



### **Bio- De Linda Kelly**

De Linda has been with MERIL for 6 years, currently serving as the Director of Communication and Transition Services. Her duties include system advocacy for individuals with sensory disabilities, assistive technology to maintain independence, and assisting students with disabilities transitioning from high school to living independently, attending higher education or seeking employment with competitive wages.

Prior to joining the MERIL team, De Linda worked for 4 years as a mental health counselor for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind community and more than 15 years in human services. De Linda had her first experience with human services when she was in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, assisting her older Deaf brother with his homework during his senior year in high school. After his Deaf peers from school heard that De Linda was able to explain things better in American Sign Language (ASL), they all began coming to her house for help. De Linda was born Deaf in Springfield MO and mainstreamed at Springfield R-12 School District, participated in several school sports, president of Future Teachers of America for two years.

#### **Educational Background:**

Bachelors of Science degree in Human Services with concentration in Criminal Justices from Springfield College, Springfield, Massachusetts

Masters of Science degree in Counseling and Psychology from Springfield College, Springfield, Massachusetts