



Iowa Children with Hearing Loss Get Help

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Since the end of January, Iowa families who have children with hearing loss have had the opportunity to apply for funding from the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) to purchase hearing aids and audiological services they may not have otherwise been able to afford. \$238,500 was made available through June 30, 2008 by the legislature to cover uninsured or underinsured Iowa children in need of hearing aids or audiological services.

Approximately 45 newspapers and radio stations across Iowa picked up the IDPH press release and ran it in their daily newspaper or made mention of it on their radio program. Thank you for helping to spread the word! The Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Advisory Committee, made up of stakeholders across the state representing the full scope of services for children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing also did their part. They shared this information with their constituent groups, in newsletters or bulletins, and with parents or parent organizations.

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Advisory Update

The next meeting of the Iowa Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Committee is:
July 10, 2008
 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
 Iowa Lutheran Hospital, Conf. Room 1

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Past meeting agendas, minutes and a list of committee members are available online! Visit www.idph.state.ia.us/iaehdi.

Iowa Children with Hearing Loss **Get Help**

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Since that time, IDPH has received 71 applications for assistance to cover hearing aids, FM systems, ear molds, batteries, etc. Of the 71 applications, 68 applicants have had medical insurance. Screening and diagnostic testing are typically covered; however hearing aids are not. Families face tough decisions. Do we wait? What if we only aid one ear? How do we pay for these devices or services? Do we take out a loan or put it on our credit card? Will one of our family members loan us the money? Will the provider let us make payments?

Hearing loss affects a child's ability to communicate. Children who have normal hearing begin using single words at about one year of age. In reality, much language is learned before children utter their first word. Hearing loss can disrupt language development because learning spoken language depends on the ability to hear speech. The earlier hearing loss is found and addressed, the greater the chances a child will be able to develop listening abilities and use spoken language. The use of hearing instruments such as hearing aids is an essential part of this process.

Diana Hanson, an audiologist with Iowa Methodist Medical Center said, "Having this funding available for families is so wonderful. It is difficult to tell parents that their child has hearing loss and then to say that their health insurance most likely will not cover the cost of hearing aids. Now I am able to let them know that the state of Iowa has set aside money for children's hearing aids. Parents are so happy and have one less thing to worry about. A family I recently worked with has two school age boys that both wear hearing aids. They were in desperate need of new devices. The family was trying to save money for them and at the same time trying to decide which child would get new hearing aids first. With this money, both boys will be able to get hearing aids at the same time. The mother, Connie Dippel, noted that it was such a relief to know that the financial burden of hearing aids would be lifted from them. She said that it is a Godsend. This program is needed and she hopes it will continue in the future as there are no other funding sources that she has found. Connie also shared her appreciation for how easy the process was to apply."

Child Health Specialty Clinics Receives EHDl Funding

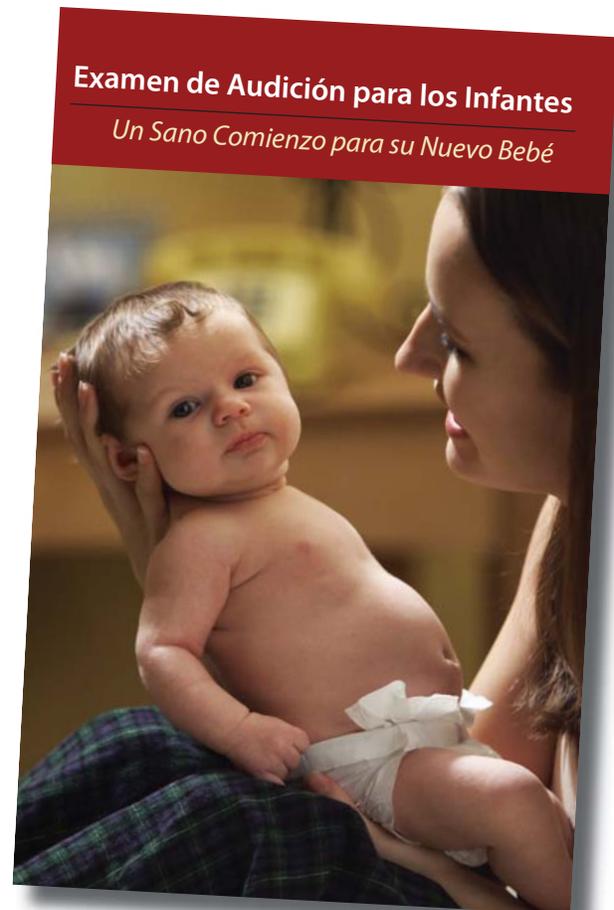
The EHDl program at Child Health Specialty Clinics (CHSC) was recently awarded funding for a new three year grant cycle. CHSC will receive approximately \$150,000 for each of the next three years. Grant activities will continue to focus on follow-up and family support.

Watch for opportunities to work with the EHDl project staff to improve the Iowa EHDl system. We will be recruiting hospitals, AEAs and private practice audiology clinics for quality improvement projects. If you are interested, or have questions, please contact Erin Kongshaug at (515) 281-4653 or by e-mail at erin-kongshaug@uiowa.edu.

