

CADRE and JAMS Foundation Present:
Voices from the Field
Interview Clip #4 Transcript – Jim Gerl

Marshall: You've done a lot of training of state hearing officers and I, I wonder as you think about training, are there essential or critical components of training that you believe it's important to have as part of a training program.

Jim: Yeah, I do. I think that important parts of hearing officer training include not only the special education law updates because this is one of those fields that just keeps growing quickly and everyday it seems there is a new decision that comes up in some jurisdiction, but also I think hearing officers need training on how to write decisions and how to conduct a hearing and those techniques don't come naturally necessarily. I think a lot of it comes with experience, so I think that hearing officer training needs to deal with some of the problems that hearing officers encounter both in managing the hearing and the pre-hearing, managing the actual hearing itself and then in writing the decision, which are all important skills for hearing officers and now are recognized under IDEA 2004, as well. So I think all those things need to be components.