In the realm of healthcare advocacy, Deb Marinos stands out as a passionate and dedicated in working to break down barriers for the people that have low vision loss or are blind. Her journey into advocacy began with a personal revelation about the challenges faced by the blind in accessing healthcare, a revelation that fueled her commitment to creating positive change.

After completing her studies in rehabilitation counseling, Deb dove into the field with an unwavering commitment to inclusivity. She quickly realized that the blind community faced not only physical obstacles in healthcare facilities but also a lack of awareness among medical professionals about their unique needs. Especially with mental health services.

Driven by her passion, Deb founded Adaptability for Life, LLC, a for profit organization dedicated to education healthcare professionals about the diversity of vision loss and impacts. Under her leadership, the organization has pioneered innovative programs, including training sessions for medical staff on interacting with blind patients with low cost and effective solutions.

Deb's impact extends beyond the classroom. She has actively engaged with the blind and deaf blind community, conducting mind body skills groups to empower individuals to learn how to manage the inevitable stress that comes from living in a world that is often frustrating or inaccessible. Her commitment to education is reflected in gaining state agency approval for a cultural competence course, Understanding the Diversity of Legal Blindness, It’s Impacts & Solutions. This course has allowed hundreds of healthcare professionals to better understand the different needs and ways to provide accessible care with appropriate support. This course has positive reviews by the professionals who expressed appreciated having better understanding and practical strategies to provide compassion regardless of the level of vision or hearing loss.

The Blind Health Fair, a new innovative annual event brings together blindness experts, healthcare professionals, technology innovators, and the blindness – low vision community to exchange ideas and find resources. Through interactive exhibits and workshops, participants gain valuable insights into what might be available otherwise unknown.

Deb Marinos enjoys speaking at conferences and agency or legislative meetings, where she shares her experiences and advocates for education. Her ability to articulate the challenges faced by the blind with empathy and clarity about the costs needed being far smaller than the cost of allowing independence to be stolen away unnecessarily.

Beyond her professional achievements, as an educator and counselor, Deb remains deeply connected to the blind community through her own personal journey with vision loss. She actively mentors individuals through mind body skills groups, fostering a sense of empowerment and resilience. Her leadership is characterized by a belief that blindness is not the barrier, but lack of access is.

In the ever-evolving landscape of healthcare, Deb Marinos encourages each person with any disability, but especially vision loss, inspiring others to join her in building a world where the blind no longer face barriers to the care they deserve.