



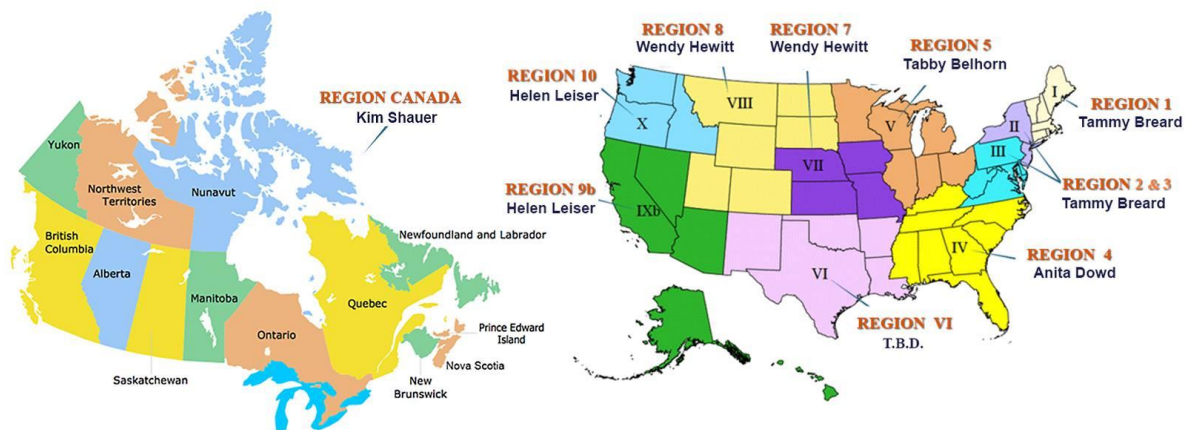
# REGIONAL COORDINATOR PROJECT

Hands & Voices

[2018-19 Annual Report](#)

This project meets a need within our organization and in the EHDI system to continue to develop collaborative partnerships which will produce better outcomes for children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing.

Terri Patterson  
H&V HQ Director of Chapter Support



## Project in Review

The Hands & Voices Regional Coordinator project is now beginning its tenth year. Each Regional Coordinator lives in the region in which they are assigned, (Coordinators may temporarily support neighboring regions when a position is open). Each Regional Coordinator worked on different aspects and activities based on the needs in each of their regions, including a Canadian region that was added in 2013. (See Regional reports below). The Regional Coordinators meet by phone or virtually a minimum of 2-3 times; and at least once, face to face, annually with the Project Manager, as well as with their respective regions. We continue to grow this project as a forum for support to families, H&V Chapters, and other regionalized activities with partner agencies such as AAP, as well as the NCHAM regionalized network of support for the EHDI system. All the Regional Coordinators reached out to and continue to build a relationship with the AAP Chapter Champions in their regions. We continue to incorporate leadership from the twenty-six H&V Guide By Your Side (GBYS) Programs to maintain cohesion between Chapters and GBYS programming. We also have ten approved Advocacy Support and Training (ASTra) programs in our network which we also include. Our goal this year is to continue to increase awareness among all our Chapters to help them understand the support offered and provided through this project. The 2019 Annual H&V Leadership Conference will enhance awareness of this project and the connections that may be made across state and provincial borders through a variety of activities. Terri Patterson, H&V HQ Director of Chapter Support provides oversight of this project. Find more details on the dedicated page of the Hands & Voices website here, <http://www.handsandvoices.org/chapters/regionalCoordinators.html>.

## Activities include:

- Providing ongoing technical assistance to Chapters within designated regions;
- Creating network amongst states/provinces within the regions for interaction and collaborative events/trainings;
- Representing the H&V HQ organization at regional events in the assigned regions;
- Providing a platform for Chapters, in regions, to interact and communicate as needed (Yahoo Chapter Leaders' group, Facebook page; phone meetings, etc.).

This project meets a need within our organization and in the EHDI system to continue to develop collaborative partnerships which will produce better outcomes for children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing. We host H&V HQ

staff-led webinars for individual and/or all Regions on a regular basis, built on need-to-know topics around Chapter leadership.