Coming Soon - Spanish Newborn Hearing Brochure!

The EHDI program is pleased to announce they have revised the Spanish newborn screening brochure, *Infant Hearing Screening - A Sound Beginning for Your New Baby*. The brochure is a replica of the English version; just translated into Spanish.

The Spanish brochure has been sent to print and is expected to be available the first week in May. Once it becomes available, five copies will be mailed to all Iowa birthing facilities and AEAs. Your program can then decide how many additional copies of the brochure you will need for the Spanish speaking families you serve. To request additional copies (after you receive the initial mailing), please call the Healthy Families Line at 1-800-369-2229. Ask for publication IDPH 131(S). At this time, there is no charge to order the brochures.



Looking for a Few Good People

The EHDI program is gearing up to develop a “best practices” policies and procedures manual. The purpose of the manual is to advance the development of a comprehensive statewide early hearing detection and intervention (EHDI) system in Iowa. The manual will assist hospitals, birth centers, area education agencies, health care providers and private practice audiologists in developing programs and written protocols for newborn hearing screening programs, and follow-up and intervention for infants and toddlers identified with hearing loss. Once the manual is complete, it will be distributed to the various entities mentioned above to use as a tool or guide in developing policies and procedures within your program.

The EHDI program would like volunteers to review the manual when a draft is completed and offer comments, suggestions or feedback. We value your input and want the manual to be a useful tool for all of you working on behalf of children and families every day in the field! If you are interested in being a reviewer, please contact Tammy O’Hollearn through e-mail at tohollea@idph.state.ia.us or by calling 1-800-383-3826.

The Early ACCESS and EHDI Partnership

Early ACCESS (EA) and the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program are working together to make sure Iowa children get the hearing services they need. Based on hearing screening results reported by Iowa birthing hospitals, the EHDI program refers children to EA for pre-service coordination. Children referred to EA missed or did not pass the hearing screening at the hospital and did not have follow-up results recorded in the EHDI data system.

EA service providers work to get the babies in for follow-up hearing services by:

- Telling the families why the screening is important
- Providing information about where follow-up is available
- Problem-solving barriers, such as transportation or child care, to attending the appointment.

If EA is unable to reach a family, the EHDI program makes a final attempt. EHDI staff members send a letter to the family if a valid address is available and a letter and fax-back form to the primary care physician (PCP) listed in the EHDI data system.

This process is going well, but here are some tips to make it even more efficient:

- **Send referrals back to the EHDI program as soon as you are done with your attempts to contact the family.** We want to be as timely as possible with our final attempt to reach the family and PCP.
- **Report new contact information to the EHDI program.** If you find new contact information for a family and/or learn that the contact information in eSP is incorrect, let the EHDI program know.



- **Do not change the child's status in eSP.** If a family refuses services or if you do not get a response, report that to the EHDI program. When appropriate, we will do additional follow-up and change the patient status.
- **Report risk factors by marking them in eSP.** See page 6 for information on the Iowa EHDI High Risk Monitoring Protocol.

EA and EHDI are getting responses and children are getting in for follow-up. Thank you to the Early ACCESS staff members who have been involved with this effort. The EHDI program does not have the resources to do the kind of follow-up you are doing on the local level. Thanks for all you do!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Iowa Symposium on Hearing Loss:
Impact on Children and Their Families

September 19 & 20, 2008
ISU Center Scheman Building
Ames, Iowa



Topics to include:

- * The Deaf child's bill of rights
- * Auditory-Verbal therapy
- * The genetics of childhood hearing loss
- * Reducing loss to follow-up in EHDI programs
- * Real-ear verification of amplification for Infants and toddlers
- * Monitoring children at risk for delayed onset hearing loss
- * Parent and teen panels



For more information
Contact Sara Patkin at
mspatkin@yahoo.com or
(515)963-8664.
Watch for registration
materials in Spring 2008.
CEUs available.

Announcement

ENT Clinic of Iowa is pleased to formally announce their pediatric cochlear implant program. They are a premier provider of pediatric ear, nose and throat care. The unique qualifications of their pediatric ENT physician and pediatric audiologist allow them to provide comprehensive medical and audiological care for children with any degree of congenital hearing loss.

Eytan Young, M.D., is a pediatric ENT physician at ENT Clinic of Iowa. He has received extensive experience with cochlear implantation at the University of Minnesota and at Harvard Medical School at the Boston Children's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. Prior to joining ENT Clinic of Iowa, Dr. Young was director of the pediatric cochlear implant program at Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital in New Haven, Connecticut.

Rebecca Young, Au.D., is a clinical audiologist at ENT Clinic of Iowa who specializes in pediatrics and cochlear implants. Prior to joining ENT Clinic of Iowa, she completed a clinical practicum experience at one of the largest pediatric cochlear implant programs in the nation through the Indiana University Medical Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. She has valuable experience in the area of cochlear implant candidacy, evaluation, programming and follow-up.

