

***A Guide to Performing a Successful Technology Assessment when
Working with an Individual who is Deaf-Blind***

DISCLAIMER

This is a sample form representing a fictional account of an assessment of a person who is deaf-blind. It does not represent an actual deaf-blind consumer nor does it represent an endorsement of any particular brand of equipment. Model names and numbers of equipment are fictional in order to ensure non-endorsement of specific equipment in this sample.

This document strives to offer a broad overview of things to consider during an assessment and equipment evaluation/recommendation. It may or may not reflect the policies of the program you represent. It is strongly recommended that you consult with your program's administrators to fully understand the policies and equipment provided through your program.

Equipment Assessment Form

Assessor: *Bryen M. Yunshko*
Consumer: *Jane Smith*
Date: *October 15, 2013*
Location: *Consumer's Home*

Travel Start Time: *8:45 a.m.*
Travel End Time: *9:30 a.m.*
Start Time: *9:30 a.m.*
End Time: *11:45 a.m.*
Return Travel Start Time: *11:45 a.m.*
Return Travel End Time: *12:30 p.m.*

CONSUMER INFORMATION (optional)

Marital Status: *Married*
Children: *2 daughters (1 adult, one at home-14 yrs old.)*
Occupation: *Homemaker/Part-time sales clerk*
Deaf-Blindness Type: *Ushers Syndrome Type 2*
Age: *Declined to state*

PHYSICAL

Hearing: *Hard-of-Hearing*
Vision: *Low Vision*
Mobility: *Uses White Cane*
Cognitive: *Excellent*
Speech: *Good*
Speech – Requires Alt/Aug Communication:

LANGUAGE:

English – Spoken: *Yes*
American Sign Language: *Yes*
Unknown:
Signed English: *No*
Spanish – Spoken: *No*
Signed Spanish: *No*

No Formal Language:
Other: *Knows French Sign Language*
Tactile ASL/PSE: *Learning Tactile*
Close Vision ASL/PSE: *Yes*
Pidgin Signed English: *No*

COMMUNICATION SKILLS:

Braille – Uncontracted: *Yes*
Braille – Contracted: *Yes*
Braille Keyboard: *Yes*
American Sign Language: *Yes*
Finger spelling/Manual alphabet: *Yes*
Lip Reading: *No*
Print on Palm: *No*
Tactile Communication: *Yes*
Touch Typing:
Print Alphabet/Reading: *Yes*
Speech/Verbal: *Yes*
Writing: *Yes*

READING LEVEL:

None:
Pre-Elementary:
Middle School:
High School: *X*
College:
Adult:
Elementary:

HEARING ASSESSMENT:

No usable hearing:
Converse by phone with amplification: *X*
Can effectively hear a screen reader:
Can hear Smartphone/Tablet (VoiceOver/TalkBack):
Can hear a loud ringer: *X*

VISUAL ASSESSMENT:

Effectively uses a pen: *Yes-Thick marker pen*
Can use Video Relay: *Yes*
No usable vision:
Can use a mouse: *Yes*
Can read large print: *Yes*
Can use captioned telephone:
Computer monitor with magnification: *Yes*

Can use a visual signaler: *No*
Smartphone/Tablet with magnification: *Yes*
Smartphone/Tablet without magnification: *No*
Requires Screen Color Invert: *Yes*
Can see mobile screen in bright sunlight?: *No*

WILLINGNESS TO TRAVEL FOR TRAINING:

Patron cannot travel:
Willing to come to a training center: *No*
Willing to stay overnight:
Able to travel independently:

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY T DEVICES/SOFTWARE CURRENTLY OWNED

List Devices and Software Currently Owned

Item Type: *CCTV*
Item Name/Model/Version: *Optelec Zoomer*
Item Condition: *Screen is dim*
Number of years owned: *12*

Item Type: *Computer Tower*
Item Name/Model/Version: *Dell 8360/Windows XP*
Item Condition: *Boots up Slowly*
Number of years owned: *7*

