

## Board of Directors Updates as of 09/13/2024

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

<b>Vendor Updates</b>	<p>Currently searching for Audiologists that would like to become vendored with FNRC. At this time, there is 2 vendored Audiologist and they are in the Redding and South Lake Tahoe areas. 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 worked with the rest of the Community Services Department to vendor an Audiologist in 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> <p>Collaboration will be taking place with Alta Regional Center, Valley Mountain Regional Center, and other regional centers to identify other Audiologists that may be further away, but that we can courtesy vendor.</p>
<b>Educational/Outreach Activities</b>	<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>Jess is available to attend IEP meetings, IPP meetings, Quarterly meetings, IDT meetings, and Intake assessments with Service Coordinators if they request.</p> <p>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</p>

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

FNRC had a booth at the Deaf & Hard of Hearing Awareness day at Turtle Bay that on 08/10/2024. Approximately 110 individuals stopped at the booth and the event was well received. Turtle Bay hopes to plan more events like this in the future as they got good feedback from it.

Jess will be volunteering at various upcoming FNRC outreach booths to ensure that information about the Deaf+ community is made available as well as access to communication if needed.

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 now integrated into the new staff training plan. Every new hire will have to take the training within six months of starting at FRNC. The first training was held via Zoom on 09/06/2024 with RDQA Diversity and Inclusion Specialist- Maria Nazari.

**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 07/31/2024. 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

	<p>to create a training the will be consistent across the state for our vendors on Deaf community and culture. The specialists are currently working on planning a gathering where they can all come together in person to collaborate and also receive more training. Many of the specialist are newer and do not quite understand their role within the regional center.</p>
<p><b>General Updates</b></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Webpage DHH tab is available under client tab on the FNRC webpage. ASL classes and upcoming DHH community events are available there.</p> <p>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. They are hosting a Deaf+ Parent Support Group via Zoom every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every other month. The next group will be on 09/19/2024.</p>