ENT Clinic of Iowa is currently accepting referrals for individuals who have or may have hearing loss. Also, ENT Clinic of Iowa is accepting referrals for individuals who may benefit from a cochlear implant. **Please contact Rebecca Young with questions or referrals by calling (515) 267-1800.**

Working with Families? Remember Guide By Your Side!

All Iowa families who have a child under age 3 with a hearing loss are eligible for the Guide By Your Side (GBYS) program. GBYS provides:

- 1** Unbiased information about communication, technology and education options
- 2** Connection to experts when in-depth information is needed
- 3** Connection to the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing communities
- 4** Personal insight into raising a deaf or hard-of-hearing child
- 5** Personal insight into life with a hearing loss
- 6** Emotional support

Additional information and a referral form are available at www.idph.state.ia.us/iaehdi/program.asp, or by contacting Erin Kongshaug at (515) 281-4653 or e-mail erin-kongshaug@uiowa.edu.

If you know of a family who could benefit from this program, make a referral today!

Mark Your Calendars

ENT Clinic of Iowa, P.C. and Cochlear Corporation will be co-sponsoring a cochlear implant forum on May 22, 2008 at Mercy Medical Center (1111 6th Ave) in Des Moines, Conference Center, East Tower, Room 7. This forum will give professionals (early intervention professionals, teachers for the deaf/hard-of-hearing, audiologists, speech-language pathologists, etc.) additional information about the cochlear implant program at ENT Clinic of Iowa as well as a chance to meet Dr. Eytan Young and Rebecca Young. **For more information about this event, please contact Rebecca Young at (515) 267-1800.**

Monitoring Children with Risk Factors

Several risk factors are associated with hearing loss that develops after the newborn period. Children who have these risk factors should have hearing assessments early in life to detect hearing loss that may have developed since their newborn hearing screening was done. The Iowa Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Advisory Committee recently approved the Iowa EHDI High Risk Monitoring Protocol. The protocol is based on the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing's 2007 Position Statement. To read the entire protocol, go to the Iowa EHDI Web site at www.idph.state.ia.us/iaehdi/professionals. Here are the highlights:



- Newborn hearing screening providers are encouraged to report risk factors through the eSP system.
- The EHDI program will send a letter to the families and health care providers of children with risk factors, notifying them of the need for an assessment. These letters will be sent two months after the child is born.
- The letters will recommend an audiological assessment be performed by six or 30 months of age, depending on what risk factor(s) is present. For a complete listing, see the protocol.

What Can I Do?

Identify children's risk factors and report them in eSP! Without this information, we cannot inform families and health care providers about the importance of follow-up. If you need assistance implementing or improving this reporting process, contact Tammy O'Hollearn or your audiology technical assistant (see contact information on the back cover of this newsletter). Reporting is quick and easy and can make a big difference in the life of a child.

Infant Hearing Screening Equipment Loaner Program

Are you having problems with your hearing screening equipment? The Iowa EHDI program has a limited number of loaner screening OAE units available for hospitals to use while their screening equipment is being repaired.

There is no charge for borrowing the equipment.

For information about loaner units, please contact:

Marilyn Dolezal - (319) 353-6233

Lenore Holte - (319) 356-1168

Emily Andrews - (319) 384-6894

Nick Salmon - (515) 576-5312

Early ACCESS Iowa

Your single point of contact to assist families in connecting with Early ACCESS and community-based services that address specialized child and family needs

1-888-IAKIDS1 or
1-888-425-4371

www.EarlyACCESSIowa.org

Save Staff Time and Decrease Errors

Import Demographics into eSP

Consider joining some other hospitals across Iowa and import most of the demographic data into eSP from your electronic medical records or admitting records. Hospitals include Iowa Methodist Medical Center, Iowa Lutheran Hospital, St. Luke's-Cedar Rapids, Finley-Dubuque and Genesis located in Davenport. Importing the demographic data not only decreases the amount of staff time for manual entry, but also decreases the potential for errors in spelling, etc.

eSP has the capability of electronically populating the majority of the required reporting fields. Hospitals set up their systems to pre-populate selected fields from their admitting and patient accounts system. Once that takes place, staff will enter the PCP/Medical Home (this cannot be set up to import), check appropriate risk factors, and race/ethnicity unless you are able to include it in the file you will set up.

To set up the import, there is a small amount of work that will need to be done on your end by your internal information technology staff. No software is needed. Your IT staff will create a file from directions supplied by the EHDI program. As you can see above, some of your peers have already done this, and I am guessing they would be willing to share their experience with you! Again, the EHDI program will provide instructions, test the file you created to ensure it works correctly before you "go live," and then the EHDI program, with the help of their vendor (OZ), will assist you in setting up the import.

If you are interested in this option, contact Tammy O'Hollearn at tohollea@idph.state.ia.us or by phone at 1-800-383-3826. If you set up the data system to import demographics, you can also set it up to import newborn hearing screening results too!



**Requests?
Feedback?
Comments?
Suggestions?**

We welcome your questions, comments and suggestions about this newsletter. Please forward any feedback about Iowa EHDI News to:

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Additional copies of Iowa EHDI News are available by contacting Tammy O'Hollearn.

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