Item Type: *Clamshell Mobile Phone*
Item Name/Model/Version: *Nokia Connectivus*
Item Condition: *Functional*
Number of years owned: *4*

Item Type: *Screen Magnification*
Item Name/Model/Version: *ZoomText 3.0*
Item Condition: *Outdated*
Number of years owned: *4*

Item Type: *TTY*
Item Number/Model/Version: *Krown TeleType*
Item Condition: *Functional*
Number of years owned: *"Many years"*

Item Type: *Hearing Aid*
Item Number/Model/Version: *Belton HearAll*
Item Condition: *Functional*
Number of years owned: *Recently acquired*

(repeat above lines as needed for each device)

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY USAGE:

Not familiar with Assistive Tech:
Some/Low use of AT: X
Screen Reader:
Screen Magnification: X
Portable Magnifier/CCTV: X
Refreshable Braille:
Hearing Aids: *Both Ears*
Assistive Listening Devices:
Cochlear Implants:
Augmentive & Alternative Communication:
Speech Recognition:
Switch or Mount Needed:
Other:

ASSESSMENT DEMONSTRATION

(List items demonstrated to Consumer)

Computer/Laptop: *Macbook Pro 15"*
Operating System: *OSX/Windows 7*
Tablet/Media Player: *iPad/Nexus*
Phone-Smart Phone: *iPhone/Samsung Galaxy Notes 3*
Phone – Cell Phone:
Phone – Landline Service:
Software – Screen Reader: *VoiceOver/TalkBack*
Software – Screen Magnifier: *ZoomText/MAGic*
Braille – Display: *Focus14/Braillant*
Braille – Notetaker, Multipurpose Device:

VIDEOPHONE EQUIPMENT:

Set-Top Videophone Model: *Sorenson VP-100*
Uses VP on Mobile Devices?: *No*

INTERNET/LANDLINE

Has landline service at home?: *Yes*
Name of landline carrier: *AT&T*
Has mobile carrier service?: *Yes*
Name of mobile carrier: *AT&T*
Does consumer wish to use this carrier for new devices? *No, wants Verizon*
Has internet access at home? *Yes*
Type of Internet access: *Broadband*
ISP Name? *Comcast*

Has WiFi Router? No

Knows how to access router administration? N/A

Knows WiFi connection password? N/A

NARRATIVE

(Write essay describing the consumer)

Jane Smith is a woman in her 40's-50's and is married to a Deaf husband and has two children. Her oldest daughter attends college overseas in England and her youngest daughter is in 7th grade. Both children are hearing. Her husband suffers from Cancer and is currently disabled and does not work.

Jane has Ushers Syndrome Type 2 and can both speak/hear and use sign language. She considers herself to be primarily homemaker/caretaker and works part-time at a nearby Salvation Army store. She travels by bus to work three times a week. She notes that her vision has become significantly deteriorated over the last two years and her hearing ability continues to decline. She recently received new hearing aids from the State vocational rehabilitation program and observed improved access to audio communication. During a demonstration, it was noted that she was unable to view her phone screen outdoors in bright sunlight.

She is able to text on her clamshell phone, however is having increasing difficulty using the alpha/numeric keyboard to type and send messages. As her husband's health condition continues to require frequent visits to the doctor and hospital stays, she is unable to maintain communication to assist in her role as caretaker to her husband as well as notify her family members in case of emergencies.

When she has down-time, she likes to visit the local coffee shop. She noted wistfully how others are able to use the shop's Wi-Fi services and communicate with people through the internet. She would like to be able to video chat with her oldest daughter who is abroad and they have not been able to see each other more than twice a year. Her youngest daughter is quite active in extra-curricular activities and sometimes she grows concerned that she is unable to keep tabs on her daughter's whereabouts as she is a growing into her teen years.

In our assessment, we observed that she has self-taught Braille and demonstrated that she knows Grade 1 and Grade 2, although she needs to practice more on Grade 2. Her braille experience is largely on paper and has never used machine-based Braille. She is unable to keep up with her Braille skills due to not having access to Braille equipment. When we demonstrated a paired iPhone-Focus 14, she was in awe and exclaimed with excitement how she could read the SMS text messages.

