Hello from Hands & Voices and the Family Leadership in Language and Learning (FL3) Center,

We hope this edition of the FL3 Center E-News finds you having time to enjoy the fall season. With the Thanksgiving holiday approaching, it is a wonderful time to consider what we are thankful for. Here at the FL3 Center, we have so much to be thankful for:

- An incredible community of parent leaders across the US states and territories
- Professionals who encourage and fully support our work as Parent Leaders
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Adults who willingly share their valuable lived experiences to influence and guide our work
- An EHDI system that recognizes the importance of family engagement, leadership, and support
- Leadership at HRSA and the opportunity to be a part of their coordinated portfolio of programs to support the EHDI system
- Our partners, there are too many to name individually, but please know we are so thankful for the ability to work alongside each of you
- All families, the uniqueness of each family story continues to guide and motivate us towards continuous systemic improvements

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us at the FL3 Center. We are here for you!

Wishing you all a beautiful Fall season and I hope you get a moment to breathe deep and reflect on the blessings that surround us in our work with families and their children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

Lisa Kovacs
Hands & Voices Director of Programs / FL3 Center Director

The Newborn Screening Family Education Program (Navigate Newborn Screening), a core program of Expecting Health, is dedicated to supporting families through their newborn screening journeys. We know that the pandemic and other emergencies have impacted how we receive and navigate the healthcare system. It's important that we share information, resources, and tools that can help you adapt.
The American School for the Deaf (ASD) has developed an Online Academy, an accessible online education platform designed specifically for deaf and hard of hearing students anywhere in the world. Initially Online Academy will offer part-time core curriculum classes to supplement a student’s current educational programs; however, in the future, the Online Academy will include diverse course and curriculum offerings, to become a comprehensive full-time online program, with extracurricular activities, support services, and more. The Online Academy will be a flexible program, fitting the needs of each student: a primary source of education, supplement to a student’s current public or private school education, or access to tutoring opportunities.

NTRC Quality Improvement Learning Modules

The National Technical Resource Center’s Quality Improvement (QI) Learning Modules are four 15-to-25-minute modules that are meant to provide a good base in QI, to show how to use this methodology to improve EHDI systems of care, and to learn from EHDI Program staff. For more information, email Alyson Ward.

FL3 Office Hours – CHANGE IN DATE
(Previously scheduled for November 18th)

FL3 Office Hours
Thursday, November 11th, 2021
11 – 12 PM MT

Audience: Family Leaders and FBOs

“Relationship Building at the State/Territory Level”

CMV and Newborn Hearing Screening Brochures

The National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM) and the National CMV Foundation have partnered in developing a Cytomegalovirus (CMV) and Newborn Hearing Screening educational brochure for widespread dissemination. To request copies of these brochures, please complete the survey here to provide your contact information.
Level” - What are successful ideas for forging strong partnerships between family support programs and community stakeholders?

Facilitated by Teri Urban, Chairperson from Virginia H&V.

Captioning Provided. Please email Candace by November 4th for any other communication access requests.

Register here

Past FL3 Office Hours Strategies and Resources

Click here to see the latest summaries of strategies and resources shared at sessions since May 2021. Topics include “Timely Enrollment to Family Support Services,” “Parent Leader and DHH Adult Recruitment,” and “Strengths and Challenges of Providing Support to Rural and Remote Communities.”

FL3 Parent Tip Sheets NEW Family Activity Plan and Video Interviews

The 8 FL3 Parent Tip Sheets now include a “Family Activity Plan.” Parents can work with their child’s Early Intervention provider to focus on various language, literacy and social emotional development skills covered in the Tip Sheets and use the worksheet to schedule activities in everyday routines.

Recorded video interviews (captioned) with experts discussing the Tip Sheets, strategies and resources are available here. Two new interviews with Dr. Christie Yoshinaga-Itano on “Phonology” and “Syntax and Morphology” are now available. Watch for more to come!

New Resource Guide for Families of Children who are DHH Plus

“Connecting Families of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing Plus (DHH Plus) with Resources and Support” was developed by the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Parent to Parent Committee, for families who have children who are DHH Plus, because we know that supporting our child’s ability to reach their individual potential is at the heart of the issue in the journey of raising a child who is DHH Plus. Knowing that approximately 35-40% (Gallaudet Research Institute, 2011) of children who are DHH also have additional/other needs, the combined effect of hearing loss with additional needs presents a unique and complex challenge to professionals and
The purpose of this guide is to ensure that:

- Your family knows how, where, and why to access expertise, resources and information for your child who is DHH Plus.
- To share information about the benefits and availability of connections to other families and adults who are DHH Plus, so you know you are not alone.
- To assert your right to have high expectations for your child.

*This Guide was developed by the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Parent to Parent Committee, which is an interdisciplinary, inter-agency/inter-organizational and diverse parent/professional group. This committee is open to anyone who is interested – professionals, parents, DHH adults. For more information contact Janet DesGeorges, Co-chair for this committee.

Guidebook: Community of Support – Connecting Families of Children who are D/HH with Individuals who are D/HH

All families, regardless of degree of hearing loss/level or communication/language of their child, should have the opportunity to interact and learn from D/HH Adults. This may include formal to informal interaction, from high level interactivity to low. This guidebook was developed by the EHDI Parent-to-Parent Committee which is comprised of diverse professionals and parents. The goals for the Guidebook are:

- To share information about the positive aspects of connecting families with deaf and hard of hearing adults and community members.
- To describe several ways systems can provide and facilitate these connections. These approaches can be used in any combination, and they can be used at different points in a family’s experience. Families should be able to choose the combination(s) that suit their situation.

Click here for more information.

Meeting the Challenge: A Road Map to Success!

