

Enhancing Services for Individuals with Deafblindness: Insights from the Danish Specialist Consultancy for the Deafblind

Rasmus Hougaard Pedersen¹

¹ Specialrådgivningen for Døvblinde

Deafblindness is a distinct functional disability defined by the difficulty that impaired senses face in compensating for each other. It significantly impacts social life, communication, acquisition of information, orientation, and the ability to move around freely and safely. The deafblind population is heterogeneous, including individuals with congenital and acquired deafblindness, thereby highlighting various needs and diverse communication modalities. This poster introduces the services offered by the Danish Specialist Consultancy for the Deafblind, addressing the unique challenges faced by individuals with deafblindness. The focus is on presenting the range of specialized services and competencies required for this heterogeneous population. The Specialist Consultancy functions across key areas, including the identification and assessment of deafblindness, counseling for personnel, families, and individuals with deafblindness, establishment of and participation in networks related to deafblindness and related fields, production of educational materials, and knowledge development and dissemination. The poster illustrates the dynamic nature of services due to different types of advancements in the hearing sciences and other related fields, such as the increased use of Cochlear Implantation. This has brought about a shift in the deafblind population, necessitating ongoing adaptation of the services provided by the Specialist Consultancy. While advancements and innovations have influenced the population with deafblindness, persistent challenges underscore the need for a unique focus on this population. This poster emphasizes the critical role of the highly specialized services and collaboration between different kind of areas in addressing these challenges, ensuring effective facilitation of activity and participation for individuals with deafblindness.