

Iowa EHDI News



Your **Sound Source** for Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Information

Spring 2006

The Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program newsletter, formerly known as *Have You Heard*, gets a new look and name, *Iowa EHDI News*!

What's inside...

P2 Changes with EHDI

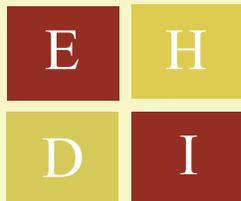
P3 Hands & Voices - see what they're all about

P4 Iowa Symposium on Hearing Loss save the date

P5 FAQs: What you need to know, and why it's important

P6 Sign language interpreter certification update

P7 Health Resources and Services Administration Grant



The purpose of the newsletter is to communicate with parents and professionals about newborn hearing screening in Iowa. We will share information about:

- Hearing screenings
- Intervention
- Resources available for parents and professionals
- "Best practices" by hospitals, AEAs (Area Education Agencies), or private practice audiology offices
- System goals
- Family stories
- Highlights from the EHDI Advisory Committee
- Updates on Iowa's EHDI program

It is important to point out that we are a diverse team of individuals working together to ensure that all newborns and toddlers with hearing loss are identified as early as possible and provided with timely and appropriate audiological, educational and medical intervention. Each newsletter will introduce you to various team members of the EHDI system in Iowa.

Advisory Update

The next meeting of the Iowa Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Advisory Committee is:

July 11, 2006

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Welcome new Advisory Committee members!

Eytan Young
Pediatric Otolaryngologist

Erin Kongshaug
HRSA EHDI Project Coordinator

Diana Hanson
Pediatric Audiologist

EHDI Undergoes Changes

Farewell to Denise Ramsey

It is with sadness we must report Denise Ramsey, former EHDI Coordinator at the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), has accepted a new position. The opportunity allows Denise to be closer to home and spend more time with her two young boys. Denise has provided invaluable leadership to the newborn hearing screening system in Iowa. Best of luck, Denise, in your new position!

Welcome Tammy O'Hollearn

Tammy O'Hollearn was hired on February 24, 2006 as the new EHDI Coordinator in the Bureau of Family Health. She comes to us from the Bureau of Health Care Access within IDPH.

Tammy has worked with the state of Iowa for nine years; four years with the Department of Human Services (DHS) and five years with IDPH. Tammy has significant experience in project management and has worked with or on behalf of children and families for seven of those nine years.

Specific experiences within IDPH include: Community Health Consultant - Public Health Liaison to Iowa's early intervention program (Early ACCESS), Community Health Consultant with the Iowa Center for Congenital and Inherited Disorders and Program Planner with the Bureau of Health Care Access working directly with Iowa's hospitals.

Tammy is married and lives in Clive. She has three children ages 10, 6 and 4. When she is not busy running them to activities, she enjoys rollerblading, gardening, spending time at the beach, attending Jazzercise and shopping!

Tammy can be reached by e-mail (tohollea@idph.state.ia.us) or phone (515) 242-5639.



Iowa's new EHDI Coordinator
Tammy O'Hollearn

Save Paper Save Trees

Explore Iowa EHDI Online

If you or your organization are interested in receiving notification of this newsletter online, please e-mail Iowa's EHDI Coordinator, Tammy O'Hollearn, at: tohollea@idph.state.ia.us.

Doing so will discontinue delivery of printed hard copy.

To view the latest edition of "Iowa EHDI News" and other EHDI information, please visit the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention web site at:

<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/iaehdi>

Spencer Hospital has a surplus of ear probes that can only be used with the Otodynamics ILO88 newborn hearing screening system.

These are available for sale.

If interested, please call Jeannette Herrig at (712) 264-6313.

Iowa Hands & Voices



Mission Statement: Iowa Hands & Voices supports all families with children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, regardless of communication choice. We embrace parent/professional collaboration to enable deaf or hard-of-hearing children to reach their potential.

Who We Are... Hands & Voices is a non-profit, parent-driven national organization dedicated to supporting families of children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. We are highly collaborative with professionals who are represented on our advisory board and make up approximately one third of our membership. We are non-biased about communication methodologies and believe that families can make the best choices for their child if they have access to good information and support.

Why We're Here... Most organizations for or of the deaf rally around common interests that usually include a common philosophy of communication that is promoted by that group. Hands & Voices does not promote specific communication choices or methodologies. Instead, we embrace the need to improve educational outcomes for our kids, and to enhance their quality of life. Our rallying points are areas of interest that are common to all people connected by the interests of the deaf or hard-of-hearing, especially parents, and include these values...

- We all want the best for our deaf or hard-of-hearing children.
- We deserve respect and honor for our role as parents/families. We require a beneficial, successful educational experience for our children.
- We need information from a wide variety of sources.
- We want to know about opportunities and resources.
- We need training and support to become effective advocates for our children.
- We are stronger when united by our common interests than divided by differing communication choices.

If interested in joining or learning more about Hands & Voices in Iowa, please contact Cami Geilenfeldt at (641) 507-9264. She can also be reached through the e-mail address below:

Iowa Hands & Voices

P.O. Box 627

Baxter, IA 50028

Help Us Help You

E-mail: iowahandsandvoices@pcpartner.net

Web sites: <http://www.handsandvoices.org/chapters/iowa.htm> (Iowa)

www.handsandvoices.org (National)

Mark Your Calendar!

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

New Location!

