More on the COMMUNITY ACCESS COLLABORATION (CAC)... The Committee is now working on our strategic plan; and preparing for our site visit from the Office on Violence against Women (OVW), our Federal grant overseer and another one later. This visit (on line) will be 8 hours long and encompass everything we have worked on since we named our collaboration!

Our group shared a STRATEGIC PLAN TREE, which is a draft illustration we can refer to instead of shuffling pages. I will share our tree little by little so all members of VAD can “see” our work.

First the **Roots. These are BROWN and represent our Needs Assessment Findings** (gathered from online teams of Deaf and other folk before Christmas)

- There is an identified need among the Partners in this Collaboration SHE (Shelter for Help in Emergency), SARA (Sexual Assault Resource Agency) and VAD (Virginia Association of the Deaf) for training at the intersections of sexual violence, domestic violence, and Deaf culture.
• There is a need to build capacity at SHE and SARA around knowledge, understanding, and comfort to provide safe, accessible, and culturally responsive services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing victims and survivors.

• There is an expressed need for SHE, SARA, and the VAD to create opportunities for positive interaction and collaboration with Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities.

• There is a need to create internal policies and procedures at SHE and SARA around communication, specifically with hiring and working with qualified sign language interpreters.

That’s just the Roots. Stay tuned for the trunk, the branches, leaves, and canopy. If any one cares to add to the tree, just email Rachel Bavister rbavister@comcast.net or Laura Mahan lmahan@shelterforhelpinemergency.org