



HANDS & VOICES™



3rd Quarter 2020

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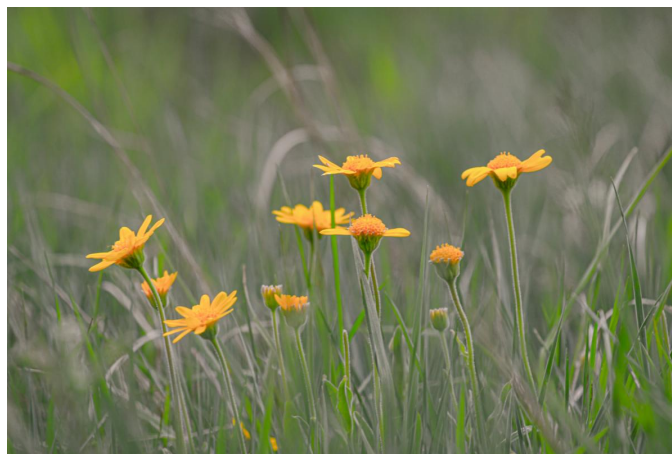
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Greetings from Hands & Voices and the FL3 Center,

In the future, how will we all describe 2020?

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic could certainly be described as a turbulent and uncertain time. We know this is impacting all of us at many levels in our daily lives. Our team has been working hard at finding resources to meet the needs of families who have children who are deaf or hard of hearing as well as ensuring all family support providers who work with families, are also feeling supported.

In the book "Your Caring Heart" by Jaiya John, the author shares "despair is not an end-point. It is the beginning of understanding how to create conditions in which a community does not despair. Hope, faith, trust, honesty, kindness, purpose, meaning, and consistency all are countless seeds for a system garden where despair does not grow." If you visit our [COVID-19 resource page](#) you will see our slogan of "We Are Community. We are Family. We are Strong."

Here at Hands & Voices and the FL3 Center our hope is all families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing know how to access the support they need, when they need it, no matter where they live. This is what makes up our community of parents, professionals, and deaf and hard of hearing adults.



HANDS & VOICES™



Upcoming Events

**Don't miss these opportunities to connect and learn with other leaders.
Registration Required**

**Webinar:
Monday, July 13, 2020**

1:00PM-2:00 PM MST

"Creating an EHDI System that Partners with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Adults"

The EHDI System is designed to serve families with children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. Deaf and Hard of Hearing adults are a valuable part of the family journey. This webinar explores [guidelines created by the FL3 Center](#) that states/territories can use to increase meaningful participation of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Adults in the EHDI System.

For more information and to register [click here](#)

**FL3 Office Hours:
Thursday, July 23, 2020
11:00AM-12:00PM MST**

**"Parent Leadership in Systems" How do we recruit, develop and serve as effective parent leaders in EHDI systems?
Najwa Ghattas, AZ Hands & Voices**

For Family Leaders and FBOs, one leader per family-based organization.

Captioning provided. Other accommodations by request, please send -by July 16th to [Candace](#)

[Click here](#) to register.

For information on future Office Hours [click here](#).



Request For Updated Family Support Contract Information

EHDI Program (HRSA-20-047) Recipients are invited to provide updated information about contracted FBOs, parent leaders, D/HH adult information. Up to 4 contacts per FBO. Please provide for each:

We invite you to get connected. Follow our [Facebook page](#), research and contact family based organizations and family leaders in your state/territory or province that provides support to families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing, and check out our [calendar](#) of upcoming events. We are here for you!

In partnership,
Lisa Kovacs, Hands & Voices Director of Programs,
FL3 Center Director, Parent

*This Hands & Voices and FL3 Center quarterly eNews is intended for a broad audience. Please feel free to disseminate it to others. Our hope is that Family Based Organizations, Family Leaders, and professionals will forward it to their distribution lists.



**FL3 Consultant Position Open
Apply by July 15th, 2020**

Consultant Position open at Hands & Voices Headquarters for Supporting Underrepresented Populations.

For more information, requirements, and deadline for applying, [click here](#).



