

The Minnesota Department of Human Services Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division (DHSD) Mental Health Program is looking to expand the pool of ASL interpreters to interpret in mental health settings throughout Minnesota.



# JULY 25-29, 2016

## MENTAL HEALTH INTEPRETER TRAINING

### What is included in the Mental Health Interpreter Training (MHIT)?

This is a 40-hour course designed to train interpreters to work effectively in mental health settings as part of a professional team.

\*Interpreters who complete the 40-hour course are eligible to pursue certification as a Qualified Mental Health Interpreter (QMHI) provided by MHIT.

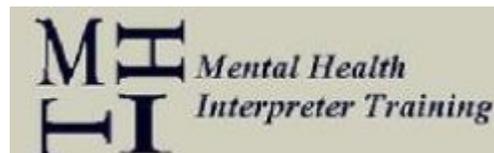
**40-HOUR COURSE  
INCLUDING  
LECTURES,  
DEMONSTRATIONS,  
EXERCISES AND  
MORE!**

**DEVELOP  
KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS,  
AND RESOURCES TO  
ENSURE CULTURALLY  
AND LINGUISTICALLY  
APPROPRIATE  
MENTAL HEALTH  
SERVICES**

**ELIGIBILITY TO  
PURSUE  
CERTIFICATION AS A  
QUALIFIED MENTAL  
HEALTH  
INTERPRETER  
(QMHI)\***

**This training will be  
held in Montgomery,  
Alabama.**

**Application information on  
the next page**



## **MHIT will include introductions to:**

- Medical and mental health systems and culture
- Sources of communication breakdown associated with mental illness and treatment
- Interpreters' roles, tools, and resources
- Severe language dysfluency and visual - Gestural Communication
- Psychiatric emergencies
- Support groups and Community Mental Health Services
- Demand-Control Theory applied to mental health interpreting

Interpreters who complete the 40-hour course are eligible to pursue certification as a Qualified Mental Health Interpreter (QMHI) provided by MHIT. Certification requires successful completion of the 40-hour course and a practicum. Financial assistance for the practicum may be available next year for Minnesota interpreters who complete the training. For more detailed information on MHIT and QMHI certification, go to [www.mhit.org](http://www.mhit.org).

**Please note you must be a Minnesota resident to apply.**

## **Application Process:**

1. Complete DHHSD's application process: 1) Contact Dr. John Gournaris at [John.Gournaris@state.mn.us](mailto:John.Gournaris@state.mn.us) for a copy of the MHIT Application, 2) proof of certification, education and work experience criteria (see below), and 3) the DHHSD's two essay questions (see below). Submit your entire application to Dr. John Gournaris by **March 18, 2016**. **Please do not forward your MHIT application to MHIT.** Your application will be reviewed by a committee.
2. Depending on funding availability, approximately 10-15 certified Minnesota interpreters will be selected through a screening process. **Interpreters located in Greater Minnesota are strongly encouraged to apply.**
3. Registration and travel expenses (flights, meals and lodging) to attend the 40-hour MHIT will be reimbursed by DHHSD upon submissions of paid receipts. Paid reservations must be made prior June 1, 2016.

## **Essay Questions:**

1. Why do you want to become a certified mental health interpreter? (500 words limit)
2. What skills do you have that make you good at working with individuals who are deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing in mental health settings? (500 words limit)

## **Criteria:**

- Current certification from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) or certification from another recognized interpreter certification body.
- A Bachelor's degree in Interpreting, Linguistics, Deaf Studies, Psychology, Sociology or a related human services field AND four (4) years or more of paid experience interpreting in a variety of settings with some familiarity working in mental health settings. Interpreters who are employed by State of Minnesota are not eligible.
- Commitment to: (1) successfully completing the 40-hour training provided by the MHIT; (2) providing interpreting services in mental health settings in Minnesota; and (3) working with DHHSD to investigate whether Minnesota should establish a QMHI certification system.

Selected candidates will receive information by April 15, 2016 about the offer to participate in the training.