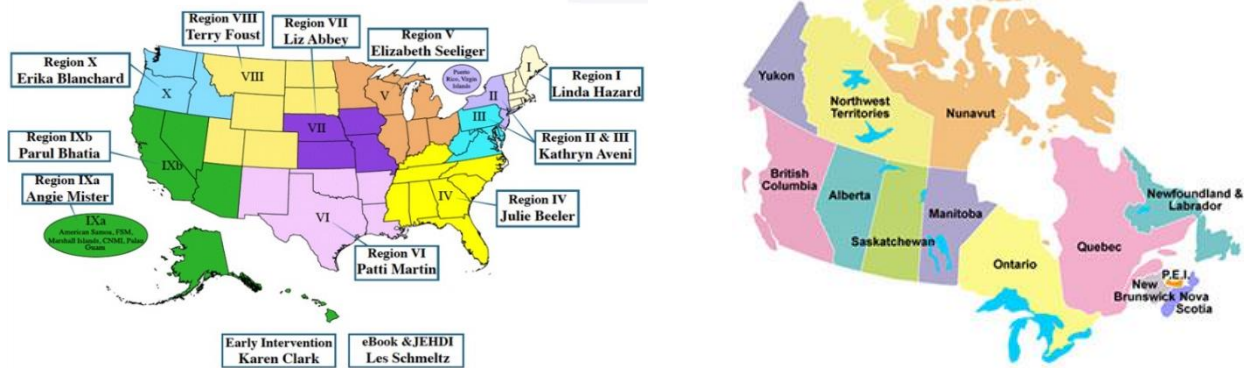




HANDS &  
VOICES™

## Hands & Voices Regional Coordinator Project 2017-2018 Annual Report



### Project in Review

The Hands & Voices Regional Coordinator project is now beginning its ninth year. Each Regional Coordinator lives in the region in which they are assigned, (Coordinators may temporarily support neighboring regions when a position is open). During this period of time, each Regional Coordinator worked on different aspects and activities based on the needs in each of their regions including a Canadian region that was added in 2013. (See Regional reports below). The Regional Coordinators meet by phone/Zoom tri-annually and face to face annually. We continue to grow this project as a forum for support to families, H&V Chapters, and other regionalized activities with partner agencies such as AAP, as well as the NCHAM regionalized network of support for the EHD system. We incorporate leadership from our 27 H&V Guide By Your Side (GBYS) Programs to continue cohesion efforts between Chapters and GBYS programming. We have seven approved Advocacy Support and Training (ASTra) programs in our network. Our goal this year is to increase awareness among all of our Chapters to help them understand the support offered and provided through this project, as well as devote more attention to working across borders to offer events, training and support to families, in a coordinated effort. We will expand support to all of our regions and states by working with our Hands & Voices Military Project to provide support to families with members in active duty, and connect them as their assignments may change. The Regional Coordinators also are informed and involved in the Hands & Voices Observe, Understand and Respond (O.U.R.) Project that provides resources and support regarding child abuse and neglect in the D/HH population. The Annual H&V Leadership Conferences offer opportunities to enhance

awareness through face to face interaction and a variety of activities that engage parent leaders from across the continent, as well as working within their respective regions.

This past year we had the opportunity to provide an in-person 2-day leadership training event to parent leaders and professional partners in Region 1. This provided the opportunity for Chapter leaders to connect with other Chapters in their region, strengthen their partnerships within their own Chapter leadership and to grow individually in their personal leadership skills. Through supplemental funding we were able to provide the training at no cost to the Chapters, as well as provide a stipend to assist in lodging and travel costs. Attached you will find the final report which includes the evaluation and follow up plans and activities by the participating Chapters. Within this report the results of the EHDI Self-Assessment Tool addressing Goals 8 and 9 are included (Goals 8 & 9 were excerpted from the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Self-Assessment document which was based on the JCIH “Recommendations for Early Intervention After Confirmation That a Child Is Deaf or Hard of Hearing”). Terri Patterson, H&V HQ Director of Chapter Support provides oversight of this project.

Activities during this time period include: Providing ongoing technical assistance to Chapters within designated regions, creating network amongst states/provinces within region for interaction and collaborative events/trainings; represent H&V HQ organization at regional events in assigned regions; providing platform for Chapters in regions to interact and communicate as needed (Yahoo Chapter Leaders’ group, Facebook page; phone/virtual meetings, etc.). This project meets a need within our organization and in the EHDI system to continue to develop collaborative partnerships which will produce better outcomes for children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing. In the coming year, this project plans to continue to grow and develop communication, awareness, and support to the NCHAM Technical Assistance Network and corresponding activities. We also begun providing H&V HQ staff-led webinars for individual and/or all Regions on a quarterly basis, built on need-to-know topics around Chapter leadership.

