A close up of a sign

Description automatically generated

Interpreters for Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Remote Working

When working with deaf people as co-workers, board members, partners, consumers, or more ensuring accessibility is needed if requested. Remember to always ask the deaf or hard of hearing person what they prefer in accommodations. Do not assume that CART or an interpreter is the preferred method. During this new remote working location know that there are options to ensure accessibility. Here are a few of the technologies that can be used.

**Using an Interpreter**

For many of the deaf and hard of hearing community American Sign Language is their first language and is preferred method of communicating. To access this remotely here are a few ways to do this.

* **1 on 1 meetings**

If you are wanting to chat with someone who is deaf remotely here are few choices. This can be a consumer, partner, co-worker, or more.

* + Video Phone calls
    - These are options for calling a deaf or hard of hearing individual that has a video phone.
    - This service is offered free of charge.
  + Wavello
    - If you the deaf or hard of hearing person is using Sorenson Interpreting Inc. for their video phone, they can call you and you can join by video. This service will allow the deaf person to see not only the interpreter, but they can see you as well.
    - This service is offered free of charge if the deaf person has the wavello app.
* **Group Conversations**

This can be for staff meetings, board meetings, group trainings, or more.

* + Zoom
    - You can bring in a CART (Real Time Captioning Service) provider for the meeting or you can have an interpreter join the meeting as a participant or an invited panelist and they can interpret the meeting as well.
    - In order to have an interpreter for this you would be incurring the hourly cost of an interpreter you would have to hire.
  + Microsoft Teams
    - You can send a separate link to the interpreter that might not be a part of the original “team” or group meeting. They can follow the link to then interpret during the meeting.
    - In order to have an interpreter for this you would be incurring the hourly cost of an interpreter you would have to hire.
  + Google Meet
    - You can send a participant link to an interpreter to have them join google meet to be able to interpret.
    - In order to have an interpreter for this you would be incurring the hourly cost of an interpreter you would have to hire.