

WI Families for Hands & Voices

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# WISCONSIN *Communicator*

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“What works for your child is what makes the choice right”



## HANDS & VOICES

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## Wisconsin Families for Hands & Voices/ Wisconsin Sound Beginnings partner with UW-Madison for New Research Project

*Interview with Anne, With Laurie Nelson*

**LAURIE:** *Hi Anne, Wisconsin Families for Hands & Voices is thrilled to be collaborating with the Wisconsin Sound Beginnings Program and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Waisman Center on this exciting Research Project! I was hoping that through this interview you could help our membership learn more about the study and how they can get involved. We understand that the benefits of participation are huge and want to make sure that our members don't miss out! So let's get started with some questions.*

**Can you tell me a little bit about the Study? How did it get started and how long has it been going on?**

**ANNE:** We are really excited to bring this study to Wisconsin! Our project is called the **Assessment of Early Intervention Outcomes (AEIOu) Project** and it is part of a much larger national study based at the University of Colorado-Boulder. Wisconsin is one of nine states participating in the national study known as the **National Early Childhood Assessment Project (NECAP)**. Our involvement began back in 2008, but the process has been refined and altered over time. Two well-known and respected researchers, Christine Yoshinaga-Itano, Ph.D. and Allison Sedey, Ph.D, direct the NECAP project. It was thanks to their research in the late 1990s, Universal Newborn Hearing Screening is now implemented in every state in the country!

Through AEIOu we hope to learn more about the development of young children who are deaf or hard of hearing in Wisconsin. We want to offer families information about their child's development and how their child's development is changing over time. AEIOu will also help us identify key variables that lead to better outcomes for young children who are deaf or hard of hearing. We hope this information will allow early interventionists to better serve young children and their families. Remember, Wisconsin is one of nine states contributing to the national study. There is potential here to have a national impact on how we help families all across the United States through these early years!

## **CHILD FIRST Campaign: Equality and Quality Education for Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

CHILD FIRST is a national campaign to ensure that educational programming at the national, state and local level is driven by the IEP and appropriately addresses the educational, language, communication and social needs of children who are deaf and hard of hearing. The population of children who are deaf and hard of hearing is diverse, and the need for access to language and communication are diverse as well. Support for each child's individual needs related to language and communication development is the key to the child's success.

CHILD FIRST was developed and is being driven by national organizations that advocate for the educational rights of deaf and hard of hearing children and that believe that policy guidance is needed to ensure these rights are protected. CHILD FIRST celebrates the core principles of IDEA, yet notes the continuing challenges for the low incidence population of students who are deaf and hard of hearing. Those challenges include:

Accessing a **Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)** that provides opportunities for direct communication access and opportunities for direct instruction with age appropriate peers and adult role models.

**Individual Educational Plans (IEPs)** that include consideration of the child's language and communication needs, including communication with peers and professionals that daily enhances the child's intellectual, social and emotional development.

**Evaluations** that are conducted by professionals who have knowledge and expertise about these unique needs and how they are translated in the IEP and how they impact the classroom.

Ensuring that a **continuum of alternative placements** is available. LRE is sometimes misapplied for students who are deaf and hard of hearing, and they are placed in linguistically limited and socially isolating educational environments.

Want to learn more? To find out how you can support improved outcomes for students who are deaf and hard of hearing, go to [www.ceasd.org](http://www.ceasd.org) or contact [nationaloffice@ceasd.org](mailto:nationaloffice@ceasd.org).

*"Language and Communication access is not a strategy: Access is a fundamental human and educational right." (Siegel, 2000)*

## Board Member Spotlight: Marla Duncan

My name is Marla Duncan. Marla lives in the Southeast region of the state with her husband and three kids. They found out shortly after birth that their son had a hearing loss when he did not pass his newborn screening. Marla was introduced to Wisconsin Families for Hands & Voices at a Family Conference. She was so grateful for the help they received when they were looking for answers for their son that she didn't hesitate to say YES when she was asked to be a board member.



**Renew Your Membership or become a member today!**

### Getting Ready for the Annual Statewide Family Conference!

Though it's six months away, we already have plans underway for the Annual Statewide Professional and Family Conferences! This year, the Family Conference will be from March 8-10, 2013 at the Paper Valley Radisson Hotel in Appleton.

