>> Hello everyone, thank you for staying

until Tuesday. I was worried that

Tuesday -- let's see. Maybe this is

better. Okay. I was just checking

to see if there were any deaf or hard

of hearing people in here who are using

the interpreter or captioning and I see

there's a couple of people who are using

the captioning. Okay. Come on in.

Welcome, everyone. Thank you for coming

to my presentation about camps and

accommodations. I think -- see if this

microphone is any better. Little

better. Take three. Let's try this

again. This is me, me and my family.

We went on an Alaska cruise last summer.

It was fantastic. Alaska is beautiful.

I laugh because my previously early

support person is way over there and

they haven't seen my boys in several

years, so there they are. A little

promo if you think about going to visit

Alaska, go for it. It's beautiful.

Some of my favorite

stories come from there.

There was a catch in Saskatchewan, we

got into a prop plane and went to a

salmon hatchery. I admit I'm a little

fearful of smells. But the bear poop

and the fish smell did not bother me. I

was so close to the salmon jumping up

the stream, I could see the bears going

after them. I didn't know that bears

only like to eat the female fish. They

catch them but then because they've

caught them they're thousand dead and

they just throw them away, interesting

life cycle of salmon. But it's a great

experience so if you're trial date do it.

All all four of us in my family are deaf,

we all use hearing aids.

I grew up with both signing and S Al and

my husband picked up ASL and surprise

we had two deaf boys. So I decided toed

to do this because I remember what it

was like, getting getting shipped

off to camp at a young age but I was

lucky that my

parents were my first advocates and they

spoke up for me and that stayed with me.

It was great to have different role

models such as Judy. I am not sure if

you're aware but Judy just passed away

on Saturday. I've had a few opportunities

to meet her, she's a very warm person

and was a huge advocate obviously for

our population, especially for deaf and

hard of hearing people. She was one of

my role models as well as other deaf

people. She taught me different ways to

advocate both as an individual and

for the community. I have to say I'm

very disappointed in the news. Normally

when a famous person dies you get some

news about that person but we haven't

heard anything about Judy, unfortunately.

So when my oldest was three, I put him

in a camp, so I could spend some time

with my baby. As you see I lived

in Seattle. They had a half day pre-K

camp near me, so I thought why not send

him along. Deal with other kids.

We were always used to play dates,

small support groups but it was time

for him to get out into the world. I

think this is very basic, this should be

basic information for your child. You

want to make sure that their camp

experience is positive. You need to

identify what it is that they need in

terms of support. And that they're

having fun. If they have an FM system

or an interpreter they need to bring

that along. We need to make sure the

communication burden is not on the child,

sometimes we forget about that. We

want to make sure that they are not

responsible for their own communication

and that we're -- we know that young

children get bored of things, we want

to give them time to be kids. This is

pretty common sense. You have to start

by registering your child. But then you

have to figure out who to be in touch

with in order to make an accommodation

request and when you make that request

you need to be specific with what it is

that you need. There have been many

times when I go to make a request

and this is what I get. They tell me no.

Me being me, I don't respond very well

to that. I thought this animation was

cute which is why I added it here but I

hear this often. Oh, I'm so

sorry, oh it costs too much money, blah

blah. Most of the time people just

don't know the front line staff even

been trained in what accommodations are

so it's a training issue so sometime you

have to get in touch with they

supervisor or an ADA coordinator. But

sometimes the manager will say no. And

that's when you have to go to the next

level. I hope you don't mind if I put

you on the spot. Jill was an early

support person for my oldest son. And I

was excited to put my older son in

the zoo camp and Jill probably

remembers that he loved tigers. He had

a tiger suit. But he was excited about

camp. He was so excited to be with the

tigers. So I found the camp, I

registered him, and I got in touch with

them and said I would like to have an

interpreter. Understand

blue sometimes interpreters

have trouble understanding little kids.

I wanted him to know the right signs for

what it was that they were teaching, but

when they told me no and told me no

again, I thought hmm, things strange. A

zoo is a public place of accommodation.

