Iowa EHDI – 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 EHDI program

• Outline goals and activities for the future of Iowa’s EHDI program
Background

Iowa EHDI
- 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 fup, 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?**

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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

- EHDI 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
  - AEA
  - 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 EHDI 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!

EHDI
Iowa’s Early Hearing Detection & Intervention System