**Current Hands & Voices Regional Coordinator Assignments 2018 – 2019**

**Region 1,2,3: ME, VT, NY, RI, CT, MA, NH, NJ, DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV – Tammy Breard (CT H&V President)**

**Region 4: FL, AL, NC, SC, TN, KY, MS, GA – Anita Dowd (KY H&V President)**

**Region 5: MI, IN, IL, OH, MN, WI – Tabby Belhorn (OH H&V Director)**

**Region 6: TX, LA, AR, OK, NM - Kellie Berger (TX H&V Director)**

**Region 7, 8: KS, IA, MO, MT, UT, ND, SD, WY, CO, NE – Wendy Hewitt (WY H&V Director)**

**Region 9a: HI, CNMI, Guam, Pacific Islands – Combined with Regions 9b, 10**

**Region 9b, 10: ID, OR, WA, AK, AZ, CA, NV – Helen Cotton Leiser (H&V HQ)**

**Region Canada – Kim Shauer (BC H&V GBYS Coordinator)**

---

*H&V Region 1, 2, 3: Coordinator: Tammy Breard, President, CT H&V*

---

**Activities:**

**Connected with Chapters in Region 1,2,3**

- Met with Chapter Leadership at the H&V Leadership Conference – September 2018, and at the EHDI Conference - March 2019.
- Region 1,2,3 conference calls – 7/18/18, 12/5/18, 1/15/19  
Subjects covered in conference calls included;
  - How can we help each other, sharing Chapter information on programs, board make-up, FL3 update, etc.
- Using Region 1,2,3 Facebook Group to share resources and activity ideas

**Participated in Regional Coordinator meetings**

- In-person meeting at H&V Leadership Conference – 9/2018
- Conference calls – 3/29/18, 12/5/18 was not able to attend, but provided a report.

**Goals/Next Steps**

- Region 1,2,3 in-person meeting at the H&V Leadership Conference – 9/2019
- Continue to encourage the practice of “Chapters Without Borders”. Chapters to share ideas and mentoring from state to state.

- Plan and facilitate 2/3 Region 1,2,3 Conference calls in 2019/2020.
- Increase utilizing Region 1,2,3 Facebook Group to better facilitate sharing of information.
- Facilitate group meetings focused on grant writing, Chapter management and managing FBO obligations under EHDI funding.
- Will encourage Chapter leadership to visit other Chapters trainings/family events
- Increase my presence at Regional Coordinator calls.

---

*Region 4: Anita Dowd, KY Hands & Voices Board President*

---

**Activities:**

- Attended all the HQ Regional Coordinator Meetings (phone and in-person).
- Region 4 Leadership along with several Chapter board members met at the Leadership Conference in September 2018. A lot of discussion was centered on how our regional Chapters could collaborate more on events. From this discussion, Tennessee and Kentucky decided to bid on the 2020 Hands & Voices Leadership Conference location so that both Chapters could work together to have the best conference ever!! Tennessee has submitted all the necessary paperwork and we are waiting for the announcement with fingers crossed.
- Manages and moderates the H&V Region 4 Facebook closed group, providing resources, HQ reminders/news, opportunities to exchange individual Chapter activities and news.
- We have a new H&V Guide By You Side Program in Alabama (Go Alabama!!) and Kentucky hopes to implement an ASTRA program before the end of 2020.

**Goals/Next Steps:**

- Reach out individually to all the active Chapter Leaders in the Region
- Schedule 2-3 virtual meetings with all Region Chapter Leaders. We have still not come up with the most effective way to meet on a regular basis. At this point the Regional Coordinator is considering Zoom meetings but needs to get a better handle on the tech part of Zoom in order to take the lead in that.
- Determine topics of interest in this region and invite H&V HQ staff to present on determined topics for 15 minutes during each virtual meeting.

---

*Region 5: Tabby Belhorn, OH Hands & Voices Executive Director*

---

**Activities:**

- Region 5 leaders will meet at Leadership Conference in September 2019 for an informal meeting and introduction of new leaders. As a group we discussed our needs and how we can support each other as a region of well-established Chapters. We decided to all partner on expanding the Ohio H&V and Michigan

H&V Lunch & Learn series to all of Region 5. This provides us with a larger support network, broader range of topics and presenters. We also decided to support each other through the process of using and expanding social media use, specifically Instagram, to reach a younger audience of parents.

- During the year, we continued to use our email group and Region 5 Facebook page to support each other, ask questions, and share information among each Chapter's leaders, GBYS programs, and ASTra programs.
- Indiana Hands & Voices established an ASTra program and I (Ohio) supported Indiana by sharing materials as guidance for IN H&V to develop their program materials, such as grant proposals, scope of work, and other internal documents.
- Minnesota H&V had a revival of their ASTra program and Andrea Marwah (IL H&V) and I presented their two-day ASTra training in May 2018. The weekend organically led to a small Region 5 catch-up and support session with MN, OH, and IL H&V Chapters. At the National EHDl meeting in March, I was able to check in with Indiana, Illinois, Minnesota, and Michigan Chapters, as well.
- Along with our meeting at the 2018 Annual Hands & Voices Leadership Conference, we also had two tele-conference calls this past year on November 12, 2018 and June 27, 2019, in which all states participated. We reviewed items from H&V HQ, shared state activities and information, discussed Lunch & Learns and social media use, as well as progress.

