

Stronger Together: Partnering for a Better Future - A California Summit to Advance Early Intervention for All Young Children

Friday, October 24, 2025

Sponsored & Presented by:



CSHA

Human Lives. Human Connection.

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at The Swain Center



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Speech and Language Therapy • Occupational Therapy • Physical Therapy
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Morning Panel Discussion

Collaboration for Better Outcomes - Breaking Silos with Shared Purpose

Panelists:

- **Michi Gates**, Ph.D., Chief Deputy Director of Program Services, California Department of Developmental Services
- **Jackie Wong**, Executive Director, First 5 California
- **Virginia Castor Early**, MPH, Administrator of the Policy Office, California Department of Education's Early Education Division
- **Pradeep Gidwani**, M.D., MPH, FAAP, Medical Director for HDS and First Steps. American Academy of Pediatrics, California Chapter 3

Moderator:

- **Letizia Hendrickson**, MS CCC-SLP, ADHD-RSP, The Learning Grove, West Coast University, CSHA President-Elect

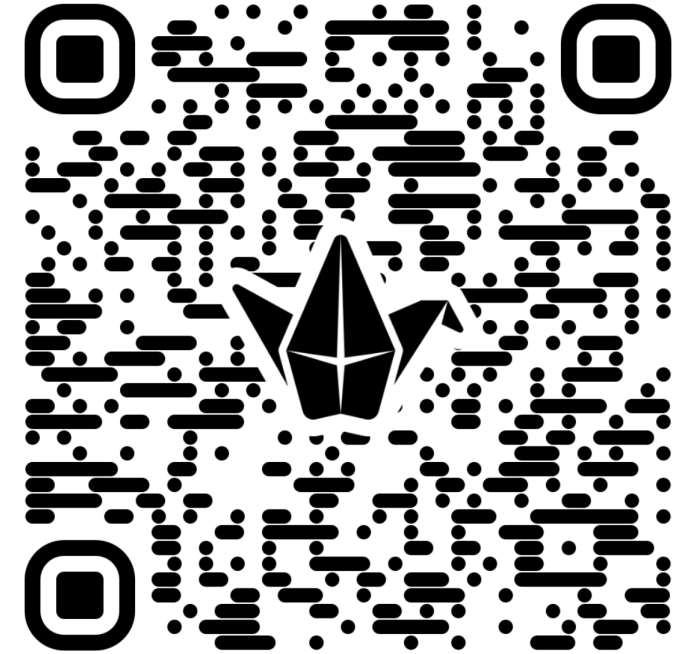
Working Group Rountables

Facilitator Monica Hudnall, Ed.D., CCC-SLP, Autism Training Director,
California Department of Developmental Services

Strengths, Barriers & Opportunities

Core Norms

- *Follow the Facilitator*
- *Multiple Perspectives*
- *Step Up, Step Back*
- *Right to Pass*
- *Discomfort is a Part of Growth*
- *Shared Ownership*



Password: 1saD1FBP

Afternoon Panel Discussion

Building a Shared Early Intervention Framework Through Common Threads and Big Ideas

Panelists:

- **Michele Rogers**, Ph.D., Executive Director, Early Learning Institute & Chair, Infant Development Association
- **Dr. Deborah Ross-Swain**, Ed.D., CCC-SLP, BCS-CL, Early Intervention Committee Summit Chair, California Speech-Language-Hearing Association
- **Swati Shah**, OTR/L, Founder & Occupational Therapist, Ascend Rehab Services, Inc.
- **Darsie Fisk**, MSPT, Physical Therapist, Grow With Me-Creciendo Juntos

Moderator:

- **Dr. Lisa D'Angelo**, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, CBIS, Associate Professor, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Sacramento State

Thank You to our EI Summit Committee!

- Sarah Bishop, MA, CCC-SLP CSHA
- Lisa D'Angelo, Ph.D., CCC-SLP CSHA
- Letizia Hendrickson, MS, CCC-SLP CSHA
- Monica Hudnall, Ed.D., CCC-SLP DDS
- Katherine McKernan-McCracken, Ph.D., CCC-SLP CSHA
- Bob McKinney, MA, CCC-SLP CSHA
- Robert Pieretti, Ph. D. CCC-SLP CSUS
- Benjamin Reece, Ed.D., CCC-SLP CSHA
- Michele Rogers, Ph.D. IDA
- Alayna Short, CSUS
- Andrew Stiffler, CSUS
- Deb Swain, Ed.D., CCC-SLP Committee chair CSHA



El Summit Priorities Survey



Using a Smart Phone, open the camera app and Point the camera towards the QR code. Tap on the link that appears to open the survey.

- Don't forget to complete the survey
- Honoring the Day & the Collective Energy
- A Challenge: Stay Engaged, Don't Let the Momentum Fade
- What Happens Next – Accountability and Continued Partnership
- Summit Follow-Up Report
- Virtual Check-In – 60-Day Continuation Session
- In-Person Connection at CSHA Convergence in March
- Ongoing Working Groups & Recommendations
- Final Call to Action