

Iowa EHDl – A Work in Progress

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Advisory Committee
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Presenters

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The Purpose of this Session

- Celebrate the progress made in Iowa's EHDl program
- Outline goals and activities for the future of Iowa's EHDl program

Background

Iowa EHDl

- Existence prior to state law
- Legislation and State Law

Celebrate Iowa Success

Screening and Reporting

- Birthing hospitals trained to report hearing screens via eSP
- Area Education Agencies & private audiologists trained to report hearing screens & diagnostic assessments via eSP
- Backlog of hearing screens and diagnostic assessments entered into eSP
- Audiology technical assistance and loaner screening equipment

Referral/Follow-up

- Administrative Rule Change – Border baby
- Began referral/follow up – babies missed or who referred
- Family support program developed (GBYS)
- Border baby referrals – exchange of information
- Dissemination of high risk factor letters

Quality Assurance

- Surveyed families regarding their knowledge of newborn hearing screening before, during their stay, assistance with follow up
- Quality assurance measures put into place (i.e. data entry, merging duplicates, searching for deceased babies to avoid dup, accounting for all births)
- QA subcommittee formed (Best Practices Manual)
- Protocols revisited, updated, new ones written

Education

- Development of quarterly newsletter (Iowa *EHDI* News)
- Letter mailed to licensed audiologists reminding them of reporting requirement
- EHDI display created
- Development of new hearing screening brochure (English and Spanish) and communication guide for hospital personnel
- Web site overhaul

Funding

- Draft sustainability plan
- Developed funding program for children in need of hearing aids & audiological services
- Successful applicants for CDC and HRSA funding ~ 2008-2011

Where does EHDI go from here?

Screening and Reporting

Changing Law and Rules

- Bring Iowa rules into line with JCIH 2007 recommendations
- Improve our ability to do follow-up
- Standardize practices across state

Data System

- Improved audiology assessment section is being programmed now
- More systemic data system – better for tracking and follow-up past initial screening into early intervention

Data Integration

- Will happen over the long term
- We have a commitment from Information Management to look at integration that will avoid duplicate entry

Referral and Follow-up

Reducing Loss to Follow-up Rate

- EHDl working with other providers to decrease number of kids lost before getting all the services they need
 - Early ACCESS
 - AEAs
 - Private practice providers
 - Hospital screening programs
- Working with other IDPH programs to find families

More AABR screening

- Joint Committee on Infant Hearing recommends AABR screening only for NICU babies
- Any baby who fails an AABR should be rescreened with AABR
- Identifies auditory neuropathy/dyssynchrony

Referrals for diagnosis and intervention

- Follow kids through diagnosis, early intervention and family support
 - Working on rescreens and risk factors now
 - New assessment section in eSP should help
 - Will require working closely with audiologists

Expanding Family Support

- Increase usage of Guide By Your Side
 - What can we do to make it more appealing to families and professionals?
 - Collecting data to support training
- Coordinate other family support groups

Quality Assurance

EHDI Best Practice Manual

- Based on JCIH 2007 Statement and Iowa EHDI protocols
- Written by subcommittee of EHDI Advisory representing
 - EHDI staff
 - AEAs
 - Iowa Department of Education
 - Private Practice Audiologists

Hospital Site Visits

- Will visit each hospital
- Look at strengths and areas for improvement
- Will discuss:
 - Compliance with EHDI law
 - Program quality
 - Best practices that could help other hospitals
 - Follow-up/reducing number of children lost to follow-up
 - Parent perspective

Program Evaluation

- Comprehensive evaluation of entire EHDI system
- Done by someone outside the system
- Use data to drive program decisions whenever possible

Education

AEA Visits

- Discussions with Early ACCESS Regional Liaisons, audiologists, itinerant teachers, anyone else who should be involved
- Discuss:
 - EHDI referrals for EA Pre-service Coordination
 - Follow-up process
 - Guide By Your Side
 - Other family support for families of children with hearing loss

Update Training

- Updates for:
 - New users
 - Current users
- eSP and EHDl program

Working with Amish Communities

- In some parts of the state, Amish families often refuse the newborn hearing screening
- Amish parents in focus groups stated that they didn't have an objection to screening
- Will work with community leaders to determine best way to increase screening rates

Questions

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Thanks for all you have done and will do for Iowa kids!


