

Providing psychological consulting to elderly person with Deafblindness

IRINA MOISEEVA, PSYCHOLOGIST,

DEAFBLIND SUPPORT RESOURCE CENTER, MOSCOW

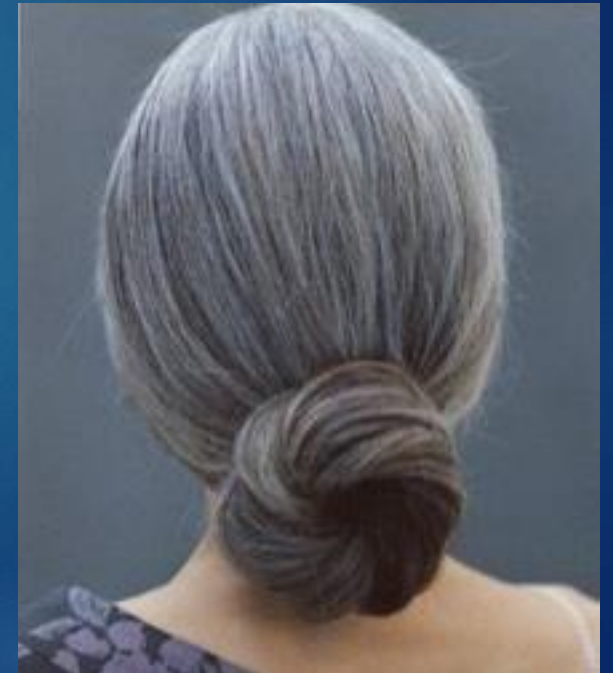
Life story

- ▶ Vera was born in 1952 in Tbilisi, Georgia Soviet Republic
- ▶ Later in life she moved to Russia, lived in Central region, Vladimir, Sergiev Posad
- ▶ She is deaf from early childhood, but she doesn't know the reason, why
- ▶ Studied in the school for the deaf, after finishing school started to work immediately at the textile manufactory
- ▶ Kept the job for twenty years – got the “Veteran of labour” medal
- ▶ Got married in her twenties, became a mother of son and daughter
After her husband died didn't get married another time



History of a problem

- ▶ Vera started to lose her vision in her 40s and when she was 50 became completely blind
- ▶ According to her daughter, at the age of 37-38 she had first psychotic break and was put to mental health clinic
- ▶ After that she was hospitalized 3 more times: 2006, 2008, 2018



History of consulting: goals

- ▶ Support in solving conflict situations
- ▶ Work with staff members: keeping everyday routine, explanation of the “strange” behavior
- ▶ Encouraging to get qualified psychiatric help

Assessment

- ▶ Interview, observation during the day
- ▶ Cognitive functioning: good orientation in time, events that happen around her. Believes and explanations of reality, that can be categorized as delusional
- ▶ Poor literacy skills
- ▶ Social life and emotional state: active, kind and open to communication

Everyday life



Dynamics of consulting during two years

- ▶ Ability to find “natural causes” for other people behavior
- ▶ Growth of awareness of her own condition
- ▶ Ability to identify psychological problems and ask for psychological help when needed