A Note

In the next few weeks, we plan to start a series of newsletters focusing on: the trauma of this pandemic and the loss and grief that people have experienced and may continue to experience; how we can best cope with this change and transition to a new normal; and, the continued importance of listening and providing ever changing support that works for the person.

NorCal Archive of all newsletters and resource notes here:

https://allenshea.com/norcal-gathering-committee-newsletters-and-resource-notes/

Impact of COVID-19 on Organizations Serving Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

The rapid and widespread COVID-19 pandemic has put pressure on healthcare resources and providers, including organizations who serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Those organizations have been facing numerous challenges even before the pandemic, such as staff turnover rate above 50%[1], raising concerns that the ongoing pandemic may continue to exacerbate these challenges and limit the providers' viability.

In April 2020, the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) conducted a survey to quantify the extent to which the COVID-19 pandemic has affected their members—over 1,600 community providers serving individuals with I/DD. The survey received valid responses from 689 organizations across all 50 states, District of Columbia, and two territories (Puerto Rico and Guam). ANCOR asked Avalere to independently analyze the survey responses and produce a report presenting findings from the analysis. Some highlights include:

- 68% of all organizations surveyed reported that they have had to close one or more service lines due to the pandemic resulting in an average loss of revenue of 32%.
- 52% of all organizations surveyed reported having increased staff overtime expenses.

Complete report at: https://www.ancor.org/covid-19

NorCal Gathering Committee
Trudy Grable
Cindy Gilliam Sullivan
Sheila Keys
Claudia Bolton
Bill Allen

Contributing Editors
Bill Allen
Tina Calderaro-Mendoza

During this nationwide health crisis, services and supports for individuals have changed dramatically. We're interested in understanding more about those changes. We'll definitely share what we learn with you, if you're interested. If you'd like to participate, here's a link to a short survey.
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NorCalGatheringCommitteeSurvey

Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission

IDHHC

IDHHC has developed ASL videos of key guidance regarding COVID-19 based upon publications by the Illinois Department of Public Health. These videos are not closed captioned or have a separate transcript.

- **Shelter in Place**
  - ASL Video - Shelter in Place
  - IL_Coronavirus_website_Stay-At-Home_FAQS

- **Social Distancing**
  - ASL Video - Social Distancing
  - IDPH_Website_Social Distancing
  - COVID-19_SocialDistancing.docx

- **Voting**
  - ASL Video - Voting
  - IDPH_Website_Voting
  - COVID-19_Vote.docx

- **FAQ About COVID-19 -**
  - ASL Video FAQ COVID-19
  - IDPH_Website_COVID-19_FAQ

Make sure to leave room for captions.

First, introduce yourself (My name is _____ and I work as a DSP.)

Next, tell us what you are experiencing today. Respond to one or more of the following questions or simply tell us what's on your mind. Please keep your video under 3 minutes. You can record more videos later.

- How has your job, and your life, changed because of the pandemic?
- What new challenges are you facing?
- What are your concerns for yourself and for the people you support?
- What are you doing to cope, to care for yourself, in this environment?
- How are changes at work affecting your family and life outside of work?
- What support do you need right now? What changes would you like to see made to help you in your work, and in your life?

Note: Your video will be shared on this website and on Facebook with thousands of other disability support professionals. Please be professional and respect the privacy of those you support and work with.

Share Your Story

Your story matters, now more than ever. We need to support one another and honor the critical work that DSPs are doing during the coronavirus pandemic. the Institute on Community Integration, the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP), and the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) want to share your video stories with a wide audience to bring needed attention to your important and essential work.

https://ici.umn.edu/product/invaluable/share-your-story

Update and Links to Coronavirus Information
By Self Advocates Becoming Empowered

May 4, 2020 Update:

4-part video series from English- and Spanish- speaking **self-advocates giving critical COVID information**. *Produced by California DD Council*.

- Episode 1: How to Stay Healthy
- Episode 2: What Should I Do If I Think I'm Sick?
- Episode 3: What I Should Do If I Get Sick
- Episode 4: What To Do If a Caregiver or a Family Member Gets Sick
- Episodio 1 – Cómo mantenerse saludable
- Episodio 2 – Lo que debo hacer si creo que estoy enfermo:
- Episodio 3 – Lo que debo hacer si estoy enfermo
- Episodio 4 – Lo que debo hacer si mi familiar o persona que me cuida se enferma

New Video – What You Need to Know About COVID-19. Learn all about COVID-19 in plain language. Made by Rooted in Rights in collaboration with ASAN.

New Toolkit – A Self-Advocate's Guide to COVID-19. Below you can download any of the 8 parts or the entire toolkit. And available at http://www.gmsavt.org/

- Part 1: Basic Covid-19 Information By And For People With Disabilities
- Part 2: Tips For Working With Support Staff During Covid-19
- Part 3: Sample Advocacy Letter About Patients with Intellectual Disabilities Having a Support Person With Them When in the Hospital
- Part 4: COVID-19 Medical Information Form for People With Disabilities
- Part 5: How People On SSI And SSDI Get A Stimulus Check
- Part 6: Getting Unemployment Benefits During the Coronavirus Emergency
- Part 7: Developmental Services During the Coronavirus Outbreak
- Part 8: Coronavirus Plain Language Glossary or Words To Know
- **You can also download the entire toolkit by clicking here**