Our theme for the conference "iSuperhero!" will focus on positive social emotional development and technology. We are thrilled to announce our keynote speaker for both conferences, Dr. Joseph Valente. Dr. Valente, an Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education at Pennsylvania State University, and the co-Director of the Center for Disability Studies and affiliate faculty in the Comparative & International Education program. Recently, Dr. Valente wrote an autobiographical-novel and autoethnography called d/Deaf and d/Dumb: A Portrait of a Deaf Kid as a Young Superhero. Dr. Valente will bring his personal experience, growing up with hearing loss, coupled with his experience and knowledge in the field, to share his perspectives on the social-emotional needs of children who are deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind.

Registration for families will be available on October 1, 2012. For more information go to: [http://www.wesp-dhh.wi.gov/wesp/out\\_famcon.cfm](http://www.wesp-dhh.wi.gov/wesp/out_famcon.cfm) and mark your calendar and save the date for what will surely be a great event!

### 2012 Hands & Voices WI Membership

Please circle one of the following

- Parent of a deaf/HH child \$25.00
- Deaf /HH Adult \$25.00
- Student \$25.00
- Professional \$40.00
- Organization/agency \$75.00
- Additional Donation \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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**Become a Member/Renew Online!**

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Or clip and mail to:

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### HELP OTHERS BY DONATING USED HEARING AIDS!

WI Families for Hands & Voices is now accepting hearing aids donations as part of a partnership with Starkey. If you have old hearing aids that are not being used and would like to make a charitable donation to help WI Hands & Voices....



**Recycle now!**

Call Michelle Kihntopf at 920-609-7815 for a self-addressed, stamped envelope to send to Starkey.



**Recycle Old Hearing Aids Now!**

## ***Interview, Continued from page 1***

***LAURIE: Wow! That sounds like a really important study! Can you tell me how families can get involved if they are interested?***

ANNE: If families or providers have questions about the project or would like more information they can contact either Dr. Linda Tuchman-Ginsberg, who is the Principle Investigator, at 608-263-6467 or me, Anne Heintzelman, the Project Coordinator, at 608-263-9915. Linda and I are both located at the Waisman Center.

***LAURIE: Great information, Anne. So now, if a family qualifies and would like to get involved, can you give me an idea of what the expectations are of the family?***

ANNE: Families participate in AEIOu by filling out developmental questionnaires at two different times in their child's development. Families enter the study when their child is 12 to 14 months of age and we contact the family again when the child is between 26 and 30 months of age. During each of these ages, AEIOu mails a packet with forms that tell us about the participating child, family and the services they are receiving. The packet includes a consent form to participate, three developmental questionnaires and another form about the family and the child's history. AEIOu also contacts the Birth to 3 agencies and asks them to provide some information about the services they provide. Families and Birth to 3 fill out their forms and mail them back (in a pre-paid envelope) to us. We evaluate the information and create a custom report for the family and the Birth to 3 agencies. Families have found it to be a really useful tool in talking with their providers about new or different goals for their child. Wisconsin also offers families the unique option of looking more closely at their child's communication and social emotional development through video-recordings.

***LAURIE: Hmm...that sounds interesting but also maybe a little scary. Can you explain why a family would want this, what it would be like and what you are hoping to learn?***

The video-recording is done in the family's home. We record three different activities; the parent/caregiver playing with the child, having a snack together, and teaching the child to do a task (like building a block tower). Because we are looking at natural every day activities we can offer some information about the strengths and challenges in the interaction that are based on the real life experience of the child and parent or caregiver. AEIOu summarizes the results of the video and includes it in the report families get, along with the results of the written questionnaires.

***LAURIE: So it sounds like families as well as the state and the nation have a lot to gain from this study. Is there anything else you would like us to know?***

ANNE: We recognize that the families who participate in the video-recording are giving us about an hour of their time and want to compensate them for their time. We have partnered with WI Families for Hands & Voices to offer a gift card to families who participate in the video portion. Hands & Voices has such a great history of supporting families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing and we are grateful to have their support in expressing our gratitude to families. We hope families are interested in participating in the project and that the information they receive is useful in better understanding their child's development. We also hope that the reports will help them and their providers in intervention planning. Lastly, we are excited that the information Wisconsin is gathering will contribute to the national conversation about the communication and social development in young children who are deaf or hard of hearing and lead to improved services for all children nationwide.

### **Our Mission:**

**Wisconsin Families for Hands & Voices is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting families statewide who have children who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind without bias around communication modes or methodology. We are a parent-driven organization providing families with the resources, networking and information they need to improve communication access and educational outcomes for their children. Our outreach activities, parent/professional collaboration and advocacy efforts are focused on enabling Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind children to reach their highest potential.**