#### **Next Steps:**

- Schedule three conference calls for the next year and confirm one meet-up time at the 2019 Annual H&V Leadership Conference.
- Send a survey to Chapter leaders to determine areas of support to focus on for next year.
- Continue to share information and remind the region about news and events from H&V HQ via email and Facebook group.
- Continue Regional Lunch & Learns and find a central housing location.

---

*Region 6: Kellie Berger, TX Hands &Voices Executive Director*

---

#### **Activities:**

- It was a challenge coordinating meetings this year with all the states due to conflicts and changing leadership. I contacted each Chapter independently throughout the year to touch base via phone, our Facebook page and email and share updates from HQ.
- Personal Calls & emails to each state following up on discussions. Chapters had questions regarding forms, protocol, possible coordination of summer event, documents for board development, etc. I also clarified current leaders contact info and invited more leadership to join in calls.
- Shared events with bordering states and shared their events with our members.
- Participation in Regional Coordinator conference calls and shared pertinent updates with TXHV board.

## Next Steps:

- Kellie resigned her positions with Hands & Voices, as she enjoys a new season of her life and family. We wish her the very best!
- Recruitment and selection took place June-July 2019 to fill this role within this project.
- Liana Robbins, Executive Director for Arkansas Hands & Voices will be joining this project as the new Region 6 Coordinator in August 2019 after onboarding activities with the Project Director.

---

*Region 7 & 8: Wendy Hewitt, WY Hands & Voices Executive Director*

---

## Activities:

### Connected with Chapters in Regions 7&8:

- An attempt was made to contact each state with an active Chapter at least quarterly this year, via email, the Facebook group or at conferences.
- I worked to remind Chapters about the EHDI conference, Leadership Conference, and the Hands & Voices *Communicator* newspaper article deadlines, Headquarter meetings, Regional meeting and other HQ required data deadlines. We had a great meeting at the 2018 Annual H&V Leadership Conference in Cheyenne. It was attended by every state!
- Chapter Specific:
  - ND: Had email contact with the Director several times. GBYS Training in April 2018, four new ND H&V GBYS Parent Guides, plus GBYS Coordinator serving families. Family Event planned at the Bismarck Dakota Zoo June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Partnered with ND EHDI for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the grant. Several events throughout the state and able to send parents to conferences.
  - NE: Frequent contact with Shelli (NE H&V E.D.) throughout the year. Attendees at every meeting, shared a lot of great ideas. Shelli continues to help Wyoming as they as their WY H&V GBYS grows. Made attempts for Wyoming and Nebraska to get border families to attend Mom's Night Inn and Family Fun Nights.
  - WY; Held their 3rd Parent Training in June of 2019 in Casper WY. Karen Putz was the Keynote. Their training continues to grow, and they are hoping to receive the same grant for 2020. They also continue to have Family Fun Events around the state. Their WY H&V GBYS also continues to grow and they are working on having H&V ASTra training within the next year.
  - MT: Montana continues to grow after becoming a Chapter in 2018. They have had some great events for families at gymnastic studios, hot springs, museums and parks. Even though it is challenging, they are trying to spread family events around the state. The state deaf school recently had a family weekend and we made some great connections with new parents. Still receiving MT EHDI funding and trying to build their board.

- IA: Contacts here are the most experienced and are well-versed in HQ supports; contact on variety of H&V GBYS and H&V HQ forums frequently. Parent Leaders are great help and have great advice for newer Chapters. Iowa is working to make their Chapter stronger.
  - MO: Missouri has been very quiet most of this year. They are currently transitioning Parent Leadership.
  - CO: Colorado continues to host many events for families and their CO H&V GBYS program is doing great. They keep very busy and of course their Director is always available if I have questions. Invited Wyoming to the 1<sup>st</sup> Day of their ASTra training.
  - SD: South Dakota is the newest Hands & Voices Provisional Chapter! Four parents have come together to grow a Chapter.
  - UT: Have not had much contact with Utah this year, as a Provisional H&V Chapter who continues to receive T.A. from the Director of Chapter Support.
- Conference Calls and Meetings: We had three conference calls – January 2019, and March 2019 and June 2019. We have found that it helps to set up dates at the beginning of the year. Our regions had several group emails and Facebook posts as HQ news, deadlines, or opportunities became available. Several one-on-one emails with other states as questions would arise. All Chapters either were represented or contacted me before or after the meeting.
    - ND, NE, CO, WY, and IA were quite active.
    - Several Chapter leaders were able to meet on Sunday morning of the H&V Leadership Conference in Cheyenne. CO Director led that meeting.
    - The Region 7 & 8 Facebook page continues to grow for this closed group. We have 21 members with each Chapter represented.
    - Training and Family Event opportunities: Encouraged the region's Chapters to register for various webinars that have been provided by H&V Headquarters. Have discussed doing some bordering state trainings and/or activities, Iowa/Nebraska, Nebraska/Colorado, Wyoming/Nebraska and Wyoming/Colorado, and Wyoming/Montana, in particular.
    - I will reach out to South Dakota to help them become an official Chapter.
    - I will reach out to Missouri to see if there is anything I need to help them with.

