



Quarterly Newsletter SPRING 2022

North Dakota Early Hearing Detection and Intervention

There were many great insights and takeaways from the 21st Annual Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Meeting; we can't cover them all, but here are a few!

Having attended multiple EHD Conferences, I always come away with a renewed awareness that we (EHD partners) are in this together. We have a common goal to improve, share, and collectively progress the EHD system of care. This year was no different. So many great topical sessions! Hearing strategies utilized by other states leaves new perspectives and insight into methods and approaches that can be explored to bridge gaps and improve EHD in North Dakota.

Sue Routledge
ND EHD Follow-up/Data Coordinator
North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities

21st Annual
Early Hearing Detection and Intervention
Virtual Conference
MARCH 13-15 2022
EHD I
2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
EHDICONFERENCE.ORG




Another excellent EHD conference is in the books. During the Opening Plenary, Stephanie Olson talked about 'Giving Our Children the Freedom to Play' moved and inspired many discussions since the conference. Here are some of the data that she shared with us:

HOW MUCH FREE/ACTIVE PLAY?

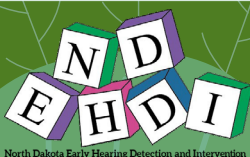
From: *Balanced and Barefoot* by Angela J. Hanscom

- Infants (one to twelve months) active and outdoor play throughout the day to support motor development.
- Toddlers (12 months to three years) five to eight hours a day, preferably outdoors. Toddlers will naturally seek out movement experiences.
- Preschoolers (three to five years) five to eight hours a day to learn about life.
- School age (five years to thirteen years) four to eight hours a day to stay engaged.
- Adolescents (thirteen to nineteen years) three to four hours a day to support social opportunities and regulate new emotions.



Another year of a virtual conference made for a fur friend to enjoy the conference. I hope to see everyone in person in 2023!

Christine Brigden, LBSW
EHD Follow up coordinator / Research Associate
North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities



From the Desk of Family Voices of North Dakota

Family Voices of North Dakota participated in the 2022 EHDI conference and attended great sessions. Many presentations supported families and providers at this year's conference. In one interesting presentation, the speaker discussed the concept of the need to allow our children to fail in the process of them being like all of the other children in the general population. This wasn't a new concept to me, but the presentation of it was.

I know we all do our best to assure our children's needs are being met and, most times are protective. The presentation centered on our children's choices and the mistakes that are learned from those mistakes. She was a great speaker with great content.

Donene Feist ~ Director, Family Voices of North Dakota



Spring News from Family Voices of North Dakota

FAMILY VOICES
OF NORTH DAKOTA®
Navigating Crossroads to Hope

Spring is almost here! We hope this finds you all doing well. In the past article, we shared Family Voices of North Dakota would be hosting several extended learning calls. Many have been completed, and you can find them on the Family Voices of North Dakota website at www.fvnd.org. A few extended learning calls will be held in the next few weeks. Roxane Romanick will discuss Early Intervention Services, Donene Feist will discuss the importance of well-child visits, and if time allows, we will also host a call with Vicki Peterson on Guardianships and alternatives. Please watch our listserv and Facebook for announcements on these educational opportunities.

If families are looking at a particular topic, please be sure to let us know, and we can do what we can to accommodate.

Send an email to donene@fvnd.org

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As a momma myself of a now-adult who has a severe hearing loss, I had never thought of allowing him to fail in that way. Did I treat him differently than our other two children? Did I allow him to fail? If I am to be honest with myself, yes to both. I believe, however, it is finding that happy medium and balance I think if you were to ask him, he would also say I was protective in some ways and as he grew into an adult continued to do so.

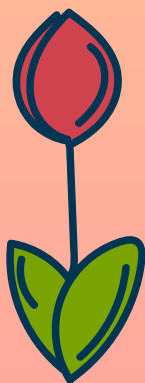
Constant reminders of did you get your hearing aids checked? Have you spoken to?

