

April 2018 OUR call Transcript

>> "Please stand by for realtime captions."

>>[Captioner standing by]

>> Good morning. We can hear people joining us. Who just joined?

>> Catherine from the Delaware chapter.

>> Welcome Catherine. This is Janet from Hands and Voices , and Harold is on the call. Has anyone else joined us?

>> Sarah from Vancouver British Columbia.

>> Sarah?

>> Marrow -- Merah .

>> Good. We ask everyone to mute your line when possible. It will be very interactive today so we won't mute the whole group. I think it's*and six to mute, and then unmute by*and six. If anybody doesn't have the mute button, they can do that. We will get started in a couple of minutes. We want to thank everybody for joining us today. We are glad you are here.

>> Merah, this is Harold. Has Spring arrived where you guys are yet?

>> This is Lisa Kovach.

>> Hello Lisa, glad you could join us.

>> This is Harold.

>> Hello Harold.

>> Good morning, this is Janet from Hands and Voices. Thank you for joining the call this morning. For those coming online, we will get started in a couple of minutes. We are taking roll call today . We will have an interactive discussion. We will not put the whole group unmute. Please, if you can mute your own line when you are not speaking, that would be great. A couple of people have joined, tell us who is on the call.

>> [indiscernible] Louisiana.

>> Terry with headquarters.

>> So far we have on the call, Merah from British Columbia Catherine from Delaware, Terry from headquarters, edge Rihanna, has anyone else joined the call. Still a minute or so before the top of the hour we might give it a couple of more minutes, we are waiting on our cohost, Sarah Kennedy. Hopefully she will be here.

>> I will send her a text message.

>> Okay.

>> Hello, it is Sarah.

>> Hi Sarah, how are you quick

>> Good, how are you?

>> Good. This is Janet from headquarters. We have eight on the call. We will wait a couple of more minutes. I know we have some others joining us today. It is just right now the top of the hour. Thank you for joining and we will wait a couple of more minutes. We were chatting about the weather around the US and Canada.

>> Good morning, welcome. To the monthly OUR call. Who joined us ?

>> [indiscernible] and Cora, can you hear us quick

>> Yes, welcome.

>> We are actually at the park. We will be on mute.

>> [laughter] This is Janet. We are glad you are here. We love the organic sound of our world. That being said, we ask if you are on the call today, we will not mute the whole group. We ask that you individually mute, you can press star and six. We will get started in just a minute. We are glad you are here with us today. For those of you who may not be aware, we have been archiving our monthly meetings, particularly when we have a guest speaker. Archiving those and adding them to the OUR projects section of the Hands and Voices website . I have heard a few more people ring in. We want to welcome everybody and we are taking roll call. If you just joined, let us know who you are.

>> Kristin from Illinois.

>> Great, glad you are here.

>> Bridget.

>> Candace from headquarters.

>> Hello Candace.

>> Michelle from Kentucky.

>> Glad you are here Michelle.

>> Leslie from Minnesota.

>> Great. Krista from Colorado.

>> Welcome Krista.

>> Who else has joined?

>> Marie pink from Minnesota.

>> Hello Marie. Glad you're here. Welcome everybody. This is our monthly OUR children safety project call. We have been having quite the year. We typically run the phone meetings after the Hands and Voices leadership conference in September and usually starts in October and goes to May taking the summer off. We want to thank all of you representing your chapter or otherwise. This is a recommended activity from us at headquarters, who would love to have the participation and learning community representatives from all of our chapters. We thank those of you that are here today. I recognize a lot of your names, typical and faithful, committed, dedicated volunteers, who are part of this. I hear a couple of more people have joined. Who has joined on the call?

>> Kelly in Texas.

>> Hello Kelly.

>> Come from British Columbia.

>> Welcome Kim. And who else joined?

>> Brenda Elliott, Colorado.

