How I came to be here today:

But... how do I teach her about love, faith, tradition?
The Role of Parent to Parent Support

“Is my child going to be okay? Am I going to be okay?”

• for Parents of children birth to 18 who are Deaf/hard of hearing or Deaf/hh Plus...
• and the professional community who serves them

www.cohandsandvoices.org
gbys@cohandsandvoices.org
Parent Leadership Opportunities

An EHDI System created with parents for parents (What is EHDI?)
• Will be more successful
• More user-friendly
• Understandable to parents

How to get involved?
• Share your parent story
• Join a panel discussion
• Write an article for other parents
• Join a local or statewide task force
• Testify for a bill or a change in policy
• Apply for an Ambassador. Guide. Board member or an ASTra advocate position
  • Support other new families with occasional events – social and educational, visits, phone & social media
Educational Advocacy in Colorado

• Parent training on the educational process
• One-on-One coaching
• Attending meetings with parents
• About 50 requests a year/35 meetings
• Brenda@cohandsandvoices.org
Parents’ Wishlist for Professionals

• If you do know, say so. If you don’t know, say that.
• Reach for a month’s progress in a month’s time.
• Help us connect to other families and to a variety of deaf/hard of hearing adults.
• If the system needs tweaking that got us here, please help us speak up to the right people.
• If you know of something that may help our child, have courage to have that critical conversation with us.
• See our child’s strengths and help us to develop talents.
• Remember the whole child. Where do Deaf/hh kids trip up in real life? Help us promote emotional health, social skills and pragmatics, safety, self-advocacy, identity, and remember the purpose of special education. (What are the three points?)

The 2 per 1000 babies identified at birth and the 2 per 1000 toddlers and kids later identified in childhood will be glad you did!
Many ways to connect:
Print, Social Media, E-news, Phone/Text/IM, Events

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Facebook: Colorado Hands & Voices (Group – CO Chapter Hands & Voices), Deaf + Autism, UHL, cCMV Family Network, fledgling Instagram and Twitter