



Rise, Collaborate, Enrich

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Summary

This webinar focuses on ways that DeafBlind Ontario Services in Ontario, Canada tackled the COVID - 19 pandemic crisis, ensuring service delivery and individual's engagement while maintaining social distance measures.

This presentation will highlight how individuals with deafblindness in 19 different programs living across the Province of Ontario still maintained and increased social connection, artistic engagement and increased communication during a pandemic.

COVID-19 community involvement statistics will be reviewed to exhibit how frequently the community was accessed as well as highlighting areas of community interest. Steps taken during initial isolation, reviewing safety measures put in place and how the lives of the individuals that are supported were impacted. These impacts include not seeing families, friends, loss of routine, jobs and transitions.

The integral role of the intervenor will be highlighted to show the positive effect on intervenors such as increased morale and increased creativity within the teams and locations throughout these difficult times.

DeafBlind Ontario Services initiated creative ways to engage individuals without risk, within their homes. Some of the initiatives included "Traveling around the World" themes via games, food, clothes, music, etc., bake off competitions, dances and photo sharing. How changing the environment to benefit the individuals and participating in activities such as "replica takeout", we strived to ensure individual routines were still included, as consistency is so important to an individual with deafblindness.