#### **Current Hands & Voices Regional Coordinator Assignments 2017 – 2018**

**Region 1,2,3: ME, VT, NY, RI, CT, MA, NH, NJ, DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV – Tammy Breard (CT H&V President)**

**Region 4: FL, AL, NC, SC, TN, KY, MS, GA - Anita Dowd (KY H&V Board President)**

**Region 5: MI, IN, IL, OH, MN, WI –Tabby Belhorn (OH H&V Director)**

**Region 6: TX, LA, AR, OK, NM - Kellie Berger (TX H&V Director)**

**Region 7, 8: KS, IA, MO, MT, UT, ND, SD, WY, CO, NE – Wendy Hewitt (WY H&V Director)**

**Region 9a: HI, CNMI, Guam, Pacific Islands - TBD**

**Region 9b, 10: ID, OR, WA, AK, AZ, CA, NV – Helen Cotton Leiser (OR H&V Director)**

**Region Canada – Kim Shauer (BC H&V GBYS Coordinator)**

## **Region 1, 2 & 3**

**Coordinator: Tammy Breard, President, Connecticut H&V**

### **Activities:**

- Connected with Chapters in Region 1, 2, 3
- Hosted and co-facilitated Region 1 Training 5/6-7, 2017 in Cromwell, CT
- Met with Chapter Leadership at the H&V Leadership Conference – September 2017
- Region 1,2,3 conference calls – 1/10/18, 3/20/18
- Using Region 1, 2, 3 Facebook Group to share resources and activity ideas.
- Continuing to share activity and fundraising ideas as well as technically support to our Chapters.
- Participated in Regional Coordinator meetings
  - In person meeting at H&V Leadership Conference – 9/2017
  - Conference calls – 7/19/17, 11/27/17, 3/29/18 & 6/19/2018 (sent in quarterly reports).

### **Goals/Next Steps**

- Region 1,2,3 in-person meeting at the H&V Leadership Conference – 9/2018
- Continue to encourage the practice of “Chapters without Borders”. Chapters to share ideas and mentoring from state to state.
- Plan and facilitate 2/3 Region 1, 2, 3 Conference calls in 2018/2019.
- Increase utilizing Region 1, 2, 3 Facebook Group to better facilitate sharing of information.
- Facilitate group meetings focused on grant writing and Chapter management

## **H&V Region 4**

**Coordinator: Anita Dowd, Board President, Kentucky Hands & Voices**

### **Activities:**

- Attended all of the HQ Regional Coordinator meetings.
- Continuing to post HQ reminders and news as well as other resources and events on the H&V Region 4 closed Facebook group.
- Shared events with bordering states.
- Region 4 Chapter leaders met in person at the National Leadership conference in 2017. Some for the first time.
- Communication between Chapter leaders is still fairly limited to online social media information and resource sharing. It seems that the regional leaders have differing preferred method of communication with Facebook/Email being the two most preferred.
- Have continued to offer technical support to one particular Chapter.
- Alabama is now an Authorized Chapter!
- Will meet at the 2018 Leadership Conference and plan to discuss the most effective way for regional leaders to meet 3-4 times a year.

**Next Steps:**

- Continue to seek ways to make communication between Chapter leaders for effective and efficient.
- Research the need and possibility of creating a Region 4 Facebook page for event sharing in an attempt to allow Chapter members to get more involved with bordering states that are close to them.

**H&V Region 5****Coordinator: Tabby Belhorn, Director, Ohio Hands & Voices****Activities:**

- Region 5 leaders met at Leadership Conference in September, 2017 for an informal meeting and introduction of new leaders. During the year, we continued to use our email group and Region 5 Facebook page to support each other, ask questions, and share information among each Chapter's leaders, GBYS programs, and ASTra programs.
- Ohio Hands & Voices and Michigan Hands & Voices continued their collaboration on creating and presenting "Lunch & Learn" webinars. Webinars have been recorded and posted on YouTube for all families and professionals to view.
- This past year, our region had two new people in leadership roles, Minnesota and Wisconsin. During the year, I would check in occasionally with each of them to see how leadership was going and if I could assist them.
- We also had one tele-conference in December, in which all states participated. We reviewed items from HV HQ, shared state activities and information, and discussed marketing our programs and services.

