The Center for Childhood Deafness & Hearing Loss presents:

LIAISING WITH COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR D/HH STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

Wednesday February 8, 2017
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Willard Early Learning Center
3201 South D Street, Tacoma, WA 98418

Can’t attend in person? Join us through our K20 system!

TARGET AUDIENCE:
Professionals who serve children or youth who are deaf or hard of hearing (D/HH), and their families – teachers, audiologists, SLPs, counselors, vocational rehabilitation counselors

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course will describe services available in Washington State for children and youth who are D/HH, and their families. This course is designed to inform professionals of agencies available to D/HH children, youth and families that provide counseling, mentorship, self-advocacy, legal rights training, and ASL interpreter referral services.

WHY THIS INFORMATION IS NEEDED:
In order for D/HH children to thrive, they and their families often need supports in addition to those received through the school system. Participants will learn how to liaise with community agencies to support children, youth, and their families, as well as plan for post-secondary transitions.
PRESENTERS:

Deborah O’Willow – Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (ODHH)

Ariele Belo – Hearing, Speech & Deafness Center
Ariele Belo is the Director of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services for Hearing, Speech & Deaf Center (HSDC) for 14 years and was interim Director of Early Learning Education (Parents Infant Program, bilingual ASL program). She supervised staff within the DHH program (Advocacy, Case Management, Information & Referral and Education & Training) in Seattle, Tacoma and Bellingham. Ariele is native of Seattle and alumna of the Hearing, Speech & Deaf Center’s Parent-Infant Program (PIP). She had over 17+ years of experience as advocate for deaf and hard of hearing. She also has 17+ years as Qualified Deaf interpreter for deaf and deaf-blind. Ariele is board member and fundraising chair of Deaf Spotlight. She is currently in her 3rd term as board of trustee representing District 7 for CDHL. She enjoys volunteering with the Deaf community.

Regina McGinnis, MA, LMHC- Mental Health Therapist/DHH Program, Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine, Seattle Children’s Hospital

Regina McGinnis holds a Master’s degree from Gallaudet University in mental health counseling and is a licensed mental health therapist in the State of Washington. With over eight years of experience, Regina’s focus has been working with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Adults, Youth and their Families and is currently employed at Seattle Children’s Hospital. Regina is Deaf and is fluent in American Sign Language and has extensive experience in working in a multicultured setting using multiple foreign language interpreters and ASL interpreters to communicate with children and their families. Regina works with a wide range of issues, including depression, anxiety, other mental health disorders, unresolved emotional issues, self-esteem/self-empowerment, Deaf and Hard of Hearing identity development, grief and loss, school based services, relationship/family concerns, advocacy, individual counseling for personal and emotional growth, and group services. Regina is a member of a variety of associations pertaining to the field of counseling and Deafness. She is a strong advocate for accessibility to mental health services for those who are Deaf and/or Hard-of-Hearing.

Christine Griffin - Washington Hands & Voices | Guide By Your Side Program

Christine Griffin, M.Ed. lives with her family in Bellingham, Washington. She began her work supporting families of children with developmental disabilities, delays and ongoing health care needs in 2006 after her two children were identified with hearing loss in 2001. Currently, Christine coordinates the Washington Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side Program, supporting families of children who are deaf of hard of hearing throughout our state regardless of communication. As part of her work, Christine has presented and trained family members and parent leaders both locally and nationally with a focus on topics such as parent leadership, self-
efficacy and sustainability. She is an active member of the Hands & Voices O.U.R. Children Safety and Success Project - an international learning community of parents, family members and professionals that focuses on child maltreatment prevention. Christine received the Hands & Voices Seaver Vision Award in September 2016 for her contributions to family support for the field of deafness and hearing loss. In March 2017, she will received her Masters of Education in Adult and Higher Education with an emphasis on parent engagement and involvement.

Learning Outcomes

1. Participants will learn about services in Washington State that are available to support children and youth who are deaf or hard of hearing, and their families.

2. Participants will be able to describe the mission and function of each of these agencies.

3. Participants will learn how to refer families to these services and resources.

ASL interpreters provided. Please let us know if you need any additional accommodations.