Basically, the presentation centered on giving yourself a break too. Often as families, we feel we are the fixers, and we need to take care of a series of many things. We sure do need to find the balance of letting go and assuring in that process that our children and youth can also become their own self-advocate. Start Early! It isn't easy to be certain, but I know from experience it comes. Actually, all too fast.

Staff at Family Voices has discussed the Parent Leadership Institute, which is generally held in June each year. We have decided to hold off to September October to assure the safety of families and their children due to Covid. These are not easy decisions for us, but we are hoping by fall, we can be comfortable in hosting this event once again.

We will also be hosting soon a Care Coordination training. This will be held virtually, announcements on a date will be forthcoming.

continued...



Another area that I would like to draw your attention to for those of you involved in Early Intervention, the North Dakota Department of Human Services, is soliciting comments regarding the Federal Fiscal Year 2021 Part C Application. North Dakota has posted the IDEA Part C Grant Application as of 3/1/22. It will remain posted until April 30, 2022, and comments are being accepted until April 1, 2022. Instructions on how to submit comments can be found on the public notice on this page: <https://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html>.

The FFY 2022 application and combined cost allocation plan for 2022 are online at <https://www.nd.gov/.../disabilities/earlyintervention/>

This is a great time to provide public comment on what is working and what isn't working from your view.

I know childcare may be an issue for some of you. Childcare is a key part of the infrastructure of our communities and is vital for families and employers. The North Dakota Department of Human Services is striving to support strong, stable families and communities by making investments in programs that increase access to quality childcare that is affordable so that parents can participate in the workforce. As part of this investment, the department has changed the qualifying income level for the state's Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) from 60% to 85% of the state median income (SMI). More North Dakota families will now qualify for help paying

for the childcare they need while they work, attend school or training, or apply and interview for jobs.

With the new increased income criteria, a North Dakota family of three with a household income of \$6,193 a month can now qualify. Previously, the qualifying monthly income for a household this size was \$4,372. Details about qualifying income levels by household size are on the department's website at www.nd.gov/dhs/services/financialhelp/childcare.html. In addition, families can apply for child care assistance online at www.applyforhelp.nd.gov or at a local human service zone office (formerly known as the county social service office).

If you are a family member and need additional support, do 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.

Submitted by Donene Feist

Director, Family Voices of North Dakota

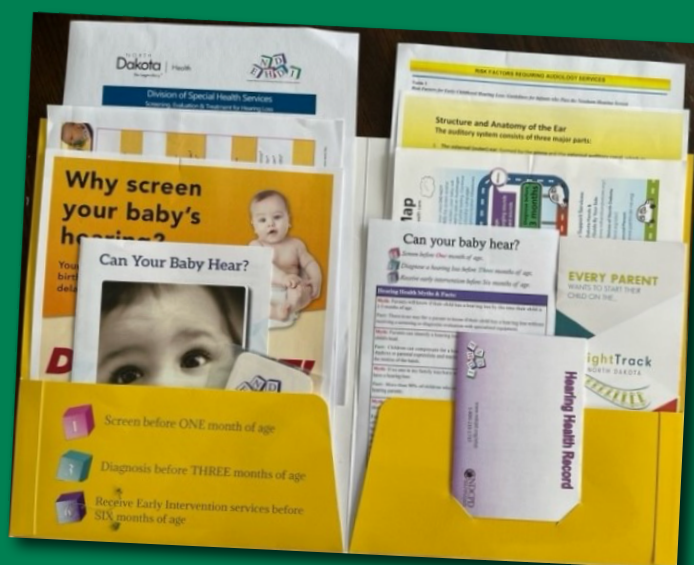
<http://fvnd.org/>

Parent Follow-Up Packet: A new family support resource

The ND EHDI program has developed a resource packet for families with a child who needs further screening or audiological services. The information included in the packet is meant to support education and information on why it's essential to complete hearing screening and assessment of hearing status for their child. In 2021, approximately 283 packets were mailed to families who have children in need of further hearing health care.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Jerusha Olthoff, MSM, ND EHDI Program Director

The North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities
1-701-858-4360, toll-free, 1-800-233-1737 ext. 4360 or
Jerusha.Olthoff@MinotStateU.edu



"A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles." - Christopher Reeve.



