

## Board of Directors Updates as of 02/28/2025

### 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>A request has been sent to Valley Mountain Regional Center for a courtesy vendorization for Nor Cal Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The Community Services team is working on getting it completed so that services such as ASL Interpretation can be accessed. Vendorization takes time and a courtesy vendorization is fully reliant on getting documentation from the other regional center.</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 hopes to identify barriers in these spaces and what support is needed to overcome them.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Jess is scheduled to complete a DHH culture and community presentation to every new hire within six months of them starting at FNRC.</p> <p>Jess recently attended the following trainings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Deaf+ Parent Support Group- “Deaf+ IEP Advocacy Strategies” on 01/23/2025 via Zoom.</li><li>- DDS Training “Part 2 of Building Awareness of the Unique Needs of Deaf+ Individuals: Fostering Allyship and Understanding Diversity through a Trauma-Informed Lens” on 02/07/2025 via Zoom.</li></ul>

	<p>Jess plans to attend the following trainings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Blue Envelope Training on 03/06/2025 via Zoom.</li> <li>- DDS Training on the DeafBlind Community on 02/07/2025 via Zoom.</li> <li>- Voices to Hands "Language Acquisition for All" training on 03/25/2025 via Zoom.</li> </ul>
<b>Statewide Updates</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>DHH Specialists have a bi-monthly meeting which was last held on 02/26/2025. The main focus at this time for all specialists is looking into grants, and preparing for the upcoming changes to service codes. The specialists are currently working on planning a gathering where they can come together in person to collaborate and also receive more training.</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for 04/23/2025 where an update from DDS is expected to give more information about a gathering possibility and potential dates.</p> <p>There is concern across the state for the lack of interpreters available which in return can delay the IPP meetings and process.</p>
<b>General Updates</b>	<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>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.</p> <p>Jess is scheduled to attend Grassroots Day in Sacramento on March 4, 2025 where she and several other FNRC representatives will meet with government officials to advocate for the Workforce Policy Bill, Seizure Rescue Medication Bill, The Concurrent Resolution on the 40th Anniversary of Entitlement, and The Master Plan for Developmental Services.</p>