



Panel Title: Deaf Adults in Early Intervention: Connect, Communicate, Collaborate

Facilitator: Elaine Gale

Presenters: Richard Doku, Karen Hopkins, Cheryl Spykerman

Abstract:

Research shows families feel empowered by meeting deaf adults, and importantly, early in their journey. In recognizing the importance of partnerships in FCEI, this panel focuses on ways to build sustainable systems to provide families support implementing updated FCEI Principles to infuse deaf adults. Richard Doku from Ghana will share his collaboration experiences as a professional teacher and sign language officer of Ghana National Association of the Deaf to support the Early Care and Education of Deaf Children (ECE). Karen Hopkins from the United States will share her connection experiences as an Early Intervention Detection and Intervention (EHDI) coordinator and director for an early intervention program. Cheryl Spykerman from New Zealand will share her communication experiences as a Deaf Aotearoa First Signs facilitator and team leader. Learn from different countries' experiences and resources as deaf professionals share how deaf and hearing researchers, practitioners and parents connect, communicate and collaborate.