From the Parent's Perspective

N.D. Hands & Voices

ND Hands & Voices was blessed by funds through ND EHDI to provide scholarships to two parents and three parent board members to attend the annual EHDI conference virtually. This conference is so unique as it combines all of the

important parties involved in the newborn hearing screening and early intervention process, including the most important – the parents and families! Here are some snapshots of the experiences the parents had while attending this year:

I know the importance of shared reading, but a new passion has been ignited after participating in the EHDI annual conference. As caregivers of children who are D/ dhh, we need to be taught strategies for shared reading to cultivate a love for reading, promote vocabulary development, build language skills, and provide families with a sense of fulfillment. Thank you, EDHI presenters, for reminding me of all the learning opportunities provided through shared reading!

--- Melinda

I appreciated that children who are Deaf+ were included in some of the presentations and were included so respectfully. It's sometimes hard to figure out which community is "ours," and the inclusive language was really warming to me.

--- Rachel

Although I know there were a lot of professionals in attendance, the EDHI conference had a lot of great things to offer from a parent's perspective too. I took away quite a few pearls from each of my sessions, including some great quotables like, "There's no such thing as a bad weather day, just different clothing days." One of the sessions had a helpful hint in the reading department about using "Indestructibles" books which you literally can't ruin. Those are on my shopping list now, especially with a teether in the family. Another session was excellent in educating on understanding hearing loss and discussed how to understand the audiogram so that we, as parents, have a greater understanding of our child's situation. In another session, we heard reinforcement on wear times, and the presenter noted that parents always report higher use times than the data logging shows. The presenters highly recommended that parents request the data logging info so that they are on the same page to know exactly what wear time really is. There are apps out there now for parents to see that in real-time, too, in the new models of Phonak and Oticon. Finally, I found the cued speech session I went to really helpful. Having a greater understanding of how cued speech works helps me understand the process to be able to help my child better. Others have tried to explain it before, but I really needed to be started from the very beginning to understand and appreciate how to apply it and what those working with my child are actually doing and why it works.

--- Beth

Thanks to ND EHDI and the EHDI annual conference for opening our eyes and providing this incredible opportunity.



EHDI-PALS is a web-based searchable national directory. It helps families, healthcare professionals, and state public health organizations to find pediatric audiology expertise for children ages birth to five. In addition, the website provides

information about childhood hearing to support families and professionals through the process of screening, diagnosis, and intervention.

This site links you to information, resources, and services for children with hearing loss. At the heart of EHDI-PALS is a national web-based directory of facilities that offer pediatric audiology services to young children who are younger than five years of age.

Learn more at <https://www.ehdi-pals.org/default.aspx>



Kudos Corner



The ND EHDI program and staff would like to recognize and applaud the many efforts and contributions by the Audiology department and staff at Trinity Health.

Throughout the years, Trinity audiology staff have done so much to support families across the state of North Dakota through various demonstrated leadership initiatives. Some recognized initiatives are:

- Facilitating a loaner bank for hearing aids and supplies.
- Coordinating the Pediatric Audiology Collective (PAC) of N.D. audiology providers engaging in a collaborative approach to quality care.
- Participating on various boards and committees focused on hearing health care.
- Attending the annual national EHDI conference and other conferences to keep up to date on the latest information.
- Collaborating with early intervention programs and family support organizations.
- Collaborating with the ND EHDI program to support and enhance the hearing health system of care for all children and families in North Dakota.

Your collaborative involvement throughout the early hearing detection and intervention system of care has extended beyond your practice and impacts families now and into the future. Again, we thank you for all you have done and all you continue to do!