**September 15 & 16, 2006
ISU Center Scheman Building
Ames, Iowa**

Speakers and Topics Will Include:

Judy Gravel - *The new JCIH position statement*

Pat Stelmachowicz - *Amplification*

Arlene Stredler-Brown - *Effects of mild & unilateral hearing loss*

Michael Marks - *Parenting with Love and Logic*

Hands and Voices - *Family networks*

Plus family concerns and parenting strategies, educational planning, newborn hearing skills lab for nurses to reduce costly over-referrals and much more!

For more information, contact Sara Patkin at m spatkin@yahoo.com
or (515)963-8664. Watch for registration materials in Spring 2006.

CEUs available.

F. A. Q.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do you have questions about the newborn hearing screening law or administrative rules? Do you want more information about the EHDI system in Iowa? If so, watch this section of the newsletter for answers to some frequently asked questions!

Q: Do hospitals need to complete a reporting form for babies who aren't screened?

A. Yes. Hospitals should complete a screening form for every baby born in their facility. If the baby wasn't screened, check the "Not screened" box in the screening results section and include a brief note about why the baby was not screened.

Q: Is it okay to use chart labels or patient ID stamps on the EHDI reporting forms?

A: Yes. You do not need to re-enter the patient information on the form if you include the patient ID stamp or label. Please be sure the stamp or label information is legible.

Q: Do babies that have been transferred to the NICU need to be screened within six days of birth?

A. No. Babies requiring care in the NICU do not need to be screened within six days of birth. This applies to babies transferred between hospitals or within the same hospital. For babies transferred to a NICU in another hospital, it is the responsibility of the receiving hospital to perform the screening prior to the baby being discharged.

Q: What should we do if our screening equipment breaks down?

A: Call Marilyn Dolezal at the Center for Disabilities and Development at (319) 353-6233. The Iowa EHDI project has a limited number of screening units available to loan to hospitals for temporary use. There is no charge for borrowing the screening equipment.

Q: Where should families be referred for further hearing testing?

A. Iowa COMPASS has agreed to be the central point of contact for helping connect families to re-screening or diagnostic services. Contact COMPASS by calling 1-800-779-2001.

Q: Can hospitals continue to provide outpatient re-screens and/or refer families to another location?

A. Yes. Hospitals can certainly provide re-screens for families or refer families to other locations. Iowa COMPASS is a toll-free number that families can use to obtain hearing screening information from anywhere in the state.

More Questions? Please submit questions to Tammy O'Hollearn at: tohollea@idph.state.ia.us OR (515) 242-5639.

Sign Language Interpreter License Update

In May 2004, Governor Vilsack signed a bill requiring all sign language interpreters, including educational interpreters, to hold an Iowa license. The Board of Interpreter for Hearing Impaired Examiners was established in the Bureau of Professional Licensure, Iowa Department of Public Health (<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure/>).



The Iowa Board of Interpreter for Hearing Impaired Examiners evaluates the qualifications of applicants for licensure and grants licenses to those who qualify. The Board establishes rules and regulations to ensure the integrity and competence of licensed Interpreters for people with a hearing loss and investigates complaints for unprofessional conduct.

Effective July 1, 2005, all sign language interpreters must hold either a temporary or professional license. Applications to obtain a temporary license are available to download in pdf format on the Web site.

Please be aware beginning July 1, 2007, all temporary licenses will expire and individuals will be required to have a permanent license attained through licensure by examination.

Need More Information?

Visit the Bureau of Professional Licensure at
<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure/links.asp?board=ihl>

If you would like to speak directly with someone at the board office, call (515) 281-4287.

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) 355-1168

Emily Andrews - (319) 384-6894

Nick Salmon - (515) 576-5312



**Your free, confidential guide to
disability information
and services -
local, state and national.**

**1-800-779-2001 (voice)
1-877-686-0032 (TTY)**

**[www.medicine.uiowa.edu/
iowacompass](http://www.medicine.uiowa.edu/iowacompass)**

EHDI Health Resources and Services Administration Grant

Child Health Specialty Clinics received an Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration in April 2005. The grant is expected to continue through March 31, 2008. It builds upon the accomplishments of the previous EHDI HRSA grant and will focus on follow-up screening and early intervention services.

Project audiologists will continue to provide technical assistance to screening programs across the state in an effort to decrease hospital miss and refer rates. They will also develop best practice protocols for issues affecting newborn hearing screening.

Goals of the grant are:

- Assure all newborns are screened prior to hospital discharge
- Assure audiological diagnoses occur before three months of age
- Enroll children in early intervention (Early ACCESS) by six months of age
- Link children to medical homes
- Provide family-to-family support

These goals will be accomplished through collaboration with existing systems and organizations, such as Early ACCESS and Hands & Voices.

**The Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention
(CDC) new Web site on
Cytomegalovirus (CMV) is
now available at:**

<http://www.cdc.gov/cmV>

The Web site provides information on:

- * FAQs pertaining to CMV
- * Signs and symptoms
- * Testing and diagnosis
- * Treatment and vaccine research
 - * CDC activities
- * References and resources
- * Information for specific groups & settings

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

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

Tammy O'Hollearn
Iowa Department of Public Health
321 E 12th St.
Lucas Building - 5th Floor
Des Moines, IA 50319
Phone: (515) 242-5639
E-mail: tohollea@idph.state.ia.us

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



**Early Hearing Detection and Intervention
(EHDI) Program**

**Iowa Department of Public Health
Bureau of Family Health**

321 E 12th St.

Des Moines, IA 50319

(515) 242-5639

(800) 383-3826