

Michael Merritt, Deaf Navigator Hope Community Resources



Michael Merritt has been a social worker for the past 25 years in various roles and agencies serving the deaf/hard of hearing community. Advocacy for individual rights and needs has always been a higher priority as well as educating and providing resources to those unfamiliar with this population. Since 1998 he was a residential counselor with DePaul at a large group home with all deaf clients and deaf or ASL fluent staff in Rochester, NY. After moving to Alaska more than a decade ago, he worked as a case manager for deaf individuals with the Arc of Anchorage and for one fun school year as a house manager for the Student Living Center. This home, or rather a dorm of sorts, housed deaf and hard of hearing grade school students from rural Alaskan communities who attended AKSD (Alaska School for the Deaf).

2016 to present, Deaf Navigator with Hope Community Resources and providing support and advocacy to deaf and hard of hearing and deaf blind adults in obtaining housing, employment, social services, and everything in between. Graduated from RIT-Rochester Institute of Technology in 2005 with a multi-disciplinary B.S. degree in social work, criminology and communications.