

2023 EHDI Conference

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Engagement in EHDI and Early Intervention Systems

WHO ARE WE?

California: Julie Rems-Smario, Ed.D., California EHDI Co-Coordinator, Early Language and Education Programs Consultant

California: Sheri Farinha, M.Ed., Principal Investigator, California HRSA Grant, California EHDI Co-Coordinator & CEO, NorCal Services of the Deaf

Maine: Karen Hopkins, M.Ed, CAS, ABD, Principal Investigator, Maine HRSA Grant, Executive Director, Maine Educational Center for the Deaf

Objectives:

- Participants will be able to describe how Deaf leadership and embedding Deaf and hard of hearing adults into a statewide EHDI system benefits families of Deaf and hard of hearing children.
- Participants will be able to identify ways to embed Deaf and hard of hearing Adults into their state's EHDI and early intervention processes.
- Participants will identify simple system changes to ensure Deaf and hard of hearing children have the opportunity to meet Deaf and hard of hearing adults.



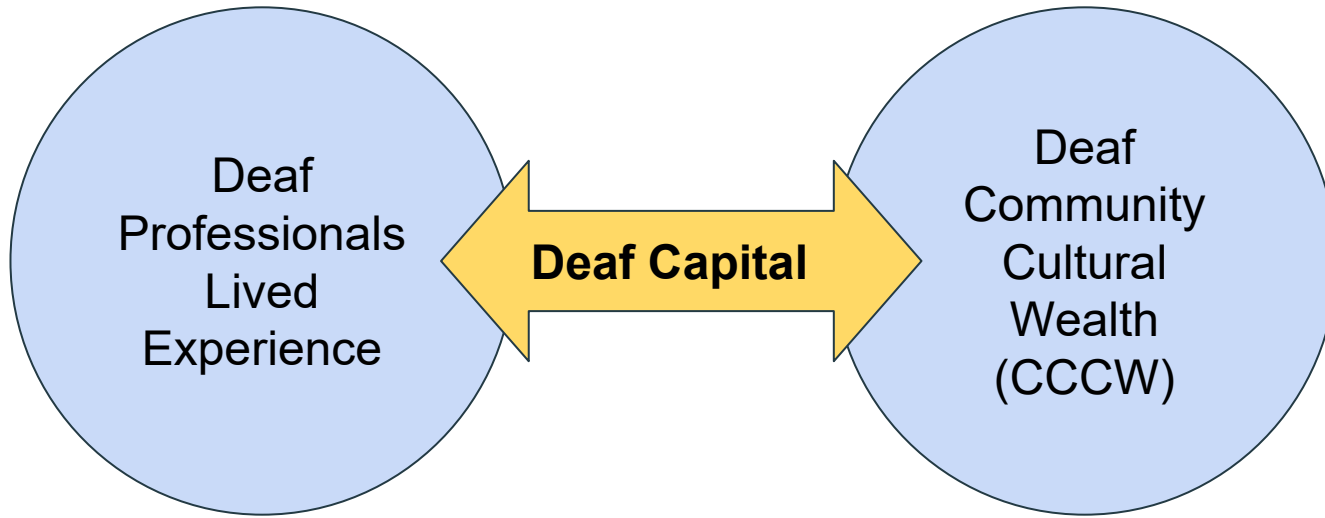
Two States have Deaf Leadership in EHDI

Why only two ?