They get federal funding so what does

that mean? They're supposed to be

providing interpreting services..of

course I was tired, I had just had a

second child, I was trying to find out

things for myself, and -- and I contacted

the regional ADA center. I sent a

letter and two days later I got a

response from the zoo that they would

provide an interpreter. And they asked

me if I knew of other deaf and hard of

hearing kids that went to camp as well

and I said that's not my job but okay,

so I reached out to friends and other

parents. I mean it would be nice to

have deaf peers with them. And when my

son finally got into the camp he really

enjoyeded it. He did it for another

year and then my youngest son went as

well. So it all worked out and at the

end I learned who the person but this

the office and it turned out to be

my neighbor, which we got along just

fine, which was okay. There are ADA

regional centers all over the country,

you can see them listed here on this map.

They have offices in each

region and they help you understanded

what your rights are and to find

accommodations. You see someone taking

a photo so I'll wait just a minute.

Good, take a photo. Not a problem. So

I called my regional center and asked

them some questions, they answered

pretty quickly. And I used them

several times since. If I need a little

confidence or I'm not clear on an ADA

issue, they're really great and you can

find your region online pretty

easily. As I said the zoo falls under

title three because it is a place of

public awe come days ago so they are

required to provide effective

communication services.

This is the part I like the best. I

didn't have to provide that. I took my

son there and let him go, but then he

was on his own. And this helped me and

like I said I used them several more

time and I recommend you do because

people need to be educated. The camp

said they couldn't afford interpreters

but it is their responsibility, they

have to find some way to make it work,

and often that has to happen in concert

with parents. You have the power to

work with them to the find out what a

effective for your kids and to have a

good experience because they're going to

come home and talk about it. I think

one thing that most of you may already

know, religious camps are not required

to provide accommodations..that's one of

my biggest points that I don't

like about the ADA. I went the Bible

camp when I was a kid. The only thing

that I remember is art and crafts.

I don't remember talking about God.

Stuff that we talked abat home. I

really missed out on the

experience of camp because of that. I

went to camp with my brothers and sisters

but my sister was not my interpreter,

she was doing her own thing and she was

younger than me so she was like, why are

you asking me about that? So I didn't

have a good experience there and it was

something that I didn't want my children

to go through. If you want your child

to go a it's to a camp that's rub by a

church then you're going to need to fir

out some tragedies with that camp on

how best to integrate

your kids there, that could be flash

cards, teaching people basic signs,

maybe sending the Fm system. Some

churches freak out about providing

kids with

assistance. So it's a lit hit-or-miss.

It's going to depend on the type of camp,

the organization, et cetera.

>> The other thing that I really like

about this is that it speaks to effective

communication for the parents as well.

They need to be able to

communicate with the parents of the

child so if the camp happened to contact

me and I do remember the camp at the zoo

there was a direct number -- it wasn't a

relay number but that bothered me and I

wanted to text -- that was a much better

way to communicate with me by I had to

call and go through that rigmarole to

get someone to actually text me.

Okay, any questions so far? I think

that's basically it but some of the

things maybe you weren't aware of.

So it's not scary, I don't want you to

be afraid of contacting the ADA.

And my next story happened a few years

later.

Sometimes we go and visit as a family

out of state. My family is all over

the place and we wanted to stay and my

husband wanted to stay

with my parents for about a month and we

wanted to visit a community center of.

Now, I'm not bashing this

particular community center, it

was the Y and they get funding and I'm

sure other family go to the Y, so I signed

the business up the for class and they

had to take their hearing aids off, but

they needed a way to be able the

communicate then and they said they

would need an FM system and I was like,

no that's not going to work and then we

went to the manager and had had to have

communication with the manager and then

I had to call the ADA center in region

five and I had a right as a parent and

then a few days later they were willing

then to provide accommodations and this

was with swimming so we wanted them to

be able to dive and have safety while

they were in the water. I have countless

stories to share about the

community center but again this just

goes back to every staff who works in

these environments needs

training, and they often time want

to meet you with we don't provide

that and then you have to go further and

fight for your rights. I know my time

is running out so I'm going to skip

ahead, just wanted to touch briefly upon

individual versus community advocacy.

So when you think about requesting

accommodations sometimes folks will tell

you well do you want an interpreter or

an FM system and every deaf and hard of

hearing person is different, some

families can't afford an FM system so it

can be very costly and then you have to

educate folks on how to use it and then

some, who need to use an interpreter --

I mean, again everybody's needs vary.

