

TERESE URBAN

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

My inspiration and passion advocating for deaf and hard of hearing children stems from my oldest daughter, who was identified at birth with a genetic, progressive hearing difference. It's been a journey full of twists and turns, and I've enjoyed watching her grow into a successful and proud deaf young adult. I believe all children can be successful if given appropriate access, accommodations and support, which begins at home with families. My personal experience has allowed me to connect with families and professionals throughout the world by offering emotional support, creating social opportunities and providing guidance regarding special education laws and resources.

EXPERIENCE

Director of Advocacy and Parent Outreach

September 2022 – present

Supporting Success for Children with Hearing Loss

- Develop, strengthen, and maintain relationships with existing parent support groups as avenues to share information related to company resources that support educational and emotional needs of deaf and hard of hearing children
- Consistently advocate for schools to fulfill requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 to ensure equal communication access with a family focus
- Manage Teacher Tools Takeout, an online marketplace that houses digital resources for educators and families of deaf and hard of hearing children
- Create family-friendly marketing campaigns and offer virtual support to connect families to the resources historically geared towards educators

Parent Coach

February 2023 – May 2025

CHAMPS-DHH Program, University of Kentucky

- Provided virtual parent coaching to families of deaf and hard of hearing children during a multi-year research program
- Administered coaching sessions and recorded data to determine if a strengths-based parenting program is successful
- Interviewed families, conducted Case Conceptualizations, delivered feedback, and set goals with families that can be accomplished through *Everyday Parenting Modules*
- Understood the strengths and challenges of each family and offered suggestions with advocacy, child development and effective communication in mind

Vice Chair
Chair
President

October 2024 – present
December 2016 – October 2024
April 2016 – June 2017

Virginia Hands & Voices
Vermont Hands & Voices

- Rebuilt and reorganized each state's authorized chapter to operate in compliance with national and state specific licensing laws and chapter by-laws
- Provide unbiased resources, offer Family Mentoring sessions and organize social events for families and children ages birth-21, including professionals and deaf and hard of hearing adults
- Establish and maintain relationships with parents, professionals and organizations that support deaf and hard of hearing children and connect families with the unbiased resources, tools and information they desire
- Provide guidance to families navigating the IFSP and IEP process and provide local and national guidelines and resources to support a variety of communication modes

RECOGNITIONS

- Governor's 2017 Virginia Fire Service Award for Civilian Excellence February 2018
- Hands & Voice Most Improved Chapter September 2017

PRESENTATIONS

- Collaboration and Involvement: Parents and IEP Teams Working Together June 2024
- The Power of Parents: The Importance of Family Support May 2024
- Rural Living: Tips for Raising a Deaf/Hard of Hearing Child in a Rural Community March 2024
- Providing Unbiased Support to Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children September 2023
- Power of Parent/Professional Collaboration from the Lens of VA Hands & Voices June 2023
- Hear It/See It: Experiences of DHH Children in the Mainstream Setting June 2022
- Virginia Deaf Mentor Pilot Program July 2021
- A Community of Support: Connecting Families of Children who are DHH Plus March 2021
- Stronger Together: Collaboration with Agencies Strengthens Everyone September 2019
- Path to Successful Collaboration Between EHDI Systems, Parents, Professionals March 2019
- What Works for Your Child Makes the Choice Right February 2019
- Improving Communication with our Deaf and Hard of Hearing Neighbors March 2018
- Picking up the Pieces: Rebuilding Chapters One Brick at a Time September 2017
- Empowering Parents to Advocate, Lead and Influence July 2017

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Board Secretary, Supporting Success for Children with Hearing Loss January 2022 - present
- Virginia Deaf Blind Project Advisory Council March 2019 – October 2025
- EHDI Parent to Parent National Committee May 2018 - present
- Hanover County Schools Special Education Advisory Committee September 2017 - present
- VA Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Advisory Committee March 2017 - present