**Next Steps:**

- Schedule three conference calls for the next year and confirm one meet up time at Leadership Conference. If we do not meet at Leadership, then we will have four conference calls next year.
- One my unique challenges is to find a way to support already established and successful Chapters. In order to have a better understanding of what Chapter leaders need, I will schedule a time to talk to one leader from each state to understand their individual Chapter needs.
- Continue to share information and remind the region about news and events from HV HQ.
- As the leader, it is sometimes a challenge to keep this work a priority. I will pick at least one set day and time to work on regional support per month.
- Ohio & Michigan are continuing their Lunch & Learn series. Maybe another state in interested in joining us or at least presenting with us.
- Continue to use Facebook group and email to support each other.

**H&V Region 6****Coordinator: Kellie Berger, Director, Texas Hands & Voices****Activities:**

- September 2017 Leadership Conference - Met with region leads and talked about specific needs.
  - Attended Regional Coordinator meeting.

- Updated Region 6 Facebook group for sharing of regional events, HQ due dates and general communication purposes. It has been used, but not to the extent I had hoped.
- Conference Call in February 2018 to check on highs/lows and burning questions - very low attendance.
- Personal Calls & emails to each state and the NCHAM Advisor following up on discussions. Chapters had questions regarding forms, protocol, documents for board development and program tracking, etc.
- Shared events via email with bordering states and shared their events with our members.
  - Texas and New Mexico discussed joint events again but were not able to do any official joint event. Events in El Paso and Las Cruces were cross posted widely in both states and families attended from bordering states.
- Invited AAP Chapter Champion and NCHAM rep to attend meetings and be part of the Facebook group.
  - Texas AAP Chapter Champion attended the April meeting
- Hosted Zoom meeting for region in April to share highs and lows/challenges. We were able to connect TX GBYS coordinator with LA leadership to share wording for flyers around ADA requests and to share TX outreach calendar plan.
- Participation in Regional Coordinator conference calls and shared pertinent updates with TXHV board.

#### **Next Steps:**

- Continue to develop and build the network in this large region.
- Set up a regular schedule of calls for next fiscal year
- Set up regular email/Facebook reminders monthly to touch base with all Chapters in the region.
- Continue to participate in activities with the other Regional Coordinators.
- Investigate possibility of regional leadership training and how to fund.
- Represent HQ at other states events as requested.

### **H&V Region 7 & 8**

**Coordinator: Wendy Hewitt, Executive Director, Wyoming Hands & Voices**

#### **Activities:**

##### **Connected with Chapters in Regions 7&8:**

- An attempt was made to contact each state with an active Chapter at least quarterly this year, via email or the Facebook group.
- I worked to remind Chapters about the EHDI conference, Leadership Conference, and the Communicator deadlines, Headquarter meetings and other HQ required data deadlines.
- Chapter Specific:
  - **ND:** Had email contact with the Director several times.
  - **NE:** frequent contact at EHDI Conference. Shelli was a great help to Wyoming as they worked to get the GBYS started. Made attempts for Wyoming and Nebraska to get border families to attend Mom's Night Inn and Family Fun Nights, but no success yet. But we will keep trying.
  - **WY:** Held their 2nd Parent Training in June of 2018 in conjunction with their 5k and Annual Board Retreat. The training almost doubled in size from year one. Wyoming now has an official Chapter of GBYS!!

- **MT:** There has been a lot of contact via phone and email with Moriah as they have worked to become an H&V Chapter. They officially became a Chapter in April 2018
- **IA:** Contacts here are the most experienced and are well-versed in HQ supports; contact on variety of GBYS and HQ forums frequently.
- **MO:** Lauren and I emailed a couple times as they work to strengthen their new Chapter. We had a lot of discussion about getting your board engaged and how to get them to reply to emails etc. This led to a great discussion on one of our meetings.
- **CO:** Colorado continues to host many events for families and their GBYS programs is doing great. They keep very busy and of course Sara is always available if I have questions.
- **SD:** A lady working on her Audiology degree attended the recent Wyoming H&V Parent Training trying to learn things to help get H&V going in South Dakota.
- **UT:** Had some contact with a lady in Utah working to get some family events going.
- **Conference Calls and Meetings:** We had two conference calls - December 2017, and March 2018. Our regions had several group emails and Facebook posts as HQ news, deadlines, or opportunities became available. Several one-on-one emails with other states as questions would arise. All Chapters either were represented or contacted me before or after the meeting.
  - ND, NE, CO, WY, and IA were quite active.
  - Several Chapter leaders were able to meet on Saturday morning of the H&V Leadership Conference in Galena. Sara Kennedy led that meeting.
  - Visited with many Chapter leaders at the 2018 EDHI Conference in Denver.
- Outreach: The Region 7 & 8 Facebook page continues to grow for this closed group. We have 19 members with each Chapter represented.
- Training and Family Event opportunities: Encouraged the region's Chapters to register for various webinars that have been provided by H&V Headquarters. Have discussed doing some bordering state trainings and/or activities, Iowa/Nebraska, Nebraska/Colorado, Wyoming/Nebraska and Wyoming/Colorado in particular. I also hope to work with the new Montana Chapter to see if maybe it would be possible for Montana/Wyoming to possibly do a border activity.

