

Board of Directors Updates as of 04/23/2024

Resource Development Quality Assurance: Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community Specialist- Jess Nestelroad

Vendor Updates	<p>Currently searching for Audiologists that would like to become vendored with FNRC. At this time, there is 1 vendored Audiologist and they are out of the Redding area. There has been difficulty with finding providers that are willing to vendor due to already having their schedules full and not wanting to take on more.</p> <p>Jess and Kao have meet with two interested Audiologists via phone or Zoom. One has stated that they are not interested while the other has stated that they would like to work with FNRC clients. That Audiologist is out of South Lake Tahoe, CA and although it is out of our service area, we are hopeful that they can provide services to our clients.</p>
Educational/Outreach Activities	<p>The DHH community has monthly coffee socials, pizza socials, senior breakfast socials, and outreach planning committee meetings throughout the FNRC catchment area. When flyers or information is received by DHH Specialist, they are sent to the FNRC team to be distributed.</p> <p>Nor Cal Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing is hosting a Deaf+ Parent Support Group via Zoom on 04/25/2024 and has been having them on a monthly basis.</p> <p>Jess is available to attend IEP meetings, IPP meetings, IDT meetings, and Intake assessments with Service Coordinators if they request.</p> <p>Jess is working on meeting with various day programs and vendors in the FNRC catchment area to educate them on the Deaf Community and Culture to ensure that best practices are taking place when working with the DHH population. Jess also hopes to identify barriers</p>

in these spaces and what support is needed to overcome them.

Jess presented on DHH culture and community to Unit 140 during their unit meeting on 03/07/2024, and Unit 120 during their unit meeting on 04/03/2024. Jess is coordinating with other units to schedule a time to complete the presentation with them.

Statewide Updates

The DHH Specialists across the state have created three work groups (Support Groups; Vendor Training; and Accessibility Checklist). These groups meet monthly and collaborate on what is working and what is not working at their regional center. They are also working on organizing support groups, creating a training for vendors that is standard for the whole state, and building an accessibility checklist to help identify barriers and things that need to be improved on in both a DHH Clients home and/ or program.

DHH Specialists have a bi-monthly meeting which is next scheduled for 05/29/2024 where an update from each of these groups will be given. Each specialist also will provide information on how things are going at their regional centers. The main focus at this time for all specialists is the Vendor Training work group where the hope is to create a training the will be consistent across the state for our vendors on Deaf community and culture.

General Updates

Jess is working on creating a resource guide for Deaf+ individuals in FNRC's catchment area. Resources will be both local and generalized agencies that can provide services and supports.

Webpage DHH tab is available under client tab on the FNRC webpage.

ASL classes and upcoming DHH community events are available there.

NorCal Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing hosts social events for the community

monthly. This information can be found on our FNRC DHH page or on Nor Cal's event page.

Jess assisted with tabling and outreach at the Shasta College Resource Fair on 03/19/2024 where she was able to share information about the DHH+ Community.

Jess attended the Grassroots event in Sacramento on 04/02/2024. ARCA organized the annual Grassroots Day where regional center representatives met with state senators and assembly members to discuss obstacles and issues pertaining to regional center services. The primary focus was getting representatives to sign the letter which is supporting the DSP pay increase that the governor is currently trying to delay. The FNRC Team and members from We Care A Lot met with Senator Brian Dahle, a staff member for Assemblywoman Megan Dahle, and a staff member for Assemblyman James Gallagher.

Jess has been assisting with HCBS Compliance Assessments with the FNRC team and has been ensuring that all communication needs are met in the homes and programs that are being assessed.