



Where do we go from here? Essential Service and the impact on the Deafblind community

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Summary

On March 16th, Ontario, Canada declared a state of emergency due to COVID-19. As a consequence, the way Deafblind Community Services provided service to the Deafblind community needed to change.

This webinar will present insight in how Deafblind Community Services and the community reacted and adapted to the quarantine and social distancing mandates. We will address the following topics:

Online Tools:

- Health and Wellness Webinars
- Client led social groups
- Sector specific training
- Mental Health and Mindfulness sessions

Future:

- Advocacy
- Intervention in a physically-distanced and virtual world
- What it means to be “essential” and how to support the staff member
- Access to information

Community:

- Decrease in physical touch
- Providing in-person communication
- Emergency Intervenor services
- Mental health challenges

In the webinar we will relay a message of resiliency and dedication. We will review the online resources that our staff utilized, provide our community's perspective, and share our thoughts about the future.