

Quarterly Newsletter WINTER 2021

# North Dakota Early Hearing Detection and Intervention

## Join us at the 2022 annual EHD I Conference

We would like to remind our newsletter recipients about the annual national conference for Early Hearing Detection & Intervention. It is a great time to learn and collaborate with professionals and families on topics affecting the EHD I system of care on both a state and national scope.

Registration is open for the 2022 annual EHD I Conference! This year's conference will be held March 13 - 15, 2022, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Every year, the EHD I conference brings together multiple attendees from every state and territory. The EHD I conference is a great opportunity to expand your knowledge by immersing yourself in an environment where a variety of professionals and families come together in support of an "EHD I system of care". Whether you are a professional, a parent or an individual who is Deaf and/or Hard of Hearing, the EHD I conference is something you should experience.

The ND EHD I Program is looking for a parent/family leader to attend the Annual EHD I Conference. If you are interested attending the conference as a parent/family leader you can contact the ND EHD I program staff at [misu.ndehdi@minotstateu.edu](mailto:misu.ndehdi@minotstateu.edu)

### GOAL OF THE EHD I ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The annual EHD I Conference aims to enhance the implementation of comprehensive state-based Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHD I) programs. After participating in the conference, participants will be better able to:

Identify and promote knowledge and awareness of successful strategies for implementing comprehensive state-based EHD I programs, including screening, audiologic diagnostic evaluation, early intervention, medical home, reporting, tracking, surveillance, loss to follow-up issues, data integration, and other related surveillance components.

Interpret and describe current research and research methods related to EHD I.

Examine providers' cultural competence and assess their ability to work with deaf or hard of hearing children, their families, and communities.

Discuss the importance of enhancing and creating new and ongoing working relationships among federal agencies, non-profit organizations, state health departments, educational agencies, advocacy groups, families, and professionals. "2022 Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Conference." <https://www.ehdconference.org/>.

For detailed information, go to: <https://www.ehdconference.org/>.

Submitted by Jerusha Olthoff, MSM,  
ND EHD I Program Director  
The North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities  
Memorial Hall, Minot State University  
500 University Ave. West, Minot, ND 58707  
1-701-858-4360,  
toll free: 1-800-233-1737 ext. 4360,  
fax 1-701-858-3483  
Website: [www.ndcpd.org](http://www.ndcpd.org)  
Email: [jerusha.olthoff@minotstateu.edu](mailto:jerusha.olthoff@minotstateu.edu)



## Parent-Infant Program staffed by Educators of the Deaf

By Linda Ehlers, PIP Specialist

The Parent-Infant Program for the North Dakota School for the Deaf Resource Center consists of a team of trained educators in the area of Deaf and Hard of Hearing. They have five regional offices around the state. NDSD is the state's designated experts on differentiated hearing. It is an optional and free service. It uses a family-centered approach in supporting families with children, birth to age 5, with diagnosed hearing loss. Anyone may refer to the program. It can be parents, grandparents, doctors, audiologists, teachers, etc. The program also receives referrals from the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program once a child is diagnosed with a hearing loss. The program provides outreach services for families with a child that has a hearing loss. That means they are able to come to your home and provide you with any information you might have about

your child's hearing. This could be information on the impact of hearing loss, communication opportunities, local, state and national resources, how to care for your child's hearing devices, promoting and stimulating early learning and language development, goals for literacy, networking with other parents and professionals. Below is a quote from Melinda Fischer, parent of two children with hearing loss: "As a parent to a child diagnosed with hearing loss, I was offered sign language classes, early intervention services, and community events by the North Dakota School for Deaf (NDSD). Not only have we utilized birth to three services, but we received services and support for our school age child who is also hard of hearing. Our collaboration with NDSD has empowered us with the knowledge to better support our kids and we are fortunate to have such skilled team members by our side!" If you would like to learn more about the Parent-Infant Program, contact the program coordinator, Nicole Swartwout, at (701) 858-3357 or [Nicole.swartwout@k12.nd.us](mailto:Nicole.swartwout@k12.nd.us)



The North Dakota School for the Deaf Parent-Infant and School-Age Outreach Department hosted Deaf Santa on Zoom the week before Christmas. Children were able to use whatever communication mode to talk to Santa and tell him what they wanted for Christmas.