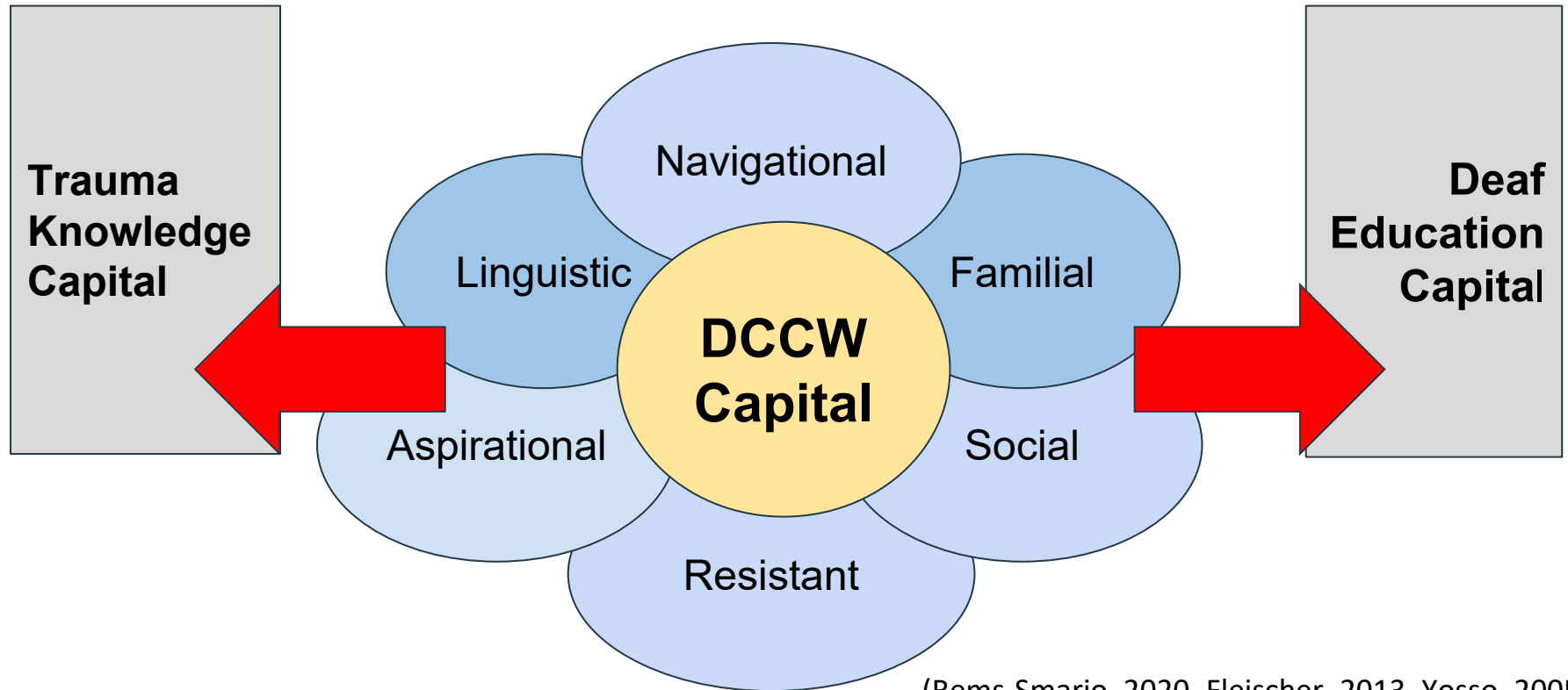
Why did California and Maine decide to write for the HRSA grant?

What can we do to ensure Deaf adults are fully embedded into state's systems?

The Importance of Deaf Professionals' Lived Experience



Deaf Professionals' Capital for Families of Deaf Infants



(Rems-Smario, 2020, Fleischer, 2013, Yosso, 2005)

Goals of CA EHDI: LEAD-K Family Services Program

1

hearing screening of all infants before 1 month of age

3

audiological diagnosis before 3 months of age if the infant does not pass hearing screening

6

enrollment in early intervention services by 6 months of age

6

connected with Family/Parent Mentor by 6 months of age

9

enrollment in Deaf Coach services as offered through early intervention by 9 months of age

Main Parts

EARLY START REFERRALS

PARENT MENTORS

DEAF COACH COORDINATORS

CA EHDI LEAD-K Family Services

Stakeholders

STATE PARTNERSHIPS: DHCS, DDS,
DSS, CDE, and more!



CA EHDI:

