



A Hands & Voices Webinar

The Community Code of Kindness

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Date: Tuesday, August 14th, 2024 Time: 11:00am – 12:00pm MT

Adjust your time zone accordingly.

Description

Join the Hands & Voices Family Leadership in Language and Learning (FL3) Center for the next presentation in our Leadership Webinar series, **The Community Code of Kindness**. In 2022, seven national organizations gathered together in what was known as the 2022 FL3 Partnership Summit, to develop and build upon existing organizational partnerships and to create opportunities for systemic improvement through policy and promising practices discussions. These organizations were identified as organizations that provide direct family-to-family support, including Alexander Graham Bell Association, American Society for Deaf Children, Family Voices, Hands & Voices, Hearing First, National Cued Speech Association, and the National Center of Deaf-Blindness. The result of this meeting created action steps towards a project together, now known as The Community Code of Kindness. This presentation will share the process by which the group came together through consensus, and how other stakeholders can adopt and apply the commitments and agreements contained within.

1. Build understanding on the genesis, evolution, and end result of a joint statement that was created and adopted to guide collaborative interactions.
2. Discuss application of the commitments and agreements that can be utilized in EHDI stakeholder circles.
3. Empower participants to adopt and utilize the commitments and agreements for partnerships they may be involved in.

Primary Audience

Family leaders, family-based support organizations, Deaf-based organizations. EHDI program staff, EHDI systems stakeholders, and Pediatric Healthcare Professionals are also welcome.

Presenters

Janet DesGeorges, Hands & Voices Headquarters

Janet DesGeorges lives in Boulder, Colorado and is Executive Director of Hands & Voices Headquarters and the P.I. for the FL3 Center. Janet has presented to groups worldwide about the experiences of families as they journey through life with a child with deafness or hearing loss. Ms. DesGeorges received a program certificate from the MCH Public Health Leadership Institute in 2011 at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill. As an EHDI Systems advocate, Janet believes in the principles and guiding philosophies of Hands & Voices towards a parent-driven, professionally-collaborative approach when supporting families in the early years.

Cheri Dowling, American Society for Deaf Children

Cheri Dowling is a parent of a 29-year-old young man who is deaf with intellectual disabilities. Cheri is the Executive Director of the American Society for Deaf Children has worked with the Family Support and Resource Center at the Maryland School for the Deaf supporting families in Maryland for over 25 years. She has served on state and national committees and councils over the years.

Gayla Guignard, A.G. Bell

Gayla Guignard is the Chief Strategy & Programs Officer of the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (AG Bell). She was the Indiana State EHDI Coordinator for six year and also spent two years as the inaugural Director of the Indiana Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education. Prior to her roles in administration, Gayla spent many years providing services to children who are deaf/hard of hearing and their families and in the training of undergraduate and graduate audiology, speech-language pathology and deaf education students. Gayla's work as an audiologist, speech-language pathologist, certified Listening and Spoken Language Specialist (LSLS Cert. AVT), and non-profit and government program administrator has provided her with multi perspectives of the field.