*"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children."*  
— Nelson Mandela, Former President of South Africa





As we continue to serve the community and support the ND EHDI, CHI St. Alexis Health Williston has great news! We are excited about our new hearing machine-ERO.Scan, which is indicated for testing of cochlear function in Infants, Children, and Adults. Our top priority is understanding the major impact on hearing loss to a child's cognitive development exerts the need of hearing newborn screening. We will continue to meet our goal of 100% referral to Audiology within the first six months of age to decrease its adverse complications.

CHI Pediatric Team

CHI Primary/Specialty Clinics

Williston, North Dakota

701-713-3669 Office



## From the Desk of Family Voices of North Dakota

Hoping everyone had a great Holiday Season. Family Voices of North Dakota has again started their Extended Learning Calls. We host these calls on weeknights at 8 pm as a reminder about our Extended Learning Calls. They are held in the evening to ensure families can attend. These calls are for families and providers to learn about new programs and expand their skills. If any provider would like to be a guest speaker, let us know to get information out to a larger group. The Extended Learning Calls will be recorded and posted on our website at [www.fvnd.org](http://www.fvnd.org)

We announce these workshops via our Family Voices of North Dakota listserv and our e-newsletter, which is distributed weekly on Mondays. If you are a family member or provider and would like to receive our e-newsletter and listserv, you can be added to the listserv to receive this information by emailing [donene@fvnd.org](mailto:donene@fvnd.org); or you can call the Family Voices of ND office at 888-522-9654.

January 25, Decision-Making in Healthcare: Participation Starts with the Young for Children who are Deaf-Blind, but will be open to all as they will be discussing a newly developed curriculum.

Through the EHDI project, there will be eight calls for the upcoming season. If you would like information on these calls, do let us know by contacting [donene@fvnd.org](mailto:donene@fvnd.org)

Additionally, we will be planning online virtual Care Coordination Training and our Care Giver Café training which helps families plan for transition. These will be announced through our listserv and on our Family Voices of ND Facebook page. Head on over and give us a like: <https://www.facebook.com/FVND1>

If you are a family member and need additional support, call us at Family Voices of North Dakota. We are here to help. Family Support is a vital component as families adjust to a new diagnosis and changing times. Supporting families and connecting them to family organizations assures that families get resources and services in ways that are respectful, relevant, and honor their unique choices and perspectives so that they can make informed decisions to achieve the best possible outcomes for their children and youth. It takes us all!

Hoping you all have a great winter.

Submitted by Donene Feist

Director, Family Voices of North Dakota

<http://fvnd.org/>

**FAMILY VOICES**  
OF NORTH DAKOTA®  
*Navigating Crossroads to Hope*



North Dakota Early Hearing Detection and Intervention

*"Children are likely to live up to what you believe of them."  
— Lady Bird Johnson, Former First Lady of the United States*



2021 was a special year for North Dakota Hands & Voices. First, we celebrated our 10 year anniversary! We were also very excited to transition from all virtual to some in-person events. We organized 4 educational opportunities; the year started with an "Ask the Professional" on Facebook, and finished with a 3 part virtual speaker series with Karen Putz, Paula Pittman, and Janet DesGeorge!

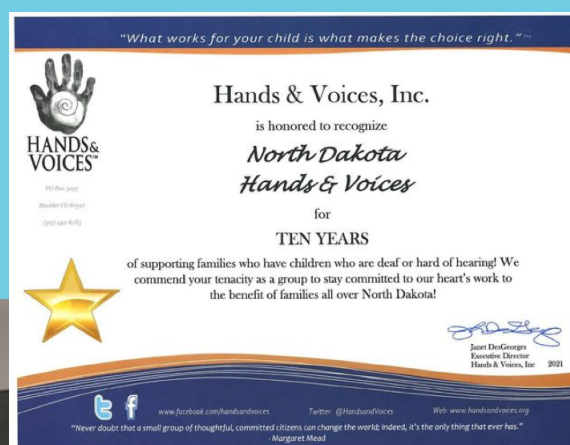
Starting this summer, we held our first two teen-specific events—a Nerf Gun event and a Bowling event. Across the state - we hosted 10 in-person family events. We started at local zoos in the summer, and then had the pleasure of joining the N.D.

School for the Deaf Parent-Infant Program to host pumpkin patch events across the state.