EQUIPMENT RECOMMENDATION:

(List each item separately along with its justification)

- Videophone: *The VP-100 is outdated and we will assist her in contacting Sorenson to upgrade her videophone to the latest equipment*
- Television: *Samsung UV5500EG With her continuing vision deterioration and need for videophone communication, a large 55" screen will be needed for effective signed*

- communication on screen. 55" size was chosen after accompanying Jane to a local electronics store and evaluating different screen sizes. Additionally, the television comes with a built-in webcam, making it useful for Skype communications.*
- Computer: Macbook Pro 15" With a portable laptop, she will be able to maintain communication through video chat/email services whether she is at home or away from home. She will be able to communicate with her husband's doctors and labs to ensure she is aware of upcoming appointments, as well as communicate with her daughter and friends/family through email and video chat services such as FaceTime, Google Talk, and Skype.*
 - Magnification: ZoomText Mac Jane has difficulty viewing items on her screen and will need to have screen magnification. ZoomText offers additional benefits to make it easier for her to locate her mouse pointer as well as customize the type of screen color invert she needs to fit her visual requirements*
 - Mouse: Apple Magic Mouse Jane needs an external wireless mouse for her laptop as the trackpad will be too difficult for her to navigate her laptop.*
 - Cables: 15-Foot HDMI Cable A long HDMI cable so that Jane can connect her new laptop to her new large screen television and use it as a giant monitor to assist her in viewing items on her MacBook. This will also allow her to use her laptop with HDMI-capable televisions beyond her home, such as at hotels, friends homes, and hospital rooms.*
 - Cables: Apple Thunderbolt-to-HDMI Dongle Dongle used to connect her HDMI cable to her television.*
 - Case: Carrylt Laptop Sack A laptop bag is needed for portability of her laptop and external related devices.*
 - Smartphone: Verizon Samsung Galaxy Notes 3 The large screen smartphone will enable Jane to maintain communication with family members when away from home. It comes with built-in screen reader software (Talkback/BrailleBack) at no additional cost. The large-screen feature and the screen reader feature makes this ideal combination for Jane as she transitions from low-vision usage to braille usage.*
 - Case: Breakless Protector: Jane will need a protective case to ensure the smartphone does not break if dropped. Also, this protector comes with a retractable hook that can be connected to a belt-loop or strap so that if she drops it outdoors, she is able to quickly locate the device without assistance.*
 - Braille Display: Freedom Scientific Focus 14 Blue The small size and portability of this display will enable Jane to communicate even in harsh visual conditions such as bright sunlight. She will be able to communicate and get updates from her family while standing at a bus stop on a bright sunny day.*
 - TTY: Krown SuperSizer Jane needs a large-screen TTY in order to be able to make phone calls from home using relay services or communication to friends and relatives who have a tty but do not have access to other forms of communication such as SMS or email.*
 - Assistive Listening Device: Bluetooth HearMoar After consulting with Jane's audiologist, we selected this model that is compatible with her new hearing aid. Use of the Bluetooth HearMoar will allow to be paired to her new smartphone and be able to make voice calls more clearly without external noise interference.*

TRAINING REQUEST/NOTES:

Jane will need assistance setting up all equipment in her home as well as pairing her braille display to her new smartphone. She will need time to learn ZoomText and navigating through her smartphone using the BrailleBack application. She has never used email services before and will need to learn how to use the Mail App on her laptop and email client on her phone.

For texting services, she should be set up with a free Google Voice account so that she can access text messages on all her devices, not just on her phone.

For videophone services, Sorenson should be contacted to upgrade her existing videophone as well as setting up accounts on her MacBook and smartphone. Additionally, ensure that all accounts are unified under the Sorenson MyPhone service so that her smartphone can act as a vibrating notifier when she receives incoming videophone calls on her home or MacBook accounts.

Jane works on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. To 12 p.m. She requests that training appointments be made at least one week in advance so she can plan her other appointments accordingly for her husband's medical services.