>> Great. Thank you all so much for joining us today. I have a feeling there will be a few more people joining as we go, we will try to get those who join later on at the end. We want to thank all of you for joining us today. This project has been going on many years in different forms. We think about how we can expand our own personal awareness and knowledge about keeping our children safe. How can we do that organizationally in our chapter, and also as partners and stakeholders in different systems in education, early hearing detection and intervention, along with other awareness to other organizations as well. We thought for today's meeting we would focus on some of those efforts at the organic local level. Either individually or for US chapters. We

are pleased to have several of our headquarters activist today. Particularly Terry Patterson and Lisa Kovacs who is the director of programs [indiscernible]. I will turn it over to Terry and Sarah Kennedy that will facilitate the conversation today. Sarah.

>> Thank you Janet. If you have the agenda in front of you you will see we are taking a break from guest speakers and the bright spots the last few months. We are focusing on we as parent leaders and program leaders, will be doing and have done to bring our practice to awareness, raising children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Back in 2008 we started with Harold, who had this idea and talk to Janet, who brought in the Colorado chapter. Saying let's meet once a month to learn more about the topic of keeping our kids safe. We agreed to do one thing each month for the first year, whether it was the school, the policies around safety, to ask the camp staff or coaches, or talk to one other parent. From there the project has gone organically from person-to-person. Today we wanted to hear from all of you on the call, and a variety of folks at headquarters as well, what is currently happening in our programs and chapters where they seek out the needs and what is ahead of us. We will talk about Michigan's recent parent conference that they had was safety is a central theme. What they learned about pulling that project off. And talking to chapters who are just starting about their needs and questions. We know it is hard to know what we don't know. Just like kids with hearing loss. We will talk about how to check out the OUR project exhibit table that you might've seen last month in Denver, or at the leadership conferences. Harold, Dr. Johnson will be giving us an update on the safety statement and how that is progressing. We will all get a chance to share what we are trying to accomplish by September's leadership conference. With that, I would like to invite Lisa Kovacs our Director of programs, to share what is currently going on with the OUR project with training and after training. Lisa.

>> Hello everyone, good afternoon. With Hands and Voices guide by your side , the advocacy support and training. We are committed to those programs with the OUR project , with basic training for both of those programs, they are really jam track -- jampacked. It's difficult to find ways to infuse our project chaining within those the best training within those. We certainly highlight the OUR project in both guide by yours side and AST . We help with the parent guides about the OUR project, what it is , where they can find information about it, on the website as well as highlight though one 800 four a child number and its practical use. And at ASTA through the training and the ISP and its use. As for his ongoing training which I think is really where we should focus our efforts in getting more OUR project information out to our guide by your side and more courses. I do share monthly the agenda a flyer for the next call through our Yahoo group the coordinators of Guide by Your Side distribute . to their staff and the families they serve. I do know we have had programs that have provided ongoing and additional training to their program, specifically to the OUR project . Washington has done work, and I know Delaware does a lot of work around the OUR project. We are currently in the process of reviewing and editing the current Guide by Your Side initial training curriculum . I think this will give us opportunity to include some additional key concepts of the OUR project and the initial Guide by Your Side training . That is it for me Sarah.

>> Great, thank you so much Lisa. That just shows it's the little things that consistently get through to people. It is not a one-time conversation by any means. So Terry, I wonder [indiscernible- static]

>> Can anyone hear me?

>> Thank you for joining the call.

>> Sorry to interrupt.

>> Go ahead.

>> I am from Mississippi. I am a director for the deaf and hard of hearing. I am just joining now. Hands and Voices .

>> Great, thank you so much for joining the call. We were just about to call on Terry Patterson, who is our Director of chapter support, to share from her point of view what the status is of the

OUR project from the recent chapter help assessment. What she is hearing from chapters about incorporating the OUR project. Terry.