We were honored to author articles in 3 of the 4 issues of The Communicator from Hands & Voices H.Q. One was even on the front page! We honored Nicole Harris, Teacher of the Deaf in Minot Public Schools, with our 7th annual High 5 Award in May.

Supplies from our Hands & Voices Loaner Bank helped over 30 families with donated batteries, retention equipment, and hearing device accessories—as well as loaner hearing aids and ASL materials.

We want to thank ND EHD for continuing to support our chapter financially with a portion of the funds from their HRSA grant - it helps us to continue meeting our mission of supporting families of children with hearing loss in North Dakota.



Please share with families and caregivers to learn more about the next steps in the early hearing detection and intervention processes.

- All babies should be screened by one month of age, preferably before leaving the hospital,
- If after two screenings the baby does not pass, a medical and hearing evaluation is needed before three months, and
- Once hearing loss is detected, services and intervention should start at six months.

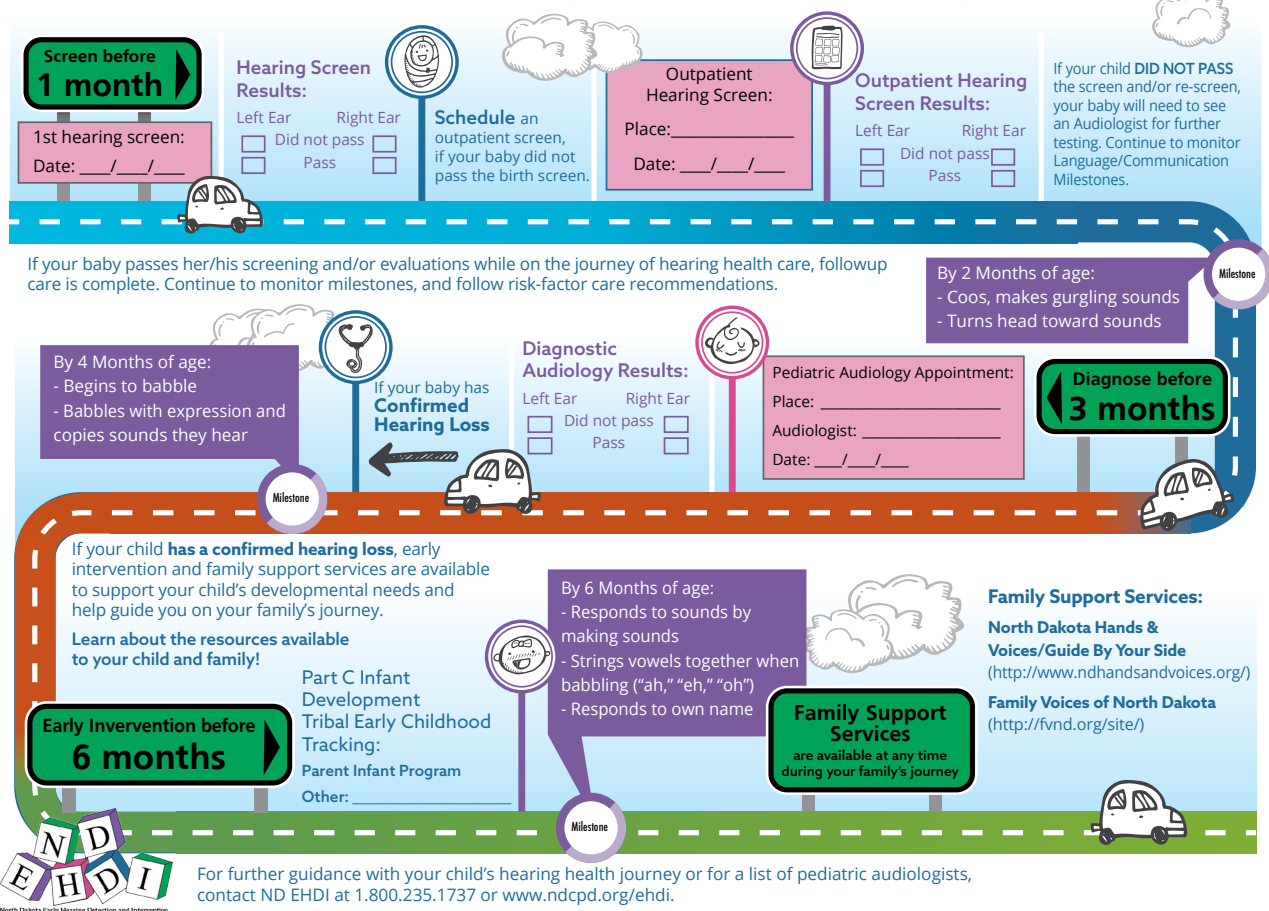
This 1-3-6 guideline was developed to give the baby the best possible time frame for screening, diagnosis, treatment, and services begun. The earlier a baby is determined to have a hearing loss and begins receiving services, the more likely it is that speech, language, and social skills will reach their full potential.





