

On March 25, 2017, I participated in a regional training involving first responders. **The Leadership Coalition** traveled to Lakewood, WA, to deliver a team-building and leadership training to over 50 volunteer disaster responders who had traveled from throughout the state to attend the day-long training.

The curriculum was fun and engaging while proving to be very successful at articulating the concepts of leadership; specifically, communication, delegation, team-building, and problem-solving. The curriculum was collaborative as the participants all contributed to the outcomes for their teams.

As a deaf person, I tend to be reluctant to participate in classroom activities such as this. It changes the dynamics most often and then no one gets the quality experience that could have been reached otherwise. This time I did. The instructor was **The Leadership Coalition's** Executive Director and Founder, Shawn Palmer, and he did an excellent job of inclusion without changing the flow of the course. It was obvious that all the participants remained engaged throughout the afternoon.

Through these activities facilitated by **The Leadership Coalition**, I became aware of my own traits and learned skills, I can and most certainly will, use in the field to be a better leader.

*Em Beals*

East Skagit County