

2024 TSID Conference -Presenter / Workshop highlight:

Aaron Waheed, DHHS Program Coordination Specialist

Melissa Bell, DHHS Program Specialist



Workshop:

Deaf Consumers Profiles: Expectations of Interpreters

Friday, June 7 – 1:30-4:30 PM

Whether you are a seasoned ASL interpreter or an aspiring one, you work closely with many different types of clients who are deaf. How do you adapt to meet the communication needs of each one? How does a client's knowledge of civil rights and their capacity to advocate for themselves influence your approach to interpreting? You may also have expectations of your deaf clients, but do you know what they expect from YOU? This session will delve into the top 10 expectations that clients wish their interpreters were aware of, and on the lighter side, explore the 5 common profiles of people who are deaf that qualified ASL interpreters encounter in their work.

Presenter Bios:

Aaron Waheed holds a Bachelor's degree in psychology from Gallaudet University. He also earned a Master's degree in Educational Psychology - Special Education in Deaf and Hard of Hearing from the University of Minnesota. In his role as Program Coordination Specialist for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS), he performs complex consultative services and technical assistance work. This includes planning, developing, scheduling and implementing various service projects.

Melissa Bell holds a Sign Language Interpreting degree from Collin College, a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Texas State University. She also holds a BEI-Advanced certification. In her role as Program Specialist at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS), she serves on the DHHS Training and Education team, supporting the Resource Specialist program, overseeing the Certification of Deafness for the Tuition Waiver Program, and collaborating with state agencies to improve access for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.