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| ***COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA*** | | | |
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**FY25 3rd Quarter Report**

**January – March 2025**

**Deaf Mentor Program**

Deaf Mentor Coordinator – The position has been vacant since summer 2024. Paul Stuessy, Community Services Manager, is the supervisor and oversees the program for the interim. After conducting interviews for the wage position, the panel determined that we should advertise again but decided to wait and see whether VDDHH could get a new full-time equivalent (FTE) position. Fortunately, the part-time position was approved to be converted to a full-time position with salary & benefits which will allow VDDHH to attract & retain better talent. *Current status – the position as posted with a June 6 deadline to apply, and we anticipate interviews and an effective start date later this summer*.

Deaf Mentors - We’re not actively recruiting families until we are able to grow a larger pool of available Deaf Mentors.   However, we will still accept referrals. We successfully completed SKI-HI training for the 3rd cohort of 11 Deaf Mentors at the end of February. This was much needed as it will increase more mentors in needed regions of Northern Virgina, Tidewater, and Central regions. In March, all of the applicants passed background checks and satisfy the American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI) assessments. *Current status – contracts have been updated and as soon as they sign contracts this May, they’ll be available to better serve our existing families.*

24th Annual Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Conference – Eric Raff, Director and Paul Stuessy, Community Services, attended workshops at the national conference on March 9-11 in Pittsburg, PA and networked with industry leaders in the newborn hearing & screening, early intervention, early childhood development and language acquisition fields.