**Next Steps:**

- As I am no longer working my other part time job I feel as though I will have more time to contact other states as the Region 7 & 8 Director. This year I will work to post more regularly on the Facebook, and make contact with different states in between meeting to see if there is anything I can help them with. I will also be better about typing up meeting minutes and making them available on our FB page.

## **H&V Region 9a**

**Coordinator: TBD –updates provided by Terri Patterson**

### **Activities:**

- Difficult to connect with the different islands in this Region, due to distance, scheduling and availability. Due to Hawaii being the only H&V Chapter in this region, developing the relationships has been key and challenging.
- There has been a reemergence of energy and parent leadership with the HI Chapter, they are in process of updating all of their administrative and legal information. Intense technical assistance has been provided to ensure training, resources and support is being provided in the Chapter's transition and re-development.
- Met by phone with interim Chapter lead on four occasions.

### **Next Steps:**

- Continue to develop and build the network in this large region.
- Continue to participate in activities with the other Regional Coordinators.
- Continue to train and support the parent leadership and encourage the professional partnerships in Hawaii.

## **H&V Region 9b, 10**

**Coordinator: Helen Cotton Leiser, H&V HQ Director of Development and Training (Oregon)**

### **Activities:**

- Region 9 met in person at the annual H&V Leadership conference 2017.
- We had good representation from each state's board and/or GBYS Coordinators overall.
- This year WA, OR and NV held their annual GBYS training together in Vancouver, WA.
- Funding and board development continues to be a priority for our Chapters. There has been a fair amount of discussion on board meetings: frequency and location with board meetings. ID has been struggling with leadership and have been working with Terri and Lisa for support, CA has had some great success with events and some fundraising
- The Facebook group has been our steady form of communication on a monthly basis.

### **Next Steps:**

- We will meet at the H&V Leadership Conference in September 2018 as a region.

## **H&V Region Canada**

**Coordinator: Kim Shauer, GBYS Coordinator, British Columbia Hands & Voices**

### **Activities:**

- Held 4 Regional meetings (Sep 16, 2017 – in person; Teleconferences held Nov 29, 2017, March 26, 2018 and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter meeting will be July 19, 2018)
- Discussion themes of our regional calls have included:
  - board member sustainability and recruitment

- grant opportunities in our various provinces and suggestions on how to find success from certain grants (i.e. focus on a particular project for the funds)
- deaf/hard of hearing community member considerations particularly around board meetings
- sharing benefit a Chapter felt utilizing H&V HQ Chapter support
- various provincial collaborative groups that exist in BC (i.e. Council of Service Providers) prompting query of if similar groups exist in AB
- reflections on leadership transitions, what has gone well & what can be improved in future, acknowledging the steep learning curve involved and support needed from each other
- new Canadian resources available (i.e. Alberta's Toolkit)
- Relationships among Chapter leaders continue to strengthen even as new leaders join the group and our established platform based on honesty & trust grows
- Continue to update contact list of H&V Chapter Leaders in Canada. (BC, AB, ON)
- Regional Coordinator provides individual support calls/emails with provinces as needed
- CDN Facebook page in use for Regional parent leaders for communication/support although emails are preferred by leaders as we are a small group
- Participated in Regional Coordinator calls scheduled.

**Next Steps:**

- Next In-person meet up will be held informally during the H&V Leadership Conference in Wyoming (Sep 2018 – BC attending, other provinces TBA)
- After July 2018, next regional conference call will be in Nov 2018.
- BCEHP providing GoToMeeting service for next CDN regional meetings.
- Continue to provide the platform and coordination for Canadian Chapters to interact and learn from one another to grow our Chapters while remaining engaged to lead and support families in our provinces.
- Provide one on one Chapter leader support as needed.

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*Hands & Voices would like to thank NCHAM and MCH/HRSA for their support in creating opportunities for continued, meaningful family involvement across the country and beyond.*

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