Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2010

Due to inclement weather across the state, this meeting originally scheduled to take place by ICN was cancelled. Here is brief summary regarding a few of the agenda items.

Announcements:

- Winter newsletter available on EHDI Web site, [http://www.idph.state.ia.us/iaehdi/default.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/iaehdi/default.asp). You will notice a request for our readers of the newsletter to take a short survey through Survey Monkey. The link to the survey is [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/K2XXK6XB](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/K2XXK6XB). Please make sure you participate in the survey as well. Your feedback is important.

- Committee Member Changes – Dr. Amy Wallin resigned as AAP Chapter Champion since our last meeting in October. She is busy with work, her kids and her health. Dr. Wallin served as the AAP Chapter Champion in Iowa for many years. She will be missed. Dr. Shannon Sullivan from UIHC will be joining us in April as the new AAP Chapter Champion. Dr. Sullivan is a Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. There will be articles in the spring newsletter regarding both Dr. Wallin and Dr. Sullivan. Val Caputo is an audiologist at Green Valley Area Education Agency (AEA) and member of the AEA Leadership Group. In addition to her expertise as an audiologist working in one of the AEAs, Val brings the perspective of someone working with families in a rural community. Please welcome both Dr. Sullivan and Val Caputo.

- PCP/Audiologist notification: PCP notification of rule/law changes sent to PCPs the first week in December. Information also included many resources, their role in working with families, etc. Audiologists will be notified in March.

- Iowa Hearing Healthcare Directory is now available online, [http://www.idph.state.ia.us/iaehdi/common/pdf/hearing_care_directory.pdf](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/iaehdi/common/pdf/hearing_care_directory.pdf). All practitioners who responded to our request were included in the document. This document will only be available online and will be updated yearly. If additional providers, audiologists, ENTs, or other health care professionals providing an audiology service want to be included, they need to contact Tammy O’HolleARN and she will send them the form to complete. The EHDI program would like to expand the directory to include all providers serving children across the state.

Child Health Specialty Clinics EHDI Staffing Changes

Several staffing changes have taken place in the last several months in support of EHDI follow up, referral and family support. Hiring was recently completed for the EHDI Follow Up Coordinator position previously held by Erin Kongshaug and the Guide By Your Side (GBYS) program coordinator position previously held by Melissa Carlson. Peggy Swails will serve as the EHDI Follow Up Coordinator and Susan Hagarty will fill the role of GBYS program coordinator. EHDI Advisory Committee members will meet Peggy and Susan at the April meeting and all staff from the CHSC EHDI
program will be featured in the summer EHDI newsletter. If you have questions regarding EHDI follow up, referral or family support, please contact Vicki Hunting, EHDI Project Coordinator, Child Heath Specialty Clinics, at (515) 331-0750 or (866) 219-9119 or Vicki-hunting@uiowa.edu. Ellisa Wenck is providing administrative support to the program as well and can be reached at (866) 219-9119 or ellisa-wenck@uiowa.edu.

Hearing Aids and Audiological Services:
The Hearing Aids and Audiological Services funding administered by the Iowa Department of Public Health EHDI program was put on hold in October 2009 due to state budget cuts. All children enrolled at the time of the cuts were served. In November, a local family (Ashton Bemberg’s family) was featured on the KCCI Channel 8 evening news as a top story. The story served as reminder that there are families who may have medical insurance, but hearing aids are often not covered by insurance and the costs may present challenges for families. The story highlighted this family’s struggle, past efforts to secure an insurance mandate, and how other states are passing legislation similar to what has been proposed in Iowa (14). Kathryn Baumann Reese with Deaf Services Commission was included in the interview. Great job Kathryn! There is also an effort at the national level to include hearing aids for children in the health care reform bills which are circulating among congress. Funding remains on hold at this time. We have been working closely with providers to get all outstanding bills paid this year so we have a good idea where we stand should the funding be restored. There are currently 25 children on our wait list; however, the program is not currently accepting applications at this time. If the funding is restored, most of the children on the wait list could be served.

The HSB 682 (Hearing Aids and Audiological Services bill) made it out of the Human Resources Committee this Monday, September 8, 2010. The bill passed on a party line vote and is now eligible for debate on the floor. It will be up to the leadership to decide if the bill will be debated on the floor and then put up for vote out of the House. A copy of the 2009 summary is attached to the e-mail with the summary.

If you have specific questions about the hearing aids and audiological services appropriation, please contact Tammy O’Holleman. If you have specific questions about the bill or next steps, please contact:

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Hospital Site Visits:
EHDI staff has completed 24 site visits thus far and are in the process of scheduling additional visits for this spring. We have identified a number of hospitals utilizing best practices. Some hospitals have been featured in our past newsletter and two more will be included in the spring newsletter with a summary of program strengths and weaknesses.

The visits have been well received by all hospitals visited thus far and many hospitals have already implemented recommended changes.

NICHQ:
Iowa’s EHDI system of care is seeing improvements in the system through the implementation of small tests of change. The NICHQ team is currently working with personnel from the newborn hearing screening programs at Iowa Health-Des Moines, Mercy-Des Moines and Heartland Area Education Agency to conduct small tests of change that will eventually be spread to all hospitals and AEAs throughout Iowa. Look for an article in the spring EHDI newsletter!

Agenda Items for April
- New committee member introductions
- NICHQ update
- Program Evaluation

Upcoming meeting dates: April 1, 2010 at the Altoona Public Library
July 1, 2010 (?), TBD
October 7, 2010, TBD