# North Dakota Infant Hearing Road Map

The ND Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Road Map is a quick reference on the "next steps" for complete hearing health care.



Please share the North Dakota Department of Health, financial assistance program with the families you work with within your community. This extra service can help that every child receives the care and support they need in a timely manner.

## Division of Special Health Services

### Screening, Evaluation & Treatment for Hearing Loss

**Financial Coverage Program** - Helps families pay for medical services for eligible children, youth, and young adults, from birth to 21 years of age who require specialty care to diagnose and treat their chronic health conditions.

Services include:

- **Diagnostic Services** - Provides coverage for services that promote early diagnosis of eligible medical conditions.
  - o This service can be used immediately after the first hearing screen is not passed (referred) until a diagnosis is confirmed or ruled out; however,
  - o There is a financial eligibility requirement (with cost-share option if needed).

NORTH  
**Dakota** | Health  
Be Legendary.™



- **Treatment Services** - Provides coverage for services to children with chronic health conditions who meet medical and financial eligibility criteria.

- o This service can be used when your child is diagnosed with permanent hearing loss; however,
- o There is a financial eligibility requirement (with cost-share option if needed).

For questions, or to see if your family may qualify for these services, contact:

Special Health Services

Claims and Eligibility Administrator

Phone: 701-328-4816

Toll-free: 1-800-755-2714

Website: <https://www.health.nd.gov/youth/special-health-services/SHS-Financial-Coverage-Program>

# 2022 Family Leadership in EHDI Programs Award

Nominations are invited for the Family Leadership in EHDI Programs to be presented at the 2022 National EHDI Conference in Cincinnati, OH, March 13-15th, 2022. This is the sixth year for this award and will honor a parent or family member of a child who is deaf or hard of hearing (DHH) for providing exemplary leadership in their state EHDI system. NCHAM's Family Advisory Committee will review nominations and select the recipient. The award will be announced at the EHDI Conference.

### Criteria

Nominees must meet all of the following criteria:

- 1. Is a parent or family member of a child who is DHH
- 2. Is actively involved in their state's EHDI system
- 3. Has made important contributions to EHDI-related policies, procedures, and/or improved services

### Submission materials

- 1. Completed nomination information below. Please save the nomination information form with a title with your nominator's initials (example: Name: Eddie Dee- save file as "E.D. Nomination Information")

- 2. A 500-word essay that describes publications, policies, or guidelines that improved the effectiveness of the EHDI system, development, and dissemination of educational materials, development, and dissemination of effective public awareness campaigns, establishment of a successful family-to-family support program, or other accomplishments that describe why this person should receive the Family Leadership Award. Please save the essay file with the nominator's initials (example: name: Eddie Dee- save file as "E.D. Nomination essay.")

The selection committee will only review materials submitted in the application and will not be able to conduct their own research to determine nominee's background and qualifications.

### Selection and Award Process:

Nominations must be sent to Laura Gramer at [laura@gramer.com](mailto:laura@gramer.com) by January 29, 2022. The nominees and the nominator will receive an email notification by February 11, 2022. Please note that the award winner is a surprise and will not be publicly announced until the presentation ceremony.

