

Discussion Group of Parents and Service Providers at the March 24, 2017 Hands and Voices Conference, Manchester, New Hampshire – Elementary School Group

## 1. How to get families more involved?

Good communication

Increase geographical locations – seacoast, northern NH, western NH

More sign language for families

ESS – needs teachers with experience on D/HH

Information for schools regarding new technology related to hearing assistance

Mentors of older kids to younger kids

Opportunities for kids and parents to educate the school community

Transparency re: IEP and the process

Education for parents (“You don’t know what you don’t know.”)

Framework for parents to be asking questions

Education general education teachers about the transition to the next year

## 2. S.P.O.T. Analysis

Strengths- What are the benefits to family involvement?

- Numbers
- Information
- Support
- Peer-to-Peer
- Exposure to others like themselves

Problems- What are barriers to getting families involved?

- Social opportunities – “play group”
- Disseminating initial information
- Making connections
- Follow up (ongoing) EHDI money
- Volunteer parent networking – emotional support and information
- Deaf mentors and role models
- Liaisons to the Deaf community
- Involving siblings

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- Events

What opportunities exist or can be created to increase family involvement?

- High cost of receiving services
- Parents who know more can ask for more
- Good negotiators
- Pay now ... or pay later
- Large numbers are under-reported in New Hampshire
- The professionals don't always know all the technology.
- Standardized testing and accommodations

What threats exist if families are more involved?

No answers.

3. What do parents want from professionals?

No answers.

4. What do professionals want from parents?

No answers.

5. Family engagement – what does it mean to parents as you move through the system?

No answers.