Upcoming NCHAM Webinars

**July 16th, 2020
11:00AM-12:00PM MST**

"Self-Care During "Interesting Times": Beyond the Advice to Eat Better and Get a Good Night's Sleep"

[Click Here](#) for more information and to register.

**July 23, 2020
1:00 PM-2:00 PM MST**

"Introduction of Family Support/Role of Families in the EHDi System"

Organization Name, Contact Person Name, Email, Title, Phone Number, webpage (if applicable).

[Click here](#) to review the current information we have.

Please send updates to:
FL3@handsandvoices.org

**U.S. Specific



The H&V 2020 Leadership Conference in Nashville Tennessee has been postponed until 2021.

[Click here](#) to download our official announcement. We are planning "something extraordinary" as an alternative. Stay tuned to our [Conference web page](#) for more information coming soon.



Family Education Workshop

**July 18, 2020 11:00 AM-12:30 PM
MST**

**July 21, 2020 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
MST**

**Strategies that Stick
Promoting Positive Behavior
at Home**

This parent workshop will focus on promoting positive behavior at home using Pyramid Model strategies for preventing challenging behavior. Simple strategies will be discussed that can be

[Click Here](#) for more information and to register.

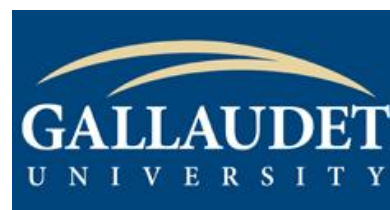


Global Coalition of Parents of Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (GPODHH) announce new Co-Chair: Snigdha Sarkar. Snigdha has accepted this leadership role alongside current co-chair Ann Porter, president of Aussie Deaf Kids.

Snigdha is well known to GPODHH, having come on board in 2014. She was designated Director Global Parent Advocacy in 2019.

She and husband Kanchan Das Gupta are proud parents of daughter Sneha Das Gupta who was born with profound hearing loss in both ears. "It was a long and difficult journey, like every one of us has experienced," Snigdha reflected, "But Sneha did well; she is now doing a PhD."

In her own country of India, Snigdha is the founder of the parent support group Anwasha Kolkata which started in 2004. Anwasha supports families with DHH children in many areas promoting educational and social inclusion for the children and young adults. Snigdha is currently the president of the organisation.



Gallaudet University is offering free basic ASL classes online. Accredited ASL courses also available online.



American Sign Language - Zoo Animals
[Click here](#) for more information.

immediately incorporated at home with young children. All family members who have children with hearing loss are welcome!

For More Information and to Register
[Click Here](#)

**PLEASE READ:
IMPORTANT
MESSAGE**

**Joint letter from the
Administration for Children and
Families and the Health
Resources and Services
Administration**

The Administration for Children and Families and the Health Resources and Services Administration urge grantees and their state/territory/tribes and local partners to collaborate in new and creative ways to engage and support the whole family: [Click here](#) for letter.



**Archived Webinar Q/A: Accessible Remote
Education During COVID-19**
Presented June 3rd, 2020

This webinar discussed how remote education is impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The panelists shared tools and technology available to ensure deaf and hard of hearing children are not left behind. Panelists also had the opportunity to review and discuss the NAD's Position Statement and Advocacy Letter for PreK-12 Remote Education.



WEBINAR: Accessible Remote Education During COVID-19 (English Audio)

[Spanish interpretation available here.](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON
SUCCESS

Stronger Together: Collaborations Across Nevada Benefit Families
By
Erin Wilcox, Nevada Hands & Voices

Nevada Hands & Voices (NV H&V), Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS), and Deaf Centers of Nevada (DCN) have brought families together through collaborations between parent guides, deaf mentors, and early intervention (EI) providers. The development of language playgroups and other family engagement events has been a valuable way for these Family-Based Organizations (FBOs) to meet the needs of families of deaf and hard of hearing (D/HH) children throughout the state. Providing these interactions among D/HH children and their families has played a huge roll in increasing family engagement and connecting these families with NV deaf adults, EI providers, and parent guides.

