



The H&V Family Leadership in Language and Learning

"Hands & Voices Family Leadership: Where love, language and learning thrive."



June 30, 2017

Greetings,

On April 1st, Hands & Voices entered into a three year cooperative agreement with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to support the development of statewide newborn and infant hearing screening, evaluation, diagnosis, and intervention (**EHDI**) programs and systems. This will be accomplished by promoting the inclusion of families, parents and caregivers of deaf or hard of hearing infants/children identified through the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Program as leaders in their statewide EHDI system.

This new cooperative agreement is called Family Leadership in Language and Learning (**FL3**) and its goal is to ensure that United States subsidized EHDI systems incorporate certain elements that support the families, parents and caregivers of deaf or hard of hearing infants/children identified through newborn hearing screening in optimizing language, literacy, and social-emotional development. The first quarter of the cooperative agreement has been busy with the start of a National Needs Assessment, providing technical assistance to EHDI systems stakeholders, and the convening of Advisory Boards. Work has also begun on developing website infrastructure to support the trainings and information that is being gathered.

As we continue into the next quarter, please reach out to us if you have questions or need assistance. We look forward to developing the resources that families need to optimize the language, literacy, and social-emotional development of their children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Happy Summer,
The FL3 Team

FL3 Updates The First 3 Months

- The FL3 program is beginning the first 6 months of the project with a formal, national needs assessment that will be coordinated with the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management (**NCHAM**) to gather information on **family engagement** within the EHDI systems. This information will be used to drive the content of the trainings, educational materials and resources that will be developed and distributed over the remaining period of the agreement.
- An advisory board of national experts on language, literacy, and social development with a broad range of experiences will convene to serve as advisors. The Advisory Board will summarize the latest evidence-based research findings, identify current resources and training opportunities for infants/toddlers/children identified as deaf or hard of hearing in cognitive, social, and emotional developmental process and developmental milestones. The first meeting was held June 20, 2017.
- An Advisory Board comprised of diverse individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing has been assembled to provide input to, review the results and make recommendations from the national needs assessment of families. This will help support an increase of mentor opportunities and involvement of trained D/HH individuals in EHDI systems, and raise parent awareness and value around the critical role of DHH adults. This advisory board met on June 21, 2017
- The FL3 program is available to support state/territory EHDI systems and the identified Family Based Organizations to improve family engagement, partnership, and leadership within the EHDI System. Examples of recent technical assistance that has been provided includes; assisting with work plans, budgets, parent to parent support programming, DHH Adult to parent support programming, etc.



Upcoming Webinars Registration Information Coming Soon

Co-Production of Services: The Family/Professional Partnerships in EHDI Systems

Wednesday July 26, 2017

12:00 PM MST to 1:00 PM MST

Fostering Family Engagement and Leadership in EHDI Systems

Thursday August 31, 2017

12:00 PM MST to 1:00 PM MST

Things to Watch For in the Coming Months

There are many ways in which the FL3 will support the efforts of family organizations, individual parents, and state system stakeholders. Watch for these upcoming activities:

- Email sent out to EHDI Coordinators to collect data on identified family-based organizations who have contracted with state/territory EHDI programs.
- FL3 Introduction in American Sign Language posted to H&V [website](#)
- Video Interview about the importance of D/HH Adults in the lives of families.

Hands & Voices Leadership Conference 2017

[Register Now](#)



H&V Leadership Conference September 15-17th, 2017
Galena, Illinois

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

FL3 Contacts and Information



Information

If you have questions about FL3, please [contact us](#).
For staff assignments and contact information click [here](#).



Hands & Voices Mission:

Hands & Voices is a parent-driven organization that supports families with children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing without a bias around communication modes or methodology.

Hands & Voices operates several outreach activities, parent/professional collaborations, and advocacy efforts that are focused on supporting families in order to ensure Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing children reach their highest potential. Several of the organization's main operating programs and projects include: [Guide By Your Side \(GBYS\)](#), [O.U.R. Project](#), [Advocacy Support & Training \(ASTra\)](#), [DHH Adult Infusion](#), [Deafed.net](#), Annual H&V Leadership Conference, Chapter Support and Information Dissemination as detailed on the Hands & Voices website. [Click here](#) for more information about Hands & Voices

Quick Links...

[Website](#)

[FL3](#)

[H&V Leadership Conference](#)

[Contacts](#)

[Questions](#)



This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number UJ1MC30748-01-00 for Family Leadership In Language And Learning for \$1,500,000.

This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.