The upcoming hurricane season is predicted to be more active than years pasted with 14 –21 named storms making landfall in the United States. Given the past several years of disastrous weather patterns it is very important that those in the interpreting field, who are often called to frontline duty, be aware of emergency and disaster planning. Therefore, everyone needs to be prepared and have a plan to save themselves and their families.

There are numerous emergency preparedness training programs for the general population. However, there are specific emergency preparedness planning and strategies for DeafBlind individuals.

Valerie Chmela with Helen Keller National Center has developed an emergency curriculum for the DeafBlind population. She has delivered this training across the country with various professionals, service providers, and community members. Not only is the curriculum for DeafBlind individuals, but it is also beneficial for interpreters, Support Service Providers (SSPs), and service providers to learn as well.

Educational Objectives:

- Participants will learn the importance of learning medical/emergency terminology related to specific emergencies
- Participants will learn what to include in an emergency bag and how to use each item during an emergency or disaster.
- Participants will learn the importance of their own emergency/disaster plan and its impact on their ability to support others
- Participants will learn about the difference between emergencies and disasters and the differing communication needs in these situations
- Participants will learn about the items and strategies suggested for DeafBlind individuals
- Participants will learn about the various types of emergency alert systems and communication tools available for DeafBlind individuals.

- Participants will learn basic recovery tasks that will require interpreting support and the importance of understanding that terminology.
- Most importantly everyone will learn the importance of having an emergency plan and how to save themselves and their families.

*****INTERPRETERS WILL BE PROVIDED*****

If you need any other accommodations or have any questions, please contact Natasha Aymami, at naymami@helenkeller.org; VP: 225-330-8192, Cell/Text: 516-965-1039

LRID is an Approved RID CMP Sponsor for continuing education activities. This professional studies program is offered for 0.20 PS CEUS at the Little/None Content Knowledge Level.

The LRID shall not discriminate in matters of membership or conference attendance on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, ethnicity, hearing status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Target audiences for the training are from Support Service Providers, novice to experienced interpreters and community members.



CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO JOIN: (if unable to open the link, please type it into your browser)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86145994229?pwd=R3Q2Z2xvZjZwaWFhaXNqL0paNUtaZz09>

If joining by phone find your local number at: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kdDx5zvJa>
Meeting ID for virtual and by phone: 861 4599 4229

Passcode for virtual and by phone: 196953

Valerie Chmela Biography:

I have worked at Helen Keller National Center for over 35 years in Sands Point, NY. I am a questioner and I believe knowledge is both power and currency. Two decades ago, I asked myself a question in the wake of Hurricane Katrina “Why are people always waiting for someone to save them?” Then a light bulb moment! That is when I started developing this curriculum so that individuals who are DeafBlind could save themselves during emergencies and disasters.

During this time, I have tried to learn as much as possible. I have studied the records created after Katrina, Irene and even 911 that outlined what happened and possibility for improvement in response, I went to Fire School and learned how fire fighters do their jobs, I have become a Certified Red Cross CPR, AED and First Aid Instructor, studied with a variety of police departments to learn their Active Shooter trainings including Los Angeles and I have presented to hundreds of people in virtual and in-person workshops.

The focus of this training is to empower people with disabilities to save themselves. They may need some tools and support, but empowerment is key, it's a basic survival instinct but it also creates a sense of strength. If you can save yourself, you can do so much more. This is the reason I present this program to anyone I can, in the hopes this information will help someone learn new things, live as fully as possible, and take on new challenges each day. Each presentation is tailored to include overall information and specific instruction for your geographical area or need of the audience.

