

Deaf Interpreter Critical Issues: Summer Symposium on Effective Practices

Northeastern University

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Consumer Assessment, Part 2:
Decision-making Criteria for Cultural Mediation♪

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Areas to be discussed

- **Pre-assignment**
- **During assignment**
- **Post assignment**

Pre-assignment

- **Discussion with referring agent/agency regarding client**
 - **Background info**
 - demographic
 - experience w/interpreters
 - CDI
 - need CDI?
- **Discussion with team member (past experience w/client)**
 - **goal for interaction**
 - CDI?
 - purpose?
 - other relevant info
- **“Play detective”**
 - **Field research on consumers communicative environment**
 - Case files
 - Portfolio
 - IEP notes
 - (Mental Health, Medical files typically not accessible due to confidentiality)

During assignment

Pre-meeting w/ consumer to determine:

- **Linguistic factors**
 - **formal signed language system**
 - ASL
 - LSM
 - LSQ
 - **semi-lingual/alingual**
 - home signs
 - pantomime
 - gestures
 - Props

- **Socioeconomic factors**
 - **environment**
 - access to language models
 - access to peers
 - **Social status**
 - poor
 - middle class
 - wealthy

During assignment, cont' d

– Cultural factors

- **deaf community involvement**
 - school for the deaf
 - mainstream program
 - extracurricular activities
- **cultural involvement**
 - primary cultural influence
 - secondary cultural influence
 - other cultural influence
 - » religious
 - » gang affiliation

During assignment, cont' d

- **Physical factors**
 - **visual issues**
 - **tactile interpreting**
 - **Style**
 - » **Facing vs. side-by-side**
 - » **dominance**
 - **close vision interpreting**
 - » **Range of vision**
 - » **Lighting**
 - **Mobility**
 - » **paralysis**

During assignment, cont' d

- **Client responses**
 - **Visual**
 - **blank stare (not medication induced)**
 - **“oral nod” (for lack of a better term)**
 - **confused look**
 - **Eye gaze shift**
 - **Elongated visual processing***
 - **Physical**
 - **Shrug shoulders**
 - **Restless**
 - **Moving around in chair**
 - **Fidgeting**
 - **agitated**

During assignment, cont' d

- **Client responses**
 - **Linguistic**
 - **Quick unrelated response**
 - **Use of fillers**
 - **Diverting/changing subject**
 - **Confused look**
 - **Eye gaze shift**
 - **Elongated processing**
 - **Sometimes accompanied by fidgeting**

Post-assignment

- **Debrief w/colleague**
 - **Feedback**
 - **Interaction w/client**
 - **Linguistic comprehension**
 - **Cues overlooked/missed**

- **Access to portfolio**
 - **Valuable info**
 - consumer history for language/cultural match
 - **Confidentiality**
 - **Good judgment needed to avoid abuse**
 - how to use
 - when to use

Collaborators

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- **Patrick Boudreault**