>> This is Terry, thank you Sarah. Sarah and Jen mentioned I am the director of chapter support until I get my insight view on what is going on at the chapter level. Across the US and Canada. There is a variety of ways, as far as regarding what Janet said in the beginning, we do recommend anticipation for chapters, such an important topic. The more we talk about it, the more comfortable we are talking about it. That we hope spreads out to the chapters and into our membership. In the states and Providence -- provinces. And how chapters incorporate this. They are attending these calls once a month. Doing what is the one thing I will do this month. They are participating at the program level. Some chapters for example, if you are one of the chapters I referred to please speak up. In Georgia I know what we tried to do was find a particular representative who could speak to within the chapter. At one time there was a board member with the nursing background, very near and dear to her heart. She committed time to that. We also with the Guide by Your Side program decided to step out and use the model that Kelly in Texas started by developing a quilt. The parent guide in Georgia put together a quilt and we put thought into how it would look, visually representing. They take that when they present at a stakeholder meeting, or when they exhibit at a workshop or conference. And they talk about it and answer questions about it while they provide resources. Another way to really think about doing it, is what can I do by just looking at the resources and the information, the videos in the transcripts on the website already did what are some pieces of that or resources regarding how can I incorporate this topic into the IEP or the 504 plan. And what are the tips we could share onto the website. What can we share with groups in the Facebook pages. Even if it's just that once a month, keep that conversation and this topic at the forefront. And another way, I know I heard Tammy from DC, sharing how they partnered with an expert for the workshop. They put an article about it in the website. I don't know Kim, if you wanted to say a few words about that, how your chapter worked on that.

>> Yes, this is Kim. Because nobody on our board really had the expertise, we decided to like you said, partner with locals who really is the expert. We also brought in a deaf consultant, and in a as to -- ALT share to share language around what children need and what parents need for protection, prevention. And yet with the article trying to share that with the membership. Is that what you are thinking?

>> This is Terry, that is great, I appreciate that. There are different ways we can do it. And we do have the database that chapters are required to report what is going on in their chapter. Their membership, different pieces of chapter specific information. We do ask that they let us know who is your OUR representative . It doesn't mean we only have one person, but how that information, there participating in the call, taking it back. Taking time at a board member -- a board meeting, to talk about what happened on a call. Learning about resources. The hope is that we can really use it in all of the chapters. To get that conversation going. More rapidly I suppose. Thank you.

>> Very good, this is Sarah. I wanted to point out a great resource for chapters just starting out. That is the chapter checklist for safety for our children. It is on the website with the knowledge base. So it is basically nine steps that are easy to take. And guide you through those steps to help grow your OUR children safety project. Terry, thank you for calling. Kim I'm hoping you would share from the BC chapter. And opening it up to any other chapters that maybe are newer on the scale. Or changed leadership recently that might have these questions. Let's open up the call to anyone who would like to speak.

>> This is [indiscernible]. Is there a chapter in Mississippi? Do they have a OUR chapter in Mississippi ?

>> Hello Ben, this is Sarah. The Mississippi chapter 4 Hands and Voices is encouraged to incorporate the our children safety project like all chapters are. It is recommended, not required at this time. While Sheila Cargile was interested in starting some more activities around safety, I believe the Mississippi chapter is taking a fresh look at this right now . I am so happy you could join the call and get some of these resources. Would you have anything to add to that?

>> No. I think it is great. I am really happy, we are glad that it is cut to be participating. We are going through the information we got in an email from Julie. She sent an email I was reading, it looks great. I would be happy to be connected with it and participate more.

>> We would love to hear that. That is great. What anyone else like to share what their chapter is doing. Maybe just getting started with the questions you have.

>> Hello Sarah, this is Janel from Michigan. I don't know if I missed the portion for us to share. My call got dropped for some reason. I don't know if now is a time or not?

>> Janel, you are actually next on the agenda. We can always circle back to any new chapter. If you're ready, go ahead and please share about the safety conference.

>> Awesome. I don't want to jump in unless you are ready.

>> That is all right.