I don't want folks to assume that

we're all the same.

We're very different, so I encourage

advocacy on your own and to reach out

can get the support that you need. And

I have at story to share. My son wanted

to learn how to sail. So we signed

him up for a class. And they didn't

know who I was regardless of my

background and how I communicate and

advocate but at the end of that week,

they had a sailing class and thaw they

forgot the interpreter and I was like,

there are no other camps,

this is it, this is the sailing camp so

I talked with the 19-year-old instructor,

very nice girl but I got really

frustrated with her because if you'll

remember, my son going into the water is

not going to have his hearing aids on,

keep that in mind and I

know they're superstructs. They have a

megaphone that they use to communicate

with the kids in the water so I sat

there and watched and before the end of

the class as he's sailing can yelling

through the megaphone and my son is like,

what? She forgot that I told her

this is what he needs and she did that

the entire week, and I was like, I took

her to the side I'm like, come on, some

people, they just -- again they

need training and things need to change

but all in all my son really enjoyed the

sailing class. It took a little bit of

patience but it was a positive

experience. Here are some other

resources, contact the national

association of the deaf. I wanted to

start with an AD and I don't want folks

to misunderstand me; this is for all

deaf people, not just those who use ASL.

You may have questions about for example

you want to go to the school board

meeting and I'm involved where I live in

Seattle and I requested an interpreter

and the city said we'll call you back,

and I said no, this is your

responsibility. Here's another resource

you can use department of justice and

civil rights. I've heard people say

that they're super slow in responding

and there are a lot of changes but they

do some investigation and analysis of

the situation and they have to do that

because it's the law and it is rather

slow. I know I just have five minutes

left but I did want to talk about deaf

and hard of hearing camps and there are

summer camps in your state and out of

state.

And start with your Hands and Voices

chapter, maybe your irk IF SSP

person, there's a website and it didn't

link. The website will give you a

plethora of resources from all other the

country and they're not always -- so you

will not always find a local camp near

you but this can be a guide and can be a

good place for deaf and hard of hearing

kids to go because of the

services they have embedded in their

camps.

I found this super helpful. If you'll

remember there's a camp called mark

seven that's out in New York, and I

don't know if you remember the it went

viral several years ago, the song,

the happy by Firel if you remember

that and my boys were there

and so they went to that camp. There

are stem programs at Gallaudet and NT ID.

They're not just limited for signing kids

, the they're open to all kids so I just

want to be really clear that there are

no misunderstanding about

who can go. They want to see all deaf

and hard of hearing kids accepted and

successful in these programs. I just

got this today. So this is a website

that will give you even more information

about catches. And right

now everyone is trying to figure out

camp in person or are they canceled.

Everyone got a picture that wants a

picture of this slide? There we are at

the close. So go and the make the world

a beautiful place.

Just like Judy. Thank you. Any

questions? Yes, we have a question. Do

you need a microphone?

>> [indiscernible] thank

you. My son is only two, so opportunities

for camps and events hasn't come up yet

but I'm getting prepared for when that

happens. And I have questions about the

multiple experiences you said that you

have with your community center, and it

doesn't seem like they've been the most

eager to help you with accessibility.

Has that caused any negative impact in

how they treat you when you call in?

Like, oh it's that mom again, she's

going to call with another issue, I'm

just interested in how that maybe has

affected your relationship with people

when you're asking.

>> I would said no it's not been a

negative experience for me because I

immediately started out with here's what

the law is and I work through the city

and work my way up if I need to. If I

have problems contacting so and so but

first I try to make a connection and I

make people -- I actually got to know

some of those folks at that level and

again it goes back to a training issue

and it's always about the pool. I

have a friend that was appropriated and

they did a lot of training and they

assumedded everyone could hear and could

speak English and I said hey to the head

life gardens my kids are deaf and I know

they're going to get in trouble, they're

always down stupid things, I tell them,

please you guys -- but the life guard is

yelling at them but that's life as a mom,

right? I think it's just more of

educating them and just being patient

and acceptably they get it so you have

to be patient and stand there and smile.

I hope that helps. I think people do

want to help they just don't know what

to do. Okay, thank you so much for coming

to the presentation.

I hope I see you next year. Denver!