

**Karen Hopkins, M.Ed CAGS**  
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**Professional Profile:**

Educational Leader with over 25 years experience in education; including the development, implementation, and management of programs with extensive knowledge of early intervention, deaf educational programming and family engagement. Wide-range of experience in supervision, development of training materials, coordinating and conducting trainings, educational opportunities and national presentations. Highly motivated professional who is focused on program growth and effectiveness, improving organizational culture and climate, and engaging families and Deaf and hard of hearing adults in programming.

**Education:**

**University of New England**

Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies  
Major: Educational Leadership; December 2011

**University of Maine**

Master of Education; May 2005  
Major: Early Childhood Special Education,  
Focus: Deaf Education

**Gallaudet University**

Bachelor of Science, May 1991  
Major: Elementary Education  
Focus: Deaf Education

**Certifications:**

**Superintendent**

**Special Education Director**

**Building Administrator/Principal**

Deaf Education K-12  
Early Childhood Special Education  
Elementary Education  
National Ski Hi Deaf Certification  
National Deaf Mentor Certification

**Professional Experience:**

**Director of Statewide Education and Family Services – 2018-present**

- Implementation, supervision and evaluation of all statewide outreach educational and family programs at The Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Program oversight of statewide programs:
  - Public School Outreach, Brewer Regional Program, Early Childhood and Family Services (Early Intervention Services, Bilingual Bimodal Preschool Program, Parent-Toddler Program, Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side Program, Family Learning Days, Deaf Mentor Program and the ASL For Families Program.
- Oversee online data and assessment portals
- Budget preparation for all statewide programming, grant involvement and Hands & Voices programs

- Grant writing and overseeing grant budget and activity
- Staff development planning
- Hiring of staff
- Educational Leadership in the areas of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
- Overseeing statewide early intervention deaf education, and special education services in collaboration with Local Education Agencies, Child Development Services and Maine Newborn Hearing Program
- Public Relations and Presentations – state and national conferences
- Statewide Conference Coordination
- Collaboration and transition planning with Child Development Services, public schools, and MECDHH Public School Outreach and Academic departments
- This position required skills and knowledge in supervision, deaf education, early childhood education, special education, Part C and Part B of IDEA, various communication opportunities, language planning, bilingual-bicultural and bi-lingual bi-modal education, educational law, evidenced based practices in all areas of education, curriculum, assessment and overall program programming.

### **Director of Early Childhood Education and Family Services – 2013- 2018**

#### **Responsibilities:**

- Implementation, supervision and evaluation of all early childhood programs at The Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Program oversight of statewide programs:
  - Early Childhood and Family Services (Early Intervention Services, Bilingual Bimodal Preschool Program, Parent-Toddler Program, Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side Program, Deaf Mentor Program and the ASL For Families Program.
- Oversee online data and assessment portals
- Budget preparation for all early childhood programming, grant involvement and Hands & Voices programs
- Grant writing and overseeing grant budget and activity
- Staff development planning
- Hiring of all early childhood staff
- Educational Leadership in the areas of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
- Overseeing statewide early intervention and special education services in collaboration with Child Development Services and Maine Newborn Hearing Program
- Public Relations and Presentations – state and national conferences
- Statewide Conference Coordination
- Collaboration and transition planning with Child Development Services, public schools, and MECDHH Public School Outreach and Academic departments
- This position required skills and knowledge in supervision, deaf education, early childhood education, special education, Part C and Part B of IDEA, various communication opportunities, language planning, bilingual-bicultural and bi-lingual bi-modal education, educational law, evidenced based practices in all areas of education, curriculum, assessment and overall program programming.

### **Early Childhood and Family Services Coordinator – 2004 – 2013**

#### **Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

This position evolved to include the implementation, supervision and evaluation of all early childhood programs at the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Upon hire,

this position was responsible for the Part B (age 3-5) portion of educational programming at MECDHH, which included teaching the Pre-Kindergarten program. Over time, responsibilities changed to oversight of all birth- age 5 programs including early intervention, parent infant programming, statewide educational outreach (deaf education) for 3-5 year olds and the Mackworth Island preschool program.

