

# Sign Language Interpreters: Accountability, Boundaries and Allyship

MJ Bienvenu, Ph.D.

Fremont, CA

16 April 2016



# Introduction

- Accountability
  - Our field of work
- Boundaries
  - Meaning, where's the line
- Allyship
  - Process versus identity



# Accountability

- Interpreting in general
- ASL/English interpreters
  - Platform
  - Legal
  - Medical
  - VRS
- Deaf community
- Linguists/Teachers
- Consumers



# Boundaries

- Where is the line?
- Where do I stand?
- The dynamic boundaries
  - Person by person
  - Assignment by assignment
  - Collectivist community



# Allyship: definition

**allyship** is not an identity - it is a lifelong process of building relationships based on trust, consistency, and accountability with marginalized individuals and/or groups of people. **allyship** is not self-defined - our work and our efforts must be recognized by the people we seek to ally ourselves with.

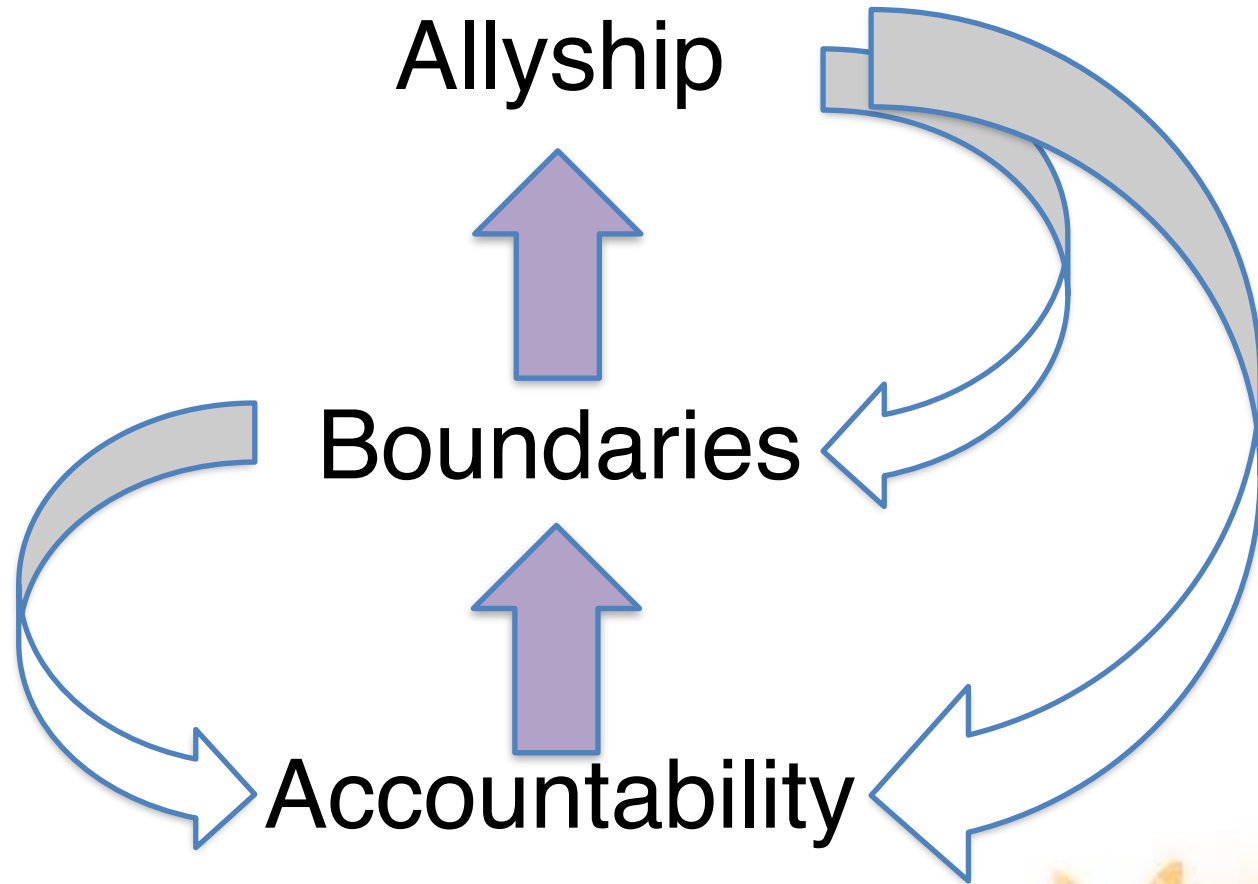
-- the anti-oppression network



# Allyship

- Region 1 Conference in NH
- Understanding allyship and application
- Are we allies or are we not?





# Closing

- Accountability: looking at situation
- Boundaries: looking at here/there
- Allyship: looking at process

