

# Overview of Touch Signals: Environmental Information for People/Students who are Deaf-Blind

**Description:** Visual and environmental information help us understand location, people, movement, and the on-going communication around us. Often, when communicating with people/students who are deaf-blind or have a combined vision and hearing loss, these important pieces of information are overlooked. Touch signals are a system of touch cues that symbolize body language, facial expressions, actions and mood. Touch signals provide the deaf-blind person with information about what is happening in the environment, without interrupting visual, tactile or verbal communication.

**Target Audience:** Educational Interpreters working in public and private schools, community interpreters serving adults who are deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing, teachers of the deaf/hard of hearing, teachers of the blind/visually impaired, family members, and special and general education teachers.

**Thursday, July 20, 2017 from 6:00-9:00 p.m.**

**Sheridan Lutheran Church, 70<sup>th</sup> and Old Cheney, Lincoln NE**

No cost to attend.

Participants must register BY **MAY 30, 2017** at: <https://goo.gl/forms/z1HH2k7EiSDuO1mL2>

## **Presenters:**

**Beth Jordan** is the Great Plains Regional Representative for the Helen Keller National Center, serving people who have both vision and hearing loss and their families. She also provides training and technical assistance to agencies/organizations. The Great Plains Region includes Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. Ms. Jordan has worked in this capacity for over 25 years. She received her Master of Education degree from the University of Arkansas majoring in rehabilitation counseling and independent living with an emphasis in deafness. Prior to her work at HKNC, she worked as a VR counselor with a deaf caseload in Pasadena, Texas. Ms. Jordan is a certified rehabilitation counselor (CRC).

**Ryan Odland** is the Rocky Mountain Regional Representative for the Helen Keller National Center, serving six states including Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. Ryan, who is deaf-blind with Usher syndrome subtype 1, holds a bachelor degree in psychology from Rochester Institute of Technology and a master's degree in deaf education from Gallaudet University, where he taught a course on the methodological applications of the deaf-blind experience. He has advocated for deaf-blind awareness and program development at local, state and national levels.

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**Nebraska Regional Programs**  
*for Students who are*  
**Deaf or Hard of Hearing**