

2020 Pre-EHDI LEND Workshop: “Shared Decision Making: Journeying with Families During Transitions”

Sheraton Kansas City Hotel at Crown Center
March 8, 2020

FACILITATOR



Djenne-amal Morris

Djenne-amal Morris brings passion and real-life experience to her role as parent/professional trainer, facilitator and motivational speaker whose view of the world not as it is, but as it could be. As a mother who has successfully raised a family with special needs, she strives to build an atmosphere of support and empowerment for families and the professionals who serve them. Djenne provides speeches, workshops, trainings and individual coaching and mentoring nationally and internationally. Djenne was raised in a diverse community in New York City by a family who valued education and inclusion. She received her BA in Psychology/Sociology from Clark University in Worcester, Mass. Djenne married her high school sweetheart, Michael, 28 years ago and have three children. Imani (25) works in Austin, Texas and Zakiya-mali (19) is pursuing a career in Audiology at UNC-Chapel Hill. Malik (24) graduated from the Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf. Malik was born with CHARGE Syndrome, a genetic condition in which he is deafblind with multiple disabilities. He is currently living his best life in his own group home and loving his new independence! Malik has been the inspiration for her family’s resilience, and she has dedicated her life to be a conduit of hope for other families. Djenne has always shown an interest in family, professional, interpersonal and cultural dynamics/collaboration. Fueling her passion for others, journeying with she has worked in the full-time ministry, taught parenting classes, leadership seminars and worked as a Deafblind Family Specialist. Djenne currently works as a Parent Educator at BEGINNINGS for Parents of Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing in Raleigh NC. She is the President of the Board of Directors of Hands & Voices HQ, and Family Faculty for the NC UNC-Chapel Hill LEND program. Djenne and her family moved from Boston to North Carolina in 2004. She is fun loving, believes laughter is an essential part of life, loves to read, and is a published author of *The Art of Collaboration: Lessons from Families of Children with Disabilities*.

PANELISTS



Sara Kennedy

Sara is a mom of four children, including a daughter who was late identified after a homebirth. Maddie, Sara's daughter, has had a progressive loss and is now profoundly deaf, using bilateral implants, finished transition and is working as a medical assistant in a surgery practice. An occupational therapist by training, Sara has worked with Hands & Voices since 2001. She is the editor of *The Hands & Voices Communicator* and Director for the Colorado Chapter. Sara has a special interest in practical ideas that work for families. She was a coauthor for the manual *Bridge to Preschool: Navigating a Successful Transition*, coordinates the Colorado Resource Guide, has written or presented on navigating the IEP/IFSP system, safety from abuse and neglect, giftedness, itinerant and interpreting services, why families move, the decision process regarding cochlear implants and transition from high school. She serves as the CO-Chair of the Colorado Infant Hearing Advisory Committee.

Sandra Abbott Gabbard, Ph.D.

Dr. Gabbard has been providing a wide range of clinical audiologic services to individuals of all ages for over 30 years. She is currently a clinical audiologist and the President/CEO of the Marion Downs Center, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting individuals with hearing loss and communication challenges and their families. She has published and presented extensively in the areas of newborn hearing screening, pediatric assessment procedures, fitting and verification of hearing aids, and FM systems. She is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and adjunct faculty in the Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences Department at the University of Colorado Boulder. She teaches and mentors graduate students and fellows as the Audiology Discipline Director of the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) training grant. Dr. Gabbard has held many leadership positions professionally and she is currently a Director on the American Board of Audiology (ABA).





Annette Landes

Annette Landes has been a Colorado Hearing Resource Coordinator (CO-Hear) for the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind and CHIP (Colorado Home Intervention Program) since 2002. As CO-Hear, Annette is responsible for supporting families with infants and toddlers who are deaf/hard of hearing by providing resources, technical information, connecting families to appropriate services and guiding families through transition. Annette supports families through their entire early intervention experience. She supports CHIP facilitators who provide early intervention services with the family through on-going training and mentoring.

Annette is a speech/language pathologist and has also provided CHIP services since 2002. She has been trained in the coaching model of early intervention as well as being a provider of telehealth services. Annette has extensive experience with providing family-center and routines-based intervention.

Claudia Giordano

Claudia Giordano is a paraprofessional at Kendall Demonstration Elementary School for Early Childhood Education department, working closely with deaf and hard of hearing preschoolers and their families. She graduated from Gallaudet University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Studies and a Minor in Family Child Studies. After graduation, she had an internship opportunity to work with Ms. Tawny Holmes, NAD Education Policy Counsel to learn more tools to better support and collaborate with professionals and parents. Claudia was raised by a single hearing mother, who learned American Sign Language, incorporated Deaf Culture, and engaged with our Deaf community. Claudia believes that it is important to ensure that all families with deaf and hard of hearing children have access to resources they need. She is currently working on a master's degree in Early Language Advocacy at Gallaudet University as she aims to become a better advocate.





Teresa Nold

Teresa Nold currently resides in Harrisburg, SD and works at South Dakota Parent Connection. With most of her family being Deaf, ASL is their primary language that is used at home. Teresa and her husband, Tim, have 2 sons- Isaac is 22 years old and Caleb is 19 years old. Isaac is a laid back, technology driven, and curious young man. He is Deaf-plus- he has multiple disabilities- Cerebral Palsy, Moebius Syndrome, and Trigeminal Trophic Syndrome. This has all created some challenges with his vision, mobility, communication, and learning. He works part time and loves his job. Caleb is a freshman at Dakota State University. He is smart, has a caring heart, and is a math genius. Working for her state's Parent Training Information Center, as well as the Family 2 Family Health Information Center, Teresa treasures the work they do. The mission is to empower families and empower lives. This does not occur without partnership with the various stakeholders. Teresa is a Partners in Policymaking graduate, as well as a LEND Parent Trainee. She is the Vice-President of the SD Association of the Deaf and works hard with various state legislators on services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing children. She also tries to stay involved within the Early Hearing Detection Intervention systems by being a part of national work groups. Currently, she is the Co-Chair for the EHDI Sub-Committee through the American Academy of Pediatrics. Being a part of many different committees and organizations, as well as personal experiences, has greatly assisted her with the work she does. In 2019, Teresa was a Tribute to Women nominee, which was a great honor. Being Deaf herself, Teresa learned early on the importance of advocating and navigating the systems of supports. For their family, they feel that equal access means a good quality of life- whether it is in the areas of independent living, employment or education. Opportunities should be equal to all, and that is something Teresa constantly advocates for in her spare time.

Rachel Barrett

Rachel Barrett is a first year Doctor of Audiology student at the University of South Dakota. She is originally from Minneapolis, MN. Her hearing loss was not diagnosed until 2nd grade; at that time, she received a hearing aid in only one ear. During Rachel's senior year of high school, she received hearing aids in both ears. Rachel is a current SD LEND trainee who is excited about pursuing Audiology as a career. She can't wait to make an impact!