>> Okay. All right. So Michigan has been really busy with a lot of different things. When looking at the OUR project , we wanted to participate and go full force, but we were having a hard time finding somebody to take it on. So, when we decided for the yearly conference to do safety, as our thing, it was the perfect segue to really embrace the OUR project and get some more people involved. I'm hoping Anthony [indiscernible] is on the call and can talk about his participation. But we were able to get Harold Johnson to come in and speak. Luckily I know, we were able to grab him as a keynote on the OUR project and incorporate it throughout our day with our other guest speakers. We shared the OUR project. Whatever they were talking about in the breakouts they could incorporate safety into their presentation. We would appreciate it. So also incorporating how to help parents regarding safety issues. We also had our extra presentation, really incorporate our safety guide that they had for [indiscernible]. And help parents understand the importance and incorporating that into their educational journey. Then we also had the OUR table set up. Where we could connect with national Land Hands and Voices , and they were able to ship us the products to be able to have a table set up, so we could make sure to share those resources with our parents. And we also had someone assigned to help with that. That was apparent -- a parent that had interest in this, so we had them be the key person for us. He has been on the calls the last couple of months as well, to really try to get more information. And really, in reality, [indiscernible] project throughout the last couple of years. This really helps to make sure that not only parents in our state where understanding of this project, but also all of the guides and advocates. That they got a good glimpse and they can incorporate it into their work on a daily basis. So they can have a place to send their parents. That was our message, to make sure they had the resources. There is so much involved with the OUR project . Having a place where parents feel comfortable to go to get it. It was key. What we thought we could give parents, and get a glimpse of what is there for them to take advantage of. And from our evaluations we did see a lot of people being grateful because what a lot of parent said was they didn't realize how important these issues were. That is kind of a theme we typically will see. As parents, we don't know what we don't know. And so to be given some facts and information to help us understand, is the start of understanding, being able to help our children. We did incorporate from the OUR project this theme of helping our child understand their own self, becoming strong and empowered to begin with. And that was really well accepted looking at one side of it with abuse and neglect, but really helping our children become strong. And with our conference, we do have a parent portion. Going into breakouts, with key speakers. And we did incorporate, thinking of the OUR project , doing a lot of different things for them to learn some of these key skills. And had a local organization that does some things but just overall for the disabilities, looking at the OUR project and incorporating those things into some of the lessons they do with the children. We did have someone come in and teach karate, which was a hit for everyone. And made it fun. Overall it was a really great way to embed the OUR project not only into the chapter but for our state . I believe it was pretty successful.

>> This is Harold. If I can jump in. I was fortunate enough to be invited to be there. The level of the organization, the activities for students, breakfast, lunch. So many things that took a lot of effort, but a lot of thought went behind it. I would encourage any chapters considering putting on

such a conference, even from an organizational standpoint as well as topics, to contact Janel, Michigan colleague. It was well thought out, well-organized. The depth of information in the activities, it was really to be commended. Well done. It was an honor to be there with you guys, wanted to compliment you on a job very well done.

>> Thank you. I can say, we did tear up with the University of Michigan audiology program. To do this. So there was a collaboration. A couple of other organizations. Not just our organization putting it on. A lot of really well-organized professionals. I did want to say one more thing about the OUR project, thinking about this concept. Looking at safety for our kids in a very broad way. And looking at the physical safety as well. A lot of parents are needing that information. Fire alarms. We had someone come in that was able with bike helmets for the children. This is what they do for a living. A group comes in and they have these around different hearing devices. So we had those physical things, but we really wanted to work on the mental, safety of our children. Talking about bullying and a whole host of things. Not only the parents but with the children. It was kind of like making sure we touched on a lot of different things.

>> This is Sarah, that is great. I actually had that question about how you marketed the conference. And sometimes the hesitance to come up to our table at conferences. The quilt certainly helped a lot because they are so much more approachable. You want to see the story behind the quilts. I wondered what the title of the conference was, if you had any parents think my child doesn't need that kind of thing.

