

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Client:

Developing Clinical Competency in Mental Health Treatment - Part 1



2025-2026 Training Dates

October 31, 2025 • January 9, 2026 • March 6, 2026

9:00 am - 4:00 pm Via Zoom Webinar (Link will be provided after registration)

PART 1: Professionals will build competency and expertise as they gain a deeper understanding of how to provide more effective and culturally sensitive mental health services to Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals.

AGENDA:

Sign on: 8:45 am

The Deaf Experience

I. Introduction

- a. Communication Rules
 - i. Using Interpreters and Multiple Languages
- b. To the Training
 - i. Purpose
 - ii. Training Objectives
- c. Who We Are
 - i. Training Team
 - ii. Other Contributors
- d. Who is our Audience?

II. Statistics

III. The Deaf Experience

- a. Medical vs. Cultural Model
- b. Understanding Hearing Loss
 - i. Audiogram
 - ii. Listening Exercise
- c. Speechreading and its Limitations
 - i. Speechreading Activity

IV. Deaf Culture

- a. Deaf Identity
 - i. Identity develops differently for deaf and hearing individuals
- b. The Deaf Community
- c. Social and Cultural Information

Break

V. American Sign Language (ASL)

- a. Common Modalities
- b. History
 - i. The Milan Conference
- c. ASL vs. English
- d. Other Sign Language Modalities
- e. Sign Language Variations

Mental Health Services with an Interpreter

I. Interpreting in the Mental Health Setting

- a. Language and Knowledge
- b. The Therapeutic Relationship
- c. Accuracy
- d. Tips for Effective Outcomes
- e. Communication Breakdowns
 - i. Language Dysfluency

Lunch 12:30-1:00 pm

Clinical Considerations in Treatment

I. The History of Deaf Mental Health Care

- a. Understanding Evolving Psychiatric Issues

II. Key Clinical Considerations

- a. Etiology
- b. Age of Onset
- c. Identity Development
 - i. Components of Healthy Deaf Identity Development
- d. Language Development
 - i. Language Dysfluency
 - ii. Language Deprivation Syndrome (LDS)
 - iii. The Impact of LDS

III. Treatment Considerations

- a. Using a Sign Language Interpreter
 - i. Impact on Treatment
 - ii. Building the Therapeutic Relationship

IV. Intake

- a. How does it differ?

V. Structuring the Therapy Session

- a. Initial Stages of Treatment/Pre-Treatment

VI. Treatment

- a. Useful Treatment Modalities

VII. Psychological Assessment

Break

VIII. Substance Use Disorders

- a. Prevalence
- b. Barriers to Providing and Receiving Services
- c. Trauma and SUDs
- d. Risk Factors
- e. Treatment Considerations

Wrap-up

I. Building Effective Services

- a. Ethical Considerations
- b. Collaboration and Training.

Wrap-up/Questions/Evaluation and Post Test

