



Distantly Connected While Physically Distant

Megan McHugh & Mélanie Gauthier

Summary

Megan McHugh is a Deaf-Blind Canadian with Usher Syndrome type II. She is a contract Assistive Technology instructor with CHKC.

The pandemic has tremendously impacted the Deaf-Blind, including feelings of anxiety and vulnerability, communication challenges and increased isolation. It has affected access to information, essential products, and services, while experiencing limited or no access to support services such as Intervenors or SSPs that are normally utilized to access the world around them.

During this webinar, Megan will discuss some personal pandemic experiences and perspectives of social distancing, adapting to working remotely and using a guide dog who doesn't understand "distancing". Other Deaf-Blind people's experiences will also be mentioned. While going through these challenges, Megan will discuss creative ideas and solutions that will benefit the Deaf-Blind and those who provide services or other forms of supports to them. It is essential to learn and prepare for the current circumstances and what may come in the future.

These options and solutions will include ways to develop other supports in addition to current supports, transportation options, using technology to connect with family, friends and essential products and services and access information more independently.