>> This is Janel. I think it did help that we did focus on the physical thing. Just to bring them in, that we were going to give each child a helmet, a bike helmet that they would be fitted with. We talked about fire alarms. We also mentioned about safety regarding bullying. Which is a hot topic now. And also thinking about setting up safety for your child in kind of the living end. Having these emergency situations. We were able to gear it to now, what is needed. And you can then incorporate all of the other emotional issues of abuse and neglect. That is the hard part. If you do market it, it is hard to take in. And we did look at abroad take, doing some fun things, having someone come in and teach karate. And self-defense. That was a popular thing for the kids. We didn't hide anything we would be talking about. They felt that they were going to get something they really wanted. Learning about the right, the fire alarms. Or the bike helmets. They also have the great skills they need in this day and age, to keep our kids safe within our schools.

>> That is great, this is Sarah. That just illustrates some advocacy has had its root that a child feels good about himself or herself. The start of it is there. That is true across all of our topics. Not just unique to the OUR children safety topic. Any other request from anyone.

>> This is Kristin from Illinois. I have a question for Janel. I just wondered if this was a Hands and Voices sponsored event? I know you said you partnered with the University of Michigan. I was trying to see if it was a Hands and Voices sponsored event, how did you go about doing it and again I think Sarah asked about what was your title.

>> This is Janel. I don't remember the title. Of this conference. I think we have always kept at the same title. And that's, we hadn't explanation of the theme. The title of the conference is always family matters workshop. In our theme was safety. We had a logo and we had like a picture of a family. We could get onto the website, and check it out, that would be a good visual on our website. To see how we do it. It would be family matters [indiscernible]. D HH.com. You should be able to see what we did and how we marketed it. I can't remember your other question?

>> That is great. I just wondered if it was a hands and voices sponsored event.

>> Yes, we have been doing this with the University of Michigan right from the start. Hands and Voices has. But it was really through our Eddie program. The University of Michigan and EDDY were the main sponsors. We have been contracted to help with it. So we got paid a little bit to help organize it. We were basically the parent experts so we always had really, the ones to help organize it to make sure it was meeting parent needs. The University was a big part of the children's part. The children and their stages had a glimpse of how and what they wanted to do. We had taken that approach. We have actually added a third sponsor. DC Central, blind central. We incorporated the deaf/blind families into this as well. We didn't want to be missing out on

them. So we had like three main organizers and sponsors. And as Hands and Voices, we do more of the actual work behind it. Then giving the money. Although we are working on getting some grants as well. We are very fortunate that you have them the best University of Michigan, Hands and Voices has been able to get money from the University to pay with them, and also EDDY has always supported through some of the money they have set aside for us as well. Helping pay for accommodations for the day. It's really a group effort working together. But very, Hands and Voices orchestrated. We start the day with the Hands and Voices mission to help our participants understand that is going to be the theme on that support to one another. So they get that field. That's how we have always kind of done it. So it is a collaboration and we don't really call it Hands and Voices, or just a Hands and Voices event. We call it a workshop. Sponsored by these different organizations.

>> Thank you very much.

>> This is Sarah. Any other questions either for Michigan, or for Lisa Kovacs, Terry Patterson, or anyone on the call.

>> This is [indiscernible] from Louisiana. We don't have a program yet but I am interested. The governor has a group called children's cabinet. They had some grants out there that address kids safety. Our program would be a perfect thing to bring in cut to be able to qualify for those grants. But we don't have a program yet. I talked to Jill about it and we are ready to start something, so by the time we get to that next cycle of grants, we will be ready. I wanted to see who I could get in touch with to help start the foundation and go from there. Another thing I wanted to comment on, I don't know if this is related or should be but I'll put it out there. A safety plan for kids right now with school shootings and everything, how would our kids impact if they cannot hear. Also something to bring to the table for kids with hearing loss, participating plus, or in general, orthopedic or sensory needs. That this is also a safety issue. Does this fit in, or in addition, how we go about it. Thank you.