**Responsibilities:**

- Implementation, supervision and evaluation of all early childhood programs at The Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Program Oversight:
  - Early Childhood and Family Services
  - Parent-Infant-Toddler Program
  - Mackworth Island Preschool Program
- Teaching Pre-Kindergarten Deaf Education “Sound and Sign” Pre-Kindergarten classroom.
- Budget involvement for all early childhood programming
- Involved in Staff development planning
- Educational Leadership in the areas of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
- Public Relations – state and national agencies
- Presentations – state and national conferences
- Board representation – MNHP board, Hands & Voices board, Maine’s Foundation for Deaf Children
- This position required skills and knowledge in supervision, deaf education, early childhood education, special education, Part C and Part B of IDEA, various communication opportunities, language planning, bilingual-bicultural and bi-lingual bi-modal education educational law, evidenced based practices in all areas of education, curriculum, assessment and overall program programming.

**Early Childhood and Family Services Consultant and Teacher of the Deaf – 1997- 1998 – Contract**

**12/01/1998 – 2004 – Employee**

**Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

**Responsibilities:**

- Implementing an evidenced based deaf education classroom
  - Curriculum
  - Instruction
  - Assessment
  - Documentation
- Consultation to early childhood classrooms
- Consultation to families
- Collaboration with child’s IFSP and IEP teams
- Provide information, resources, support to families and providers
- Provide home visits, daycare and preschool visits

**Bilingual-Bicultural Teacher (preschool – grade 12), State of Maine Department of Education/Vocational Rehabilitation 1992-1997**

**Responsibilities:**

- Pre-Kindergarten Classroom instruction for deaf and hard of hearing children
- Teaching American Sign Language Classes for families
- Early Intervention for children and their families

- Tutoring and Educational Consultative Support to deaf and hard of hearing students in Elementary, Middle and High School
- Development and Implementation of annual educational and social-emotional summer programs for deaf and hard of hearing teenagers, including budget planning, travel planning, fundraising, grant writing, public relations, and hiring and supervision of contracted staff.

**Teacher – The Hilltop School, Bangor, Maine (1993-1994)**

**Responsibilities:**

- Implementation of Instruction, Curriculum and Assessment in a Pre-Kindergarten classroom of 18 students
- Supervision of Educational Technicians and Foster Grandparents

**Teacher Assistant – Dr. Lewis Libby School, Milford, Maine (1991-1992)**

- One on one instruction and assistance in regular classroom and in self-contained resource room for deaf student in elementary school.
- Implementation of IEP and behavior plans
- Supervision of entire class on occasion
- Taught American Sign Language class to students and staff

**Special Education Teacher Assistant – Asa Adams School, Orono, maine (1991)**

- One on one instruction and assistance in regular classroom and in self-contained special education room.
- Implementation of IEP and behavior plans
- Supervision of entire class on occasion.

**Board Involvement:**

Maine Newborn Hearing Program Board (2001-present) – Past Board Chair

Committees – Education, Quality Improvement, Membership

The Foundation for Maine’s Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children (2008-2017)

Maine Hands & Voices (2011-present)

Statewide Conference Coordinator

Committees – Membership, Fundraising, Events, Annual Conference

National EHDI Meeting Planning Board (2011-2015) – Chair of Family Events and Support Committee

National Deaf Mentor Learning Community – National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management

National Part C EHDI workgroup

**Professional Organizations:**

Maine Association of Special Education Directors

National Association for the Education of the Young Child

Maine Principal’s Association

Women Administrators of Cumberland and York

Hands & Voices

Maine Hands & Voices

**Additional Leadership Trainings:**

National Hands & Voices Leadership Conference – 2010-2019

Maine Children’s Leadership Institute – 2013

**Recognitions:**

Antonia Braxton Award Nominee

Leeanne Seaver Award Nominee

Outstanding Advocate for the Needs of the Deaf Community

Buddy Award for support of Children with Down Syndrome

**References:**

Owen Logue, Executive Director of MECDHH, 781-6285

Lynn Schardel, Past Executive Director of MECDHH, 232-6599

Janet DesGeorges, National Executive Director of Hands & Voices, 303-492-6283

Darlene Freeman, Past President of Maine Hands & Voices, 570-5691

Kristopher Michaud, Part B Coordinator – Child Development Services, 207-592-1406

Roy Fowler, Child Development Services Director – Child Development Services, 207-592-6079

Dr. Romy Spitz, Linguist and professor at University of Southern Maine, 450-5954

Dr. Amy Swarkowski, Harvard University and Beverly School for the Deaf Program Psychologist,  
781-216-2236

Kim Matthews, Early Childhood and Family Services Consultant, MECDHH, 318-7920

Catherine Lushman, Teacher of the Deaf, MECDHH 470-7679 (VP)