Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Advisory Committee Agenda
Thursday, April 4, 2013
10 – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Altoona Public Library, 700 8th Street Southwest, Altoona, IA

Members Present: Bob Vizzini, Diana Hanson, Dr. Shannon Sullivan, Emily Andrews, Gretchen Hageman, Jill Fulitano Avery, John Cool, Kathy Miller, Linda True, Marcy Beisiegel-Clausen, Marsha Gunderson, Sally Nadolsky, Steve Sword, Teresa Hobbs, Valorie Caputo

Staff Present: CHSC: Leslie Huber, Vicki Hunting; IDPH: Tammy O’Hollearn, Esha Steffen, and Jinifer Cox

10:00 – 10:15 Introductions & Announcements
Tammy:
- CDC-EHDI application was submitted to CDC on March 28, 2013.
- EHDI-WIC grant was submitted on March 14th, 2013: This project is intended to improve EHDI loss to follow up/loss to documentation rate through collaboration with the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. Goal is to schedule needed hearing screen/rescreen appointments or administer a screen in conjunction with WIC certification visits. The grant will be awarded at the end of April. The project period is for a total of two years starting October 1, 2013. IDPH EHDI and WIC chose rural and metropolitan areas, as well as areas with greater diversity as their pilot sites.
- In February of 2013, annual data for 2011 was due to the CDC. Tammy noted she received positive comments from the CDC staff person who performs the data analysis congratulating Iowa EHDI on the 20% decrease in the program’s lost-to-follow-up rate for 2011. The preliminary data for 2012 looks even better and will be share at a future meeting.
- IDPH EHDI is currently exploring greater collaboration with the metabolic (Bloodspot screening) program.

Vicki:
- There has been a 23% reduction in federal funding for EHDI program. CHSC will be looking for other sustainable funding outside the federal program. If you know of any sources of funding, email Vicki Hunting at vicki-hunting@uiowa.edu.
- The medical home toolkit is scheduled to go out in the mail in a few weeks. This toolkit will be sent approximately 300 providers. The target audiences include medical professionals that serve the most kids in the EHDI database, physicians from rural areas, birthing facilities and early intervention providers.

Esha:
- Tammy O’Hollearn was been nominated for the 2013 Antonia Brancia Maxon Award for EHDI Excellence. This award is presented each year at the national EHDI conference to an individual or group of people who have made a noteworthy
accomplishment in achieving excellence in EHDI programs nationally or in a particular state or region of the country. The winner will be announced at this year’s EHDI meeting in Glendale, AZ on April 14th-16th. Nominations can be found here: http://ehdimeeting.org/Award.cfm.

10:15 – 10:30 United Healthcare Hearing Aid Program (Steve Sword)
UHC/healthinnovations (HHI) is an on-line hearing aid sales program currently serving only adults. Sales of these hearing aids are not limited to UHC policy holders (although UHC members may be eligible for discounts).
- Some patients have this type of health care coverage policy, but it is not extended to children. Although it is not likely to ever be extended to children, it may appear as a “covered benefit” in the case of a policy which includes dependents. This may have implications for a child who might be eligible for other coverage/funding. This is not a current problem, but as this program “ramps up” as they have promised, it will impact how audiologists offer services and dispense hearing aids.
- HHI initially offered a self-administered on-line hearing test, but soon after the FDA issued an order to stop it. There was also a hardware/software “hearing test kit” sent out to many physicians which included instructions for billing insurance for the test.
- Both Steve and Linda True tried the on-line test, and found it to be inaccurate, and incomplete in terms of information needed to select and order hearing aids.
- Although this is not directly related to the HHI program, Steve and Linda expressed concern regarding companies making insurance decisions about hearing services, especially where children are concerned.
- State licensure boards across the US appear to be limited in jurisdictional authority to stop this practice. Because of this, there is now essentially a two-tiered system (licensed, and non-licensed entities) for obtaining hearing aids here in Iowa.
- Licensed audiologists will have to compete with these entities, which are not currently bound to the duties and responsibilities or financial obligations of licensure. The playing field is not level, but nevertheless, it will affect patient care and access.
- Steve and Linda encouraged the group to be advocates for quality patient care in this area and to increase our understanding of the direct and indirect impact of programs such as this on provision of audiological care.