Nominator Information \_\_\_\_\_

Name of individual submitting the nomination \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Organization Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee Information \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Credential/Degrees: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Association with child who is deaf or hard of hearing \_\_\_\_\_





## Save the date for the Annual Early Hearing Detection and Intervention 21st Annual Conference

Mar. 13-15, 2022, Cincinnati, Ohio [www.ehdimeeting.org](http://www.ehdimeeting.org)



## CMV Public Health & Policy Conference

The 2020 CMV Public Health and Policy Conference will be held in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Learn more at

<https://www.facebook.com/CMVPublicHealthandPolicyConference/>



## Save the Date for the North Dakota Power Up Health Conference

Wednesday, August 31, 2022. Learn more: <http://www.ndcpd.org/powerup.html>



**EVENT:** Supporting Children in Extra-Curricular Activities | Annie Huish, Med

2/11/2022 11:30 AM MST - 12:00 PM MST

Register at: <http://www.hearttolearn.org/communities/learning-together.html>

**EVENT:** Promoting Parent Connections and Friendships | Teena Young, MEd, and Nicole

Jacobson, MS, CCC-SLP, LSLs Cert. AVE

3/25/2022 11:30 AM MST - 12:00 PM MST

Register at: <http://www.hearttolearn.org/communities/learning-together.html>

**EVENT:** Beyond "How are You?" Getting to the heart of the matter in sessions with families and students | Elizabeth Parker, MEd and Cass Fogelstrom, MEd, LSLs Cert. AVE

4/15/2022 11:30 AM MST - 12:00 PM MST

Register at: <http://www.hearttolearn.org/communities/learning-together.html>



Kick-off 2022 with our engaging speaker series, highlighting important events and developments in cochlear implants and hearing loss. The talks will be introduced by Cochlear Implant Consumer Advocacy Network (CI CAN) members who will also moderate the Q&A. Presentations will take place virtually over the lunch hour from 12-1 PM EST, with an opportunity for attendees to interact with each presenter. All sessions are free to attend and will be captioned.

**Tuesday, February 15 - Understanding Your Child's CI Programming Session**

Terry Zwolan Ph.D., Director of Audiology at Hearing First

Register at [https://www.acialliance.org/surveys/?id=Tuesday\\_Talks#sign-up](https://www.acialliance.org/surveys/?id=Tuesday_Talks#sign-up)

**Tuesday, March 15 - Rally Caps and the Importance of CI Representation**

Jodi Michelle Cutler, Author, and Filmmaker

Register at [https://www.acialliance.org/surveys/?id=Tuesday\\_Talks#sign-up](https://www.acialliance.org/surveys/?id=Tuesday_Talks#sign-up)

**Tuesday, April 19 - Understanding an Adult's CI Programming Session**

Meredith Holcomb AuD, Associate Professor; Director, Hearing Implant Program; Associate Professor, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

Register at [https://www.acialliance.org/surveys/?id=Tuesday\\_Talks#sign-up](https://www.acialliance.org/surveys/?id=Tuesday_Talks#sign-up)



AMERICAN COCHLEAR IMPLANT ALLIANCE

*Research. Advocacy. Awareness.*

Visit **Hands and Voices Family Leadership** in language and learning cooperative (FL3) to explore past webinars and trainings on topics about Family Leadership, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Adult Involvement, Family-to-Family Support, and Language, Literacy and Social Development.



<https://www.handsandvoices.org/fl3/resources/trainings-webinars.html>

### Free Material About Hearing Loss in Children

CDC has FREE brochures, posters, fact sheets, and more for parents, health care providers, and public health professionals. You can view, download, and print the materials at <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/freematerials.html>



North Dakota Early Hearing Detection and Intervention



North Dakota Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program  
North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities  
Minot State University, Memorial Hall  
500 University Ave. West,  
Minot, ND 58707  
(800) 233-1737

Hospitals: do you need more brochures?  
Contact Vicki by emailing  
[vickie.brabandt@MinotStateU.edu](mailto:vickie.brabandt@MinotStateU.edu)



**Chime in!** Check out the ND EHD I website at [www.ndcpd.org/ehdi](http://www.ndcpd.org/ehdi) for information or to meet the staff. If you have questions, find broken links or typos, or have suggestions, please let us know.



### ARE YOU FOLLOWING US?

 [www.facebook.com/NDEHDI](https://www.facebook.com/NDEHDI)

 [@NDEHDI\\_NDCPD](https://twitter.com/NDEHDI_NDCPD)

We hope you will find the newsletter provides a broad picture of hearing healthcare in North Dakota. Through collaborative efforts, streamlined processes and consistent communication, ND can assure a strong system of hearing health care for every child birthed and/or residing in North Dakota.

We look forward to being a resource for quality improvement and working with you!

Sincerely,  
The ND EHD I Staff

To subscribe ND-EHDI  
Newsletter, email  
[christine.brigden@MinotStateU.edu](mailto:christine.brigden@MinotStateU.edu).