LEAD-K™

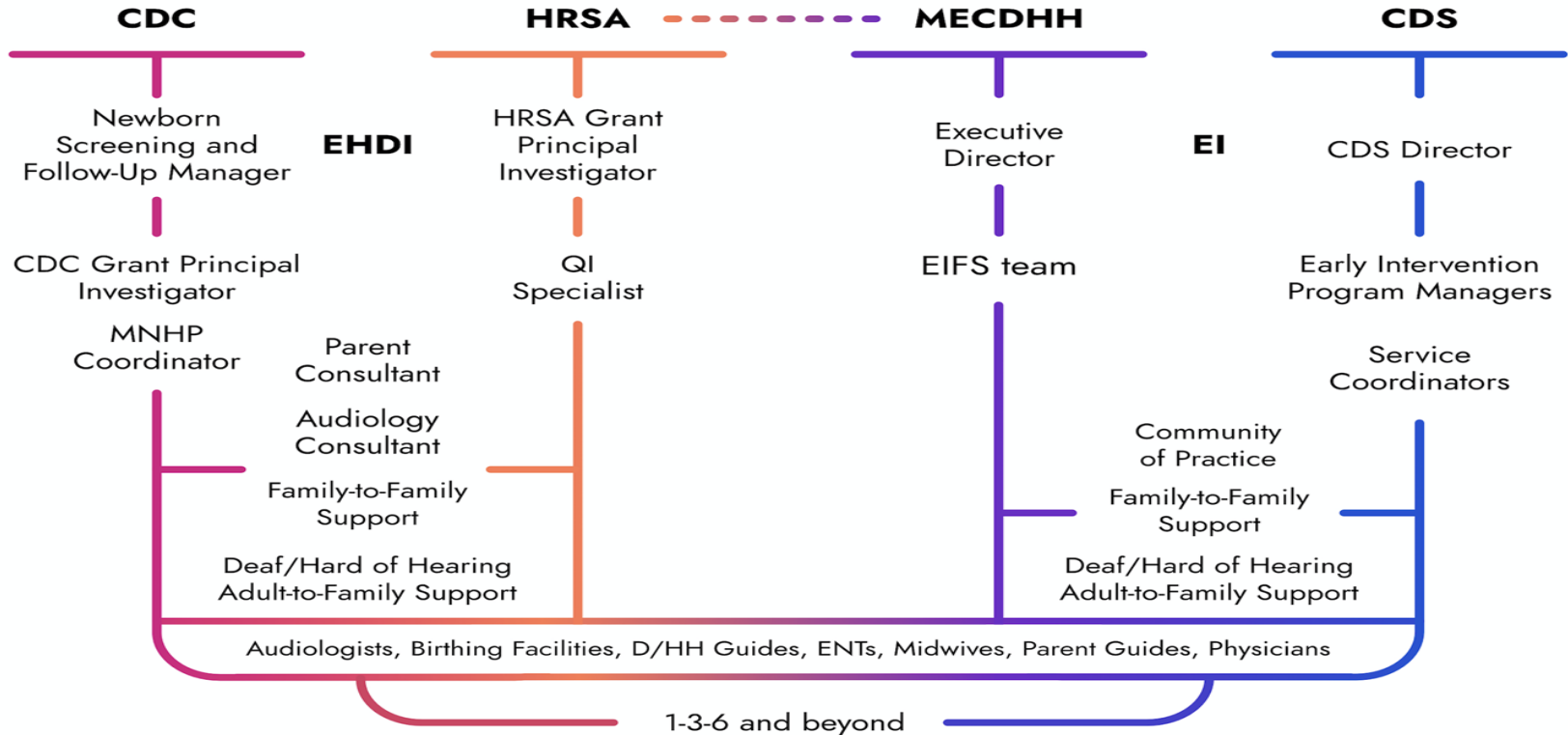
LANGUAGE EQUALITY & ACQUISITION FOR DEAF KIDS
A PROGRAM OF NORCAL SERVICES FOR DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

Family Services



#ENDLANGUAGEDEPRIVATION

Maine Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) System



- CDC** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- CDS** Child Development Services
- D/HH** Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- EhDI** Early Hearing Detection and Intervention
- EI** Early Intervention
- EIFS** Early Intervention and Family Services

- ENT** Ear, Nose, and Throat Physician
- HRSA** Health Resources and Services Administration
- MECDDHH** Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- MNHP** Maine Newborn Hearing Program
- QI** Quality Improvement



Welcome to Earliest Interactions

We are a HRSA grant-funded MECDHH / GBSD program that supports families of children who are deaf and hard of hearing throughout their journeys, from screening, to diagnosis, to early intervention and beyond.



**Family
Resources**



**Professional
Resources**



<http://www.earliestinteractions.com>



Deaf Engagement in Maine's EHDI and EI Systems

- Maine's HRSA grant is led by a Deaf individual
- The EHDI team has Deaf and hard of hearing Guides and Mentors
- Maine's Part C program embeds Deaf and hard of hearing adults into the state's required process through a memorandum of understanding between Maine's Part C Agency and the state Deaf Education Agency – MECDHH/GBSD
- Deaf Council
- Boards and Commissions
- Deaf/Parent Feedback Group
- EVENTS



Deaf Engagement in Maine's System

“ALL Families will have the opportunity to meet Deaf and hard of hearing adults”



Deaf Mentor- Family Training

- SKI HI program
- ASL Family Training
- Requires Ski Hi Deaf Mentor training and certification

Deaf Guide Program (GBYS)

Deaf adults from various backgrounds

Current Hands & Voices President is Deaf

- Personal history
- What they have learned
- What insight can they share with new families
- Answer questions
- Natural interactions at events

Strategies to Ensure Engagement

- Training for Deaf adults
- Importance of hearing allies
- Prioritize Deaf engagement
- Collect family feedback
- Ensure participation in events



Panel Questions



1. What is important to you as a Deaf professional working in the EHDI system?
2. What simple strategies can states utilize to ensure Deaf and hard of hearing individuals are engaged in their state's system?

Q&A





Contact EHDI Coordinators
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Feel free to contact LEAD-K Family Services:
Cheryl@leadkfamilyservices.org

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Thank you for being here!