Other points not necessarily related to HHI issue:
- Discussed patient candidacy/qualification for Hearing Aid and Audiological Services funding.
- Private grants and resources often require financial statements (tax return information, etc.) in funding consideration
- Possibly implement a sliding scale fee structure for Hearing Aid and Audiological Services funding
Steve emphasized that the EHDI group should be aware of developing trends which affect audiologists who provide services. The HHI issue is a significant development and ultimately, will affect ACCESS to patient care.

10:30 – 11:00  
**Parents as Teachers Screening (Tammy)**

- It was discovered last year that a program called Parents as Teachers were screening children but were not reporting. Esha learned of this through her short term follow up because a parent reported being screened at a WIC clinic. Tammy followed up and they were actually screened by a PAT program at a WIC visit. Tammy then started getting calls from a couple of AEAs contacted by the PAT programs.
- PAT screening program is not very organized at this point. Tammy reported it is a new guideline for those entities wanting to become certified at PAT programs.
- Tammy met with IDPH attorney, as well as the professional licensure board to see if there are any rules that would keep the programs who have many individuals with various training to administer screening. It was determined there are not rules that would keep them from screening. Tammy noted that the Board was not pleased to hear this, but there are no rules preventing this from occurring.
- Tammy had been in contact with the NCHAM ECHO program that had been working with Early Head Start programs to set up similar screening programs. She expressed her concerns. ECHO reported this was a decision by the PAT program. They are trying to communicate with that group to ensure there are protocols, training, etc. Tammy stress the importance of them directing the programs to their state EHDI programs due to reporting requirements, etc.
- Tammy met with family support personnel to explore the programs further. It was decided that a survey would be developed and sent out to explore how many programs are screening now, how many are interested in screening in the future and what types of training, etc. is in place. Tammy reported that she found that there were additional programs who have been screening and some that would like to begin screening or to partner with AEAs.
- Tammy reported that a couple of AEAs have said they do not have the capacity to collaborate with the PAT programs. One AEA (Val Caputo-Green Hills) actually assisted a program in her area in setting up the screening program and volunteered to assist if the children did not pass.
- Tammy held a webinar. Noted there were 106 persons in attendance. Positive feedback from the personnel in attendance. During the webinar she encouraged the programs to work with local audiologists (AEAs or private practice) rather than setting up a screening program themselves. She also said that if they planned to set up their own program they needed to think about the following: protocols, training, reporting, consumables and calibration of equipment each year, need for referral plan, equipment issues, etc.
- Discussion among group about their concerns and thoughts on these programs.
- Tammy will keep the group updated and report the results of the PAT survey.
### 11:00 – 11:30
**EHDI Quarterly Webinars (Leslie)**  
Leslie is recruiting a diverse team to develop and present topics to providers who are a part of EHDI or work with the program, as needed.  
- Volunteers needed for committee; time commitment would be one hour per month.  
- Webinars are innovative and economical tool that can be utilized for education.  
- A variety of audiences can be targeted.  
- Webinars can be posted as a link to the EHDI website and available for later reference  
- Information about parties that register for the webinar can be tracked.  
- The format can attach surveys (pre or post) to gather data about effectiveness/learning.  
- Topics addressed by the EHDI Advisory Committee will have added importance for providers targeted.  
- If you are interested in joining this group, please email Leslie Huber at leslie-huber@uiowa.edu or phone (319) 356-3570.