>> Great questions. First of all, your first question, you could reach any member of the cohort committee for that children's project, to help get started in your state. So I would suggest the chapter checklist I talked about before. Taking a look at that and working your way through the steps. And Dr. Johnson, myself, Janet [indiscernible] any of those folks can help you get started with that. That is a great opportunity. And the question of school emergencies and lockdowns for shootings. That is indeed something I think we should talk about. I can tell you in Colorado, the sign language interpreter that was at a school the day of one of the school shootings at Arapahoe. The shooter was shot. Early on in the event. You may not have heard about that one but one student did die. And what happened in her experience was the deaf student in her service, they were not aware at the time of the shooting where exactly that student was. Great concern and panic that the student would come out in the hallway during a lockdown not knowing these things were happening. So I would suggest that individual parents go to their districts. That is where we have the most power to share a personal story. And indicating bicolor, what is going on in the school, if it's safe to move to a next class. If a student was in the restroom or wherever it happened. The interpreter is giving presentations on this topic. I haven't heard anything from Parkland but maybe the chapter in Florida is aware of something going on there. But great questions. Things we should all be aware of.

>> Can I make a comment. Just to differentiate between the Hands and Voices headquarters formalized programs, [indiscernible] EDDY guide by your side. Incorporating the elements into the formal program. I wanted to make sure everybody understands that we do call it a project and not a program. To start these efforts in your chapter, it looks like Sarah mentioned you would go to the chapter checklist, and then it additional trainings with the Guide by Your Side or ASTRA program. As we went through this process trying to decide whether we should have an application program. For chapters to have the OUR program. But we wanted to just use and integrate it into everything we do at Hands and Voices. I wanted to make that verification.

>> Thank you so much, that is great.

>> I wanted to move on to talk a little bit about the OUR children's [indiscernible] if you knew that was something you can check out from headquarters, mailed to your chapter. You can customize it based on your audience. If you're coming to a conference or some kind of event. And you only pay for the charge to mail it back to the headquarters. This can include a sample for the quilts, it has notebooks, and books from the book project, literacy project. All kinds of handouts. Some instructions about how best to share information. I wonder if anyone on the call would be willing to share their experience of checking out their exhibit. Maybe we will skip Michigan since we know you have it.

>> Has anyone else checked out the table?

>> This is Kelly and Texas. We have not checked out the table. But we did use the quilt for a little while, before we sent it on to you guys. I guess we brought it to the leadership conference. We are going to be checking it out this summer. We have the biannual [indiscernible] every year, the conference for education. [indiscernible- static]

>> There is some kind of noise on the call.

>> I think we may have lost Kelly, this is Harold.

>> Hopefully she can join back in. I wanted to let you know, [indiscernible] the office manager. Let her know what dates you would like to have the exhibit table, first make sure it is available. Then give her enough lead time, 2 to 3 weeks, to get it back from wherever it is.

>> A system that works really well. Currently the exhibit table is booked pretty much through April and May. [indiscernible]

>> Go ahead

>> The table as a way to introduce the topic maybe add an event you already have planned. Remarkably available, many states have done quilts. The quilts are basically a way to talk about the true -- it's very empowering. The material is self-explanatory. Simply for people to take and explain. It does take someone standing behind the table. Inviting people in and sharing information. Packing and unpacking the material. We suggest if you do order it that you have a place that you can hang up quilts behind the table. Again, if you talk to headquarters. What you can expect, there may be some duplication involved. Otherwise it is just the cost of mailing it back, \$50 or so to mail it back from Michigan after the last conference. It is a good easy way to begin introducing the topic of enhancing the well-being of our children.

>> Now Harold, do you think people need to wait until they're an expert in this topic?

>> No. I've been doing this over 11 years. I don't consider myself an expert. It's really just the willingness to learn. Your willingness to talk about the topic. One of the biggest dangers is people are so uncomfortable with the topic of child abuse and neglect, make, they just turn their head and they don't want to see it. So being willing to take a risk for the safety and well-being of our kids. All the material is there. Sarah mentioned notebooks. For every handout there is an in-depth notebook that explains the information. If you just read the handouts, and you want to talk about, speaking to any of the groups. I think in a short conversation you will be well enough prepared to begin the con -- the conversation on enhancing the will be knowing the best safety and well-being of our children

>> This is Sarah, the main ingredient is it takes a little bit of courage to speak up on a topic people are reluctant to talk about. With that Harold, would you share the safety statement need.

