



## Minnesota Teachers of Students Who Are Deafblind Community of Practice

Friday, September 25, 2020

9:00 am -2:00pm



Virtual via Zoom (link will be provided prior to the event)

**This workshop has no cost to participants.**

### **Usher Syndrome: Coalition Information, Identification, Stories Helen Keller National Center for Transition Resources Community of Practice 101**

**Nancy O'Donnell** has been the Director of Outreach for the Usher Syndrome Coalition for the past 5 years. In this position, she directs the Coalition's work to identify, support, and build the Usher Syndrome community worldwide. Prior to this position, she worked with the Helen Keller National Center for 38 years in a variety of capacities, including teacher, administrator, and chief information officer.

**Ryan Odland** is a Regional Representative for the North Central region serving six states including Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Ryan previously worked as a vocational rehabilitation counselor with Minnesota State Services for the Blind. Ryan, who is DeafBlind with Usher syndrome subtype 1, is a proud husband and a father of two young children. He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Rochester Institute of Technology and a master's degree in special education from Gallaudet University. Ryan is working towards his second master's degree in rehabilitation counseling from University of Wisconsin-Stout.

**Jessica Eggert** is a DeafBlind community representative on the state Rehabilitation Council for the Blind and chairs the DeafBlind committee. Currently, she is a student at the Helen Keller National Center, continuing to learn Braille technology and adjustment to DeafBlindness for employment readiness. When she was 10 years old, Jessica was identified with Usher Syndrome Type 1B. Her younger sister was also identified with Usher Syndrome Type 1B shortly after. Jessica enjoys teaching people about the experience and journey of being DeafBlind so that teachers can encourage and support students and teens.

**Maya Larson** is a Minnesota Ambassador for the Usher Syndrome Coalition. She was identified at birth with hearing loss through newborn screening. When she was 15 years old, she was identified with Usher Syndrome Type 2A. At this time she is a student at Grinnell College in Iowa, majoring in Anthropology and French. Her goal is to obtain her master's degree in Public Health and work in community health, reducing barriers to healthcare and inequities for people with disabilities.

**Trevor Turner** is an international development and non-profit professional who lives in Minneapolis. Thirteen years ago, when Trevor was a college freshman at the University of Missouri, he was diagnosed with Usher Syndrome Type 2A. This sparked his desire to explore the world while he could still see it. Trevor has traveled to Germany for a State Department fellowship, served in the Peace Corps in Armenia, taught English in South Korea, developed a business entrepreneurship program for women in Rwanda, and managed international programs in 70 countries for the Starkey Hearing Foundation. He has since learned that there is more to the world than vision and continues to travel and serve non-profits.

**Kayna Plaisted** is a Professional Development Facilitator at Metro ECSU, working with the Regional Low Incidence Projects and Minnesota Mentor Program. Kayna co-facilitates the metro region D/HH and B/VI Communities of Practice. She has experience in homebound instruction with students who are deafblind and has completed several deafblind modules over the past few years.

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**Agenda:**

- 9:00-9:15 a.m.** Welcome, updates, introductions
- 9:15-10:30 a.m.** Students with Usher Syndrome: Where Are They? - Nancy O'Donnell
- 10:30-10:45 a.m.** Break
- 10:45-11:45 a.m.** Usher Syndrome Panel (1B and 2A) and USC Ambassadors
- 11:45-12:15 p.m.** Helen Keller National Center: Options for Transition - Ryan Odland
- 12:15-12:45 p.m.** Lunch break
- 12:45-1:45 p.m.** Communities of Practice 101 - Kayna Plaisted - MN Low Incidence Project
- 1:50-2:00 p.m.** Wrap Up and Evaluations for CEUs

**Registration Information**



**Program Contact:** Ann Mayes, [ann.mayes@metroecsuh.edu](mailto:ann.mayes@metroecsuh.edu)

**Registration Contact:** Jackie Bauer, [jackie.bauer@metroecsuh.edu](mailto:jackie.bauer@metroecsuh.edu)

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