Next Steps:

- As the Region 7 & 8 Director, this year I hope to make more time to contact other states personally through phone or email to see if there is anything I can help them with.
- This year I will work to post more regularly on the Facebook, contact different states in between meetings, and improve my timeliness on typing up meeting minutes and making them available on our FB page and through email.

---

*Region 9a: currently overseen by HQ Regional Coordinator Project Manager, Terri Patterson,  
H&V HQ Director of Chapter Support*

---

**Activities:**

- Connections have been limited to the HI H&V Chapter.
- Ongoing communication and technical support are being provided to the existing members or the Chapter Board and professional partnerships.
- Due to the lack of parent leadership capacity, H&V HQ has determined that the best option is to dissolve the current HI Hands & Voices Chapter, with that caveat that they may keep their 501c3 designation for six months, as they actively recruit new parent leadership to begin start up efforts.

**Goals/Next Steps:**

- Continue to support the rebuilding efforts of the Hawaii Chapter of Hands & Voices and provide a timeline of activities along with technical support, as appropriate and needed.
- As the FL3 project grows at Hands & Voices outreach efforts are being made with the territories that are included in this region regarding family engagement activities, we hope to connect with other parent leaders in those territories.

---

*Region 9b, 10 Coordinator: Helen Cotton Leiser (founder of OR H&V), H&V HQ Director of Development and Fundraising*

---

**Activities:**

- Region 9 met in-person at the 2019 Annual Hands & Voices Leadership Conference.
  - We had good representation from each State's board and/or H&V Guide By Your Side Coordinators, overall.
- This year WA and OR held their annual H&V GBYS training together in Vancouver, WA.
- Funding and Board development continues to be a priority for our Chapters. There has been a fair amount of discussion during Board meetings: frequency and location of meetings.
- The Regional Facebook group has been our steady form of communication on a monthly basis.

**Next Steps:**

- Schedule a meeting and discuss the Lunch and Learn idea created in Region 5.

---

*Region Canada Coordinator: Kim Shauer, BC GBYS Coordinator, Board Member BC H&V*

---

**Activities:**

- Held four Regional meetings (Sep 15, 2018: in-person; Teleconferences held Dec 6, 2018, Feb 21 and May 28, 2019) - currently British Columbia & Alberta are only Canadian H&V Chapters.
- Discussion themes of our regional calls have included:



- Getting to know new Board members, building trust and openness in discussing leadership challenges, strengths and areas where support is needed
- Sharing BC information on our Bylaws to assist Alberta in developing their own
- Regional Coordinator sharing knowledge of H&V HQ graphic guidelines and website development information.
- Discussing various membership structures BC has tried as Alberta is looking to implement something different.
- Sharing provincial education information between provinces to support a Canadian Educational Advocacy document being developed.
- Strategic planning areas
- Leadership conference / benefits
- Support to Alberta continues for potential of GBYS program implementation
- Board member sustainability and recruitment
- Grant opportunities in Canadian provinces
- Importance of H&V philosophy in our provinces, how leaders have handled some challenges that arise from time to time
- Improvements that could be made during future leadership transitions to support the new leaders during succession planning
- Relationships among Chapter leaders continue to strengthen even as new leaders join the group and our established platform based on honesty & trust grows
- Continue to update contact list of H&V Chapter Leaders in Canada. (BC, AB, ON)
- Regional Coordinator provides individual support calls/emails with provinces as needed
- Canadian Regional Facebook page in use for Regional parent leaders for communication/support, although emails are preferred by leaders as we are a small group, so it is not used much
- Participated in Regional Coordinator scheduled Zoom meetings.

**Next Steps:**

- Next In-person meet up will be held during the H&V Leadership Conference in DC (Sep 2019 – BC & AB attending)
- Regional Coordinator has started to provide initial H&V information to Whitehorse, Yukon professional who has contacted me with interest in H&VGBYS, more discussion in Sept. is planned
- Continue to provide the platform and coordination for Canadian Chapters to interact and learn from one another to grow our Chapters while remaining engaged to lead and support families in our provinces.
- Provide one on one Chapter leader support, as needed.