### 11:30 – 12:30  
**LUNCH (On your own)**

### 12:30 – 12:45  
**Guide By Your Side (Leslie)**  
- CHSC has been examining the Guide By Your Side program. The family support program is a critical component of the EHDI SOC. Leslie noted they are making changes to the program in order to benefit the families served. Modifications include:  
  - Renewed strategic plan and vision for GBYS (Renew focus on contacting family within 7 days of diagnosis).  
  - Forms required to document family support visits were updated.  
  - Guides will be trained to document their family support contacts in the Iowa’s statewide hearing database (eSP™).  
  - Guides become University of Iowa temporary employees rather than continuing as consultants.  
  - Interviews for the new positions have taken place and final hiring decisions are pending.

### 12:45 – 1:00  
**Cultural and Linguistic Competence Community of Learners (Leslie)**  
Susan Rolinger, Kathy Miller, Anne Crotty (CHSC Program Manager) and Leslie Huber are participating in the Cultural and Linguistic Competence Community of Learners. One of the group requirements was to make a state presentation including the key cultural issues to the national group. Leslie shared the PowerPoint presented on 3/28/13. The presentation is available by request to Leslie Huber at leslie-huber@uiowa.edu.
1:00 – 1:15 **Leadership Team for Deaf/HH and Blind/VI – Regional Program (Tammy)**
- Group continues to meet monthly. In the beginning stages of development of a regional program for children that are deaf or hard of hearing.

1:15 – 1:45 **Implementing a Communication Plan for Students Who Are Deaf/Hard of Hearing on IFSP (Marsha Gunderson)**
- PowerPoint presentation: Communication Plans with IFSPs – A Discussion
- Discussion among advisory committee. No comments.
- Marsha requested that any feedback regarding this sample model or request for the PowerPoint be sent to her at mgunderson@iowaschoolforthedeaf.org.

1:45 – 2:10 **EHDI-PALS (Tammy/Vicki)**
- EHDI-PALS is a web-based link to information, resources and services for children with hearing loss under the age of five. The site also includes a web-based directory of audiology service providers throughout the U.S.
- The audiology providers complete an online survey. Their answers are then shorted through a best practices algorithm which helps to determine when they will be displayed. For example, if an infant needs diagnostic testing, it is possible some of the providers of audiology will not show if they are do not meet all the requirements for best practices and equipment used. Participation by providers is strongly encouraged, but not required.
- The website is located at [www.ehdi-pals.org](http://www.ehdi-pals.org/). The site is scheduled to go live the week of the EHDI national conference, April 15th.
- Tammy and Vicki are a part of the committee which is made up of a variety of stakeholders providing audiology services, technical assistance or personnel within EHDI programs.
- Vicki worked through Hands & Voices and was involved in parent focus groups to obtain feedback from families on usability and information provided on the site.
- Vicki showed EHDI committee members the site and various links.
- The site will be further developed so that the EHDI coordinators can use the surveys to gather greater information about the audiology facilities in their state, ages they serve, equipment they have, etc. It may assist them in locating audiology shortage areas.

2:10-2:45 **Case Management Module Demonstration (Tammy & Vicki)**
- Case management module was created to record and track all follow up attempts made on each child in eSP™. The module will assist those doing follow up after to know who has been contacted, when, results of those contacts, etc. to prevent duplication.
- Reports will assist the program in evaluation. Program will be able to determine the types of follow up that is most successful, length of time it takes for follow up, etc.
- Currently in pilot stages with AEAs and hospitals, requesting feedback before training all eSP™ users this summer and fall for the AEAs.
- Helps capture early intervention and enrollment dates of Guide By Your Side and Early ACCESS referrals.
- Tammy and Vicki provided a guided tour of what the module looks like.

2:45 – 3:00

Wrap Up/Sharing
Agenda items for July
- Tele-audiology (Lenore)
- 2012 Short-term follow up data analysis (Esha)
- National EHDI Conference (EHDI Team)
- Hearing Aid and Audiological Services Funding (Tammy)
- Leadership Team for Deaf/HH and Blind/VI (Susan/Tammy/John)
- Risk factors study (Amy/Lenore)
- Home birth efforts (Caitlin/Tammy)
- Physician survey results (Tammy)
- Outcomes Study Presentation (Lenore)

Next meeting dates for 2013 – July 11 and October 3