>> Earlier this morning, a few hours ago Janet sent out a reminder about today's call but also gave you an additional handout. April 8, 2018 safety document. If you can pull that up it might be helpful. This document shows the journey. A journey that began in 2000 eight the best 2008 with Hands and Voices. Basically it says all of the organizations with us on this journey. This document was developed specifically to give parents something they can take in their hand to their IMS peas. And say we want you to plan for the safety of our kids by including into IAP's or the 504 plan, ISPs, that we are not alone. It lists 15 different divisions within the cancel for exceptional children. -- The Council for exceptional children. As you may know this counsel is a

professional organization for that. This document outlines date by date all the various groups, exciting fashion. Addition to all of the specialty divisions, from early childhood to autism. We also now have the school administrator referred to as the administrators of special ed. That we need to plan for the safety and well-being of our kids. In fact they've asked me to help work with them on what they call the lucky 21 document. A document done during the next school year. Sent to all of the special ed administrators. For plans to enhance the safety and well-being of our kids. As you may know right now the training for people in special education, basically you are mandatory reporters and are supposed to call police or child protective services, if you suspect someone is being abused or neglected. That is about it. Most professionals are not anywhere close to being prepared, even to understand what it looks like, who to call, what would happen, what are the barriers. The impact of the frequency.

>> And right now, regarding the treatment from reoccurring, reacting to the trauma experience. It says we are not alone, Hands and Voices is no longer alone on this journey. Simply reporting when kids are in trouble, we need to stop it from happening in the first place. And also the Council has adopted the topic of prevention into their five-year plan. Working with the group to write the paper. And then in pages two and three, with more specific information, action items and resources, particularly your kids educational planning team, can use to implement safety into the educational plans. So like in Louisiana, this document is a good place to begin. For all of you guys looking for the next step, being willing to talk about the topic, and doing something about it. Having this document and all of the agencies and organizations, this we hope will give you the leverage to not only have the conversation with your child, but also to strongly, actually doing something, you know, taking the larger topic from riding the bicycle, to swimming, just day-to-day realities of living. Linking that with the reality that our kids are also frequently viewed or seen, sought as victims because they don't understand what is happening, they don't have the language skills to share that, not even understood to be at risk for it. To plan for that safety as well as bicycle riding. So the document was meant for you as a tool to leverage, to get your children's educators to not only be aware of the problem, but to give them specific strategies and resources. Your boards that would like to talk more about this, a phone conference or videoconference with you, to talk about this document, how you can use this. The conference table material. To not just be aware of the problem but to practically address the problem. Sarah.

>> Great Harold. I am sure you all have not had a chance to look at the document more carefully, but again something to review. If you haven't seen it before, we are open to talk about a, any thing Harold has said. Any other comments or questions. I want to give a chance to folks on captioning that haven't jumped in. Or other chapters that had questions. Giving a moment to recognize anyone.

>> This is Kim from British Columbia. I wanted to comment on perhaps a chapter that maybe hasn't felt like we have done a lot to date. We did a small health and safety workshop. But looking through a lot of the great information on the website about the OUR project, the previous PowerPoint done at leadership. It's [indiscernible] probably ready for next steps. Some of the power points about [indiscernible] that promote well-being and the subsequent workshops we have done. We have done a lot of those things with the positive parenting. Child development. We have done the deaf thing presentation for parents. Adopted from the one Leanne Seaver had early on. So I think for other chapters that are just starting out on it like us, sort of the little things we have been building on, I just thank you for the conversations, it moves us to the next step. Even focusing on some of the positive parenting initiatives. Perhaps now it is time to look at more, not scary statistics but making sure we are communicating everything. With an opportunity to communicate, and how we include some of the project, that sort of our next steps.

>> I love that did the idea that you are being more intentional about why you are focusing on the positive parenting. Of those protective factors that deal with parents and kids, so embedded in the principles of the guide by your side program. We could work with families for 10 years without mentioning why it is important that we focus on those. I love that you are to add that piece. Harold I am sorry I interrupted you.

