

SDSLHA workshop

# DeafBlind 101

**Amy Scepaniak M.S., TSVI/COMS/CLVT**

**Date of Course: April 16, 2025**

**7 pm Central 6 pm Mountain**



**ASHA CE**  
**APPROVED PROVIDER**

South Dakota  
Speech-Language-Hearing  
Association

Introductory Level  
0.1 ASHA CEUs

**In order to receive continuing education credit for this course, participants will be required to complete a self-assessment which will include stating three things learned related to learner outcomes and how this information will be applied in the workplace.**

**Title:** DeafBlind 101

**Course Description:** This session provides foundational knowledge about deafblindness, emphasizing the unique impacts of combined hearing and vision loss on communication, learning, and access. Participants will explore common etiologies, communication modalities, and best-practice strategies—including tactile approaches and individualized supports. Through reflection and application, learners will deepen their understanding of dual sensory loss and gain practical tools to enhance meaningful interaction and accessibility for individuals who are deafblind.

**Learner Outcomes:**

- After completing this activity, participants will be able to identify etiologies and indicators of deafblindness.
- After completing this activity, participants will be able to describe impacts of dual sensory loss
- After completing this activity, participants will be able to demonstrate and apply effective strategies

**Presenter:** Amy Scepaniak, M.S., TSVI/COMS/CLVT

**Biography:** Amy J. Scepaniak is the DeafBlind Project Director at the USD Center for Disabilities. She began her career as a high school special education teacher and spent 27 years at the SD School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. She holds degrees in Special Education, Visual Impairment, and Orientation and Mobility, as well as a master's in Low Vision Rehabilitation. Amy also earned a Cortical Vision Impairment (CVI) endorsement in 2019.

**Disclosures:**

**Financial:** DeafBlind Project Director at the USD Center for Disabilities, Salary

**Non-Financial** USD Center for Disabilities, Professional

## **Time Agenda**

- **Learning Objectives Overview 5 minutes**
- **What is DeafBlindness? 5 minutes**
- **Significance of Dual Sensory Loss 10 minutes**
- **Common Etiologies 5 minutes**
- **Communication Modalities 10 minutes**
- **The 'HUH?' Experience 10 minutes**
- **Best Practices & Supports 10**
- **Summary/Conclusion 5 minutes**