Board of Directors Updates as of 05/31/2024

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

Vendor Updates	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. 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. They have submitted a vendor packet and it is in the process of being reviewed.
Educational/Outreach Activities	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. Jess is available to attend IEP meetings, IPP meetings, Quarterly meetings, IDT meetings, and Intake assessments with Service Coordinators if they request. Jess is working on meeting with various day programs, residential homes, 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 in these spaces and what support is needed to overcome them.

	FNRC has been invited to have a booth at the upcoming Deaf & Hard of Hearing Awareness day at Turtle Bay that is to be held on 09/10/2024.
	Jess is coordinating with Case Management units to schedule a time to complete a DHH culture and community presentation with them. The presentation is also being integrated into the training plan that is currently being developed for new staff.
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 was last held on 05/29/2024. Each specialist provided 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. There is concern across the state that there is disconnect between the DHH Specialists and Case Management and their role. Jess has not has this concern at FNRC and feels that collaboration with Case Management is strong.
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. The next big event in the FNRC catchment area will be the Deaf BBQ at Anderson River Park on 07/27/2024 from 10am-4pm. 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.