*Submitted by Guam’s Positive Parents Together and Guam EHDI Programs*

Guam is no stranger to disasters. 2020 has proved to be a year of challenges for most states and territories due to the pandemic. Sometimes challenges offer opportunities to expose vulnerabilities and force us to find alternatives to providing services in ways we would never have imagined. 2020 was that year! Guam EHDI worked with its partners to fill the vulnerable gaps due to the government shutdowns and strict guidelines for social distancing.

Some solutions to meet the challenges included: tracking babies who did not pass the initial hearing screening and continued referral to early intervention by the public hospital; a formalized referral process for Guam Early Intervention System and Guam(GEIS) and Guam Hearing Doctors (GHD) to connect a parent of an infant newly identified with a hearing loss with Guam’s Positive Parents Together (GPPT) our family partner; the development of training videos, locally produced American Sign Language (ASL) videos, EHDI PSA featuring the audiologist consultant, and a commercial providing awareness about GPPT; outdoor banners located strategically in highly populated villages and the Free COVID 19 Vaccination Clinic spearheaded by the Guam National Guard which served as the largest vaccine distribution center for the island; indoor banners located a private birthing center and the WIC Office; the production of a Shared Plan of
Care Journal; a media outreach campaign through the local newspapers, text blasts, Facebook, You Tube, television airing of GPPT and Guam EHDI Public Service Announcements, and live radio interviews featuring Guam EHDI and its partners; resuming outpatient hearing screening for babies born at the public hospital; providing DAEs to infants; and providing telehealth services to families.

The program would like to highlight the EHDI Shared Plan of Care Journal. The purpose of the EHDI Shared Plan of Care (SPoC) Journal is to help families navigate through the hearing screening process with ease, to assist parent(s)/caregiver(s) track and monitor their child's growth and development, to provide families with the tools to become advocates for their child and to quickly find the appropriate services for the child identified with a hearing loss. In addition, the EHDI Journal provides families with contact information of agencies, service providers, nonprofit family support groups, activities to encourage language and speech development, and parent reflections on raising a child with hearing loss, as well as the DHH adult perspective.

It is meant to be used throughout the child’s first three years in the EI system. When a child is diagnosed with hearing loss, the audiologist fills in the child’s hearing information in the EHDI SPoC Journal. The family brings this journal to the pediatrician/primary care physician to fill out the child's medical history. This document is also brought to the IFSP meeting for the team to share and include intervention information. The journal has a perpetual calendar to keep track of appointments, meetings, and other events. The journal is utilized by GPPT for future training sessions with parents and paired with videos produced by EHDI that relate to information in the SPoC.

Guam EHDI would like to acknowledge the contributors to the content of the EHDI SPoC Journal. A “Dångkalu na si Yu'os ma'åse' and thank you” to Trisha Suzuki, Jamae Quenga, Evelyn & Wil Topasna, Ann Marie & John Cruz, Tasha Cruz, the Central Institute for the Deaf – CID, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Hands & Voices. Funding for these products and activities was made possible through a reallocation of HRSA funds, Supplemental HRSA funds, a grant award from ACHMP, and funding from CORE.

**Hearing First “Living LSL” Live Webinar**

**“Talk, Read, Sing: Grow Your Child’s Brain”**

**Wednesday, November 3rd**

**11 AM MT**

Wondering how to grow your child’s brain and get them ready for school, friends, and life? It’s YOU! As a parent, your interactions with your child helps to build their brain. Dr. Carol Flexer will share ways you can set them up for success through language building and development of important social skills.

[Register Here]

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**Updated EHDI-PALS Resources**

The EHDI-PALS Website/Directory has been improved and updated, including:

- Cosmetic overhaul of the look and feel of the entire website
- New professional facility search portal
- Family Resources section overhaul. (Spanish translation coming soon)
- Updated EHDI Program staff tools and navigation
- New “Link to Us” page with a variety of badges along with downloadable materials so that other websites can have stylish links to EHDI PALS

For more information, [Click Here]
The National Cued Speech Association (NCSA) now offers seasonal-themed Deaf Children’s Literacy Project (DCLP) Children's Kits with activities to support children learning Cued American English. Families who receive a free DCLP Parent Kit are able to order one FREE seasonal DCLP Children's Kit, and purchase the other three seasonal DCLP Children's Kits at half-price at the Cue College Cue Store. Families may sign up for the free kit by filling out the form on the DCLP webpage of the NCSA website. The first seasonal kit, Cue With Me in the Fall!, includes language-based games (Memory and I Spy), over 40 flashcards, manipulatives, rhyming skills worksheets, a curated book list, and reference materials.

The NCSA has a new Cues of American English Poster available for purchase in the Cue College Cue Store. This 24” x 36”, double-sided poster contains illustrated cuers modeling the 40 phonemes of American English.

Book Review
Coming to Our Senses, by Susan R. Barry
Candace Lindow-Davies

“When Liam and Zohra first gained a new sense, they were bombarded with novel sensations-colors and lines, a cacophony of sounds-which were disembodied and meaningless. Both had to retrain the way they took in their surroundings, reorder their perceptual world, and rewire the networks in their brain. In short, they had to learn a new way of being.” Susan Barry, professor emeritus of biology and neuroscience at Mount Holyoke College, shares the experiences of two individuals, Liam McCoy who was almost blind since infancy and Zohra Damji who was profoundly deaf since birth. Woven through their stories are references to research, tales of others who have regained vision and hearing, as well as Barry’s own journey to developing stereovision. Keen insight to what children who are deaf may potentially encounter and the importance of love and support that helps them become successful adults.

How to Submit a Request for FL3 Technical Assistance

Requesting technical assistance from the FL3