>> I am sorry Sarah, you said basically, guys as you think about the project, it's not about looking at the dark, all of the horrendous stuff that happens to too many kids. But rather Sarah is talking about. Looking towards the light. Ticket our kids safe and successful, empowering them to be the person you want them to be and they can be. And how we will avoid, through the duration or intensity of any experience, that you might have. A much more positive way of looking at helping kids be self actualized. And if they find themselves in a situation that isn't right, they know what to do quickly as opposed to being pulled down into his whole, feeling guilty and confused on how it's their fault what they experienced. Thank you guys.

>> That is great. Anyone else?

>> We have had a great discussion today on the call. I am not exactly sure who is up for closing? We encourage you to think about what we might be able to accomplish by the leadership conference in September. Maybe let us know what the next call, we will be having a speaker for part two [indiscernible] the second Tuesday of the month.

>> Sarah [indiscernible] Michigan. Can you hear me? If Anthony is on the call it would be nice to hear from him. He worked with parents that did step up to help with the OUR table. And is really new to this. And Hands and Voices. It might be nice to hear from him about his experience of being that person. With Harold at that table. Maybe he has some enlightenment for everyone else on how this can be done.

>> Anthony, are you on the call?

>> This is Janel. I know his son recently had surgery. I didn't know if he would be on or not. Maybe he can share at another point.

>> Sure. He would want to share by email. That is an option. We are nothing if not flexible.

>> That would be great. I think his insight would be well received, being so new to this.

>> Right. I believe Janet has an announcement about April.

>> I do, thank you so much. This has been a terrific call. We are so grateful for the commitment at the chapter level, to continue efforts of the OUR project. The theme that ran through the conversation today was about the idea of needing to be an expert around the issue of child abuse and neglect. I can tell you from the beginning, this was our area of concern. I think the beauty of this project as we are not asking any of us to be experts. There are experts in the field. What we discovered is they didn't necessarily understand the unique considerations of the deaf and hard of hearing children. That is our area of expertise, right. This beautiful marriage of taking on the topic, keeping our children safe, while understanding the knowledge base and partnering with those who have it. For example Kim and British Columbia. Having a conversation around supported staff, bringing someone in around the knowledge, marrying the two concepts of keeping our kids safe. And understanding the unique language and accessibility of the deaf and hard of hearing kids. Thank you so much to all of you out there. Every day doing this work. This month on April 30, I will be sending information in a minute, there is going to be a presentation called making every month prevention month. The children's Bureau, looking at Michigan child welfare. With a proactive model rather than a reactive model, reducing the likelihood of how things happen. You will see that in the next few days. Along with the transcript from the captioning and the other discussions we have had. Ask again for coming. Think about next month, the last call before the summer. We will definitely go through to see what we will each individually and organizationally be committed to between now and the leadership conference. And I will turn it over to Harold who has a couple of closing quotes for us today.

>> Thank you Janet. I do have two quotes. One is the big picture, and the next for all of us in terms of next steps. The first one relates from Winston Churchill, stating success is not final. Failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue the accounts. That is a courage we are asking all of us to have here. Because our kids depend upon us. Even though it is difficult, it's incredibly more difficult for them and we ask all of us to have the courage to address this topic in a proactive fashion. And finally, the second one, attributed to Confucius. It's important for all of us as to what we will be doing next, maybe those chapters just considering the first steps. It states it does not

matter how slowly you go, as long as you do not stop. That's one thing we learned in this project, we do not stop. We continue. As you saw from the document, we now have a much larger group walking down this journey with us. So start the journey, you're not alone. We have to have the courage to help our kids be safe. Thank you.

>> Thank you.

>> Thank you Harold, thank you everyone for joining the call today. Let us know how we can send, support your efforts individually and organizationally. Have a good day in a week, thank you for joining us. Thank you.

>> Goodbye.

>> [Event concluded]