CSC staff member, Lauren Hostovsky discusses the workshop series on self-advocacy being provided by the CSC.

Transcript:
Hi! I'm really excited to let you know that the CSC provided its first training about self-advocacy. This training will have seven sessions provided once a month for a couple of hours from 9:00 to about noon. The person providing this training is a Deaf woman from New Mexico named Corina Gutierrez, who is the director of Community Advocacy for the New Mexico Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities. She's served in that capacity for many years and we're very excited to have her with us to guide us through this journey. The meeting that we had was on the 29th and the next one will be on December 20th. If you missed our session yesterday that's okay, I can talk a little bit about what we went over which was very eye-opening for me as well as others who participated. Hopefully you will want to participate with our future trainings.

What we talked about yesterday was the word "advocacy" and what it really means. What does it mean to be a self-advocate? What does communication access look like? We talked about the ADA or Americans with Disabilities Act which passed in 1990 and what's so important about that act and how it helps us as Deaf and Hard of Hearing people going through our journey. There are several titles in the ADA that affect businesses and organizations and during that training on the first day I realized there was a lot of gaps in my information about this important act. It's important for me and it's also important for all of you. It will apply to you throughout your life, whether it's going to doctors appointments or going through the court system. Or having a job interview- requesting an interpreter- and what that process looks like if you're denied that request, what steps should you take?

That comes up a lot in a lot of situations. And this training was great-bringing Deaf and Hard of hearing people into the focus and really having in depth conversations about what we go through, sharing
resources and tools that can really help us for our future throughout our journey. So, if listening to me now is motivating you at all, again we'll have seven sessions and yesterday was our first so we're down to six more and we're going to really get into some nuts and bolts about interpreting, VRI and other rights that we need to know about as Deaf and Hard of Hearing people. Thank you very much and I hope to see you at our next session!