The vision for the language playgroups was to provide families a place to connect and ask questions of a team of professionals, socialize with other families, learn through language, and receive resources at the early stages of their child's language development. Started in Reno by a NVH&V parent guide, DCN deaf mentor, and NEIS SKI-

HI developmental specialist (DS), the language playgroups occur twice a month. At each playgroup, spoken and visual language is modeled by deaf adults, interpreters, speech language pathologists (SLPs), developmental specialists, parent guides, and audiologists through various activities a family can do with everyday items at home.

Benefits:

- D/HH children socialize and connect with other children with similar technology and varying modes of communication, learn listening and speaking skills, storytelling, play skills, and have fun.
- Parents get information and resources, bond with other parents in the community, engage with the professionals that support them, and enjoy structured play time with their child.
- Through deaf mentors, everyone is introduced to Deaf Culture, ASL storytelling, and connect with adults who are D/HH in a casual environment.
- Parents have indicated that the language playgroups have given them a safe and comfortable place to share their concerns, ask questions of a team of professionals all in one place, be welcomed, no matter the choices they have made for their D/HH child.

Drawing on the statewide network of EI professionals to bring in families, NV H&V and DCN conducted a series of town hall meetings to introduce rural families, we to resources and available support services such as the language playgroup.

Perry Smith, Nevada Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program Coordinator, says of the collaboration, "the Nevada EHDI Program is extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to work with NV H&V, DCN and NEIS. These two FBOs and NEIS make a huge impact within the Nevada D/HH community. In addition to the provision of cross-program play groups, other valuable contributions include: Guide-By-Your-Side family support program, deaf mentoring services, follow-up activities for EHDI, parents and providers who are well trained, as well as representation from each of these entities on the Nevada EHDI Stakeholder Committee. Nevada EHDI and the state benefit greatly from these organizations."

Language playgroups in Reno and now Las Vegas, together with joint in-home visits, parent meetings, and family fun events, have provided a better understanding and appreciation among families of all three FBO's and their involvement in family's lives. We now have more families and early intervention providers who come to the language playgroup to communicate, work, and play with the children. We credit the success of this collaborative programs to our close working relationship with the Nevada EHDI program, deaf community, and professionals who understand the importance of community and support early on in a D/HH child's journey.

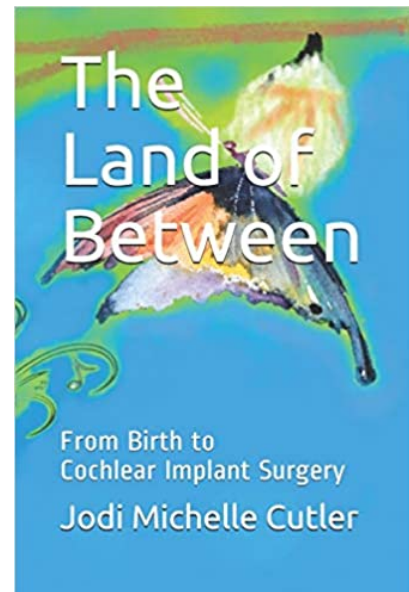
Book Review Submitted By Karen Putz

"All we can do is our best, and our best is directly dependent on the curve balls life throws us along the way. Be kind to yourselves and know that your child is already so fortunate to have a parent like you as their advocate."

This piece of wisdom is found in Jodi Michelle Cutler's book: **"The Land of Between: From Birth to Cochlear Implant Surgery."** Jodi shares her journey of being a mom to a deaf son as an American living in Italy.

"When you find yourself in The Land of Between, you create your own language as you navigate the limbo," Jodi says. "You invent alternative communication methods to make sure that the important messages arrive. You honor your sensation of being suspended in mid-air and confront your fears and uncertainties by accepting and embracing them. You learn to bridge that gap Between Silence and Sound with love, hugs and compassion, which serve to lay down your roots. As time passes, those roots weave a strong and stable foundation from which the tree grows higher, reaching for the sky, filled with green leaves and ...ultimately, fruit."

Jodi is also the author of two other books, "Rally Caps" and "View from My Window in Tuscany."





Jodi and her children, Sofia and Jordan

[Website](#) [Resources](#) [Facebook Page](#)