Submitted by Jerusha Olthoff, MSM, ND EHDI Program Director

Your baby's HEARING

Approximately
3 out of **1,000**
infants are born with
hearing loss



1 MONTH
All infants should have their hearing screened no later than **ONE month** of age

3 MONTHS
All infants who don't pass the initial screening should receive a diagnosis no later than **THREE months** of age

6 MONTHS
All infants identified with hearing loss should receive early intervention services no later than **SIX months** of age.

A New Face at ND EHDI

I am a parent of a 17-year-old daughter who is moderately to profoundly hard of hearing; currently, my daughter wears hearing aids and does well.

My family began our journey in the D/HH community when she was 2 years old- we were told that she passed her newborn hearing screening; however, after much pushing from myself, we were able to get her tested with an audiologist, and she was diagnosed with a hearing loss.

Because of this and the late diagnosis, this opened a passion within me to ensure or help brand new parents in getting the services and testing needed. I didn't want another family to go thru the experience that my family went through.

I joined N.D. Hands and Voices board as a parent advocate and spent several years on the board. After my three daughters became heavily involved in activities, I made the hard decision to come off the board.

Now that my oldest is driving and able to help with running to activities, I wanted to get once again involved in the D/HH community and decided to take this new position with ND EHDI as the Family Follow-up Coordinator. I am super excited about jumping in and getting involved with the D/HH

community with EDHI and serving as a resource to families who are just starting their journey.

I am also currently working with Anne Carlsen Early Intervention in Regions 3 and 6 as the Operations Manager; I am excited to intertwine these two fantastic programs and look forward to creating relationships that can benefit both!

I also have two other daughters, ages 13 and 14; we all enjoy spending time outside, horseback riding, and camping; we have a goal of horseback riding in all 50 states! We also spend much time with their activities with the high school dance team, swimming, and track.

Tory Allen
Follow-up Family Support Specialist
ND Early Hearing Detection and Intervention
North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities
Minot State University
(800) 233-1737

We are very excited that
Tory Allen is our new North
Dakota Early Hearing
Detection and Intervention
(ND EHDI) Follow-up
Family Support Specialist.
~ ND EHDI Team



"We rise to great heights by a winding staircase of small steps." - Francis Bacon.



North Dakota School for the Deaf Resource Center Statewide Program **Parent-Infant Program/ School Age Outreach Specialists**

Taken from ASLTech.com



ac-illustr.com

In the school year 2018-2019, 14% of the children attending school received special education services in the U.S. Children having hearing impairment were one percent of that group.

Some children with hearing impairment have a little bit of a hearing loss and some a lot. Some children identify themselves as hard of hearing and some as deaf. This may reflect the amount of hearing loss they experience or their culture affiliation. Regardless of how much they hear, they may wear hearing aids or have cochlear implants or use nothing at all.

Almost all deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) children can use their voices, but some are more easy to understand than others. It is difficult to speak clearly if you cannot hear yourself and others.

Some DHH children use other forms of communication, like sign language. In the United States, we use American Sign Language (ASL). ASL is not manual English. It is its own language, with its own grammar, vocabulary, etc.



Gif.Tenor



How can we honor our deaf youth:

1. If you know someone who uses sign language, learn some basic sign language and try to communicate.
2. Study famous deaf people and learn how they contributed to Deaf and American Cultures.
3. Learn how to become a better communicator with someone with a hearing loss (facing the person, repeating, etc.)
4. Ask some DHH students to share stories about growing up with a hearing loss.
5. Discuss some ways that you can help DHH fellow students advocate for equal access to information and services.

North Dakota School for the Deaf Resource Center
Parent-Infant and School-Age Outreach Department
offer to **Parents/Caregivers** of Deaf or Hard of
Hearing Children....

Contact Nicole
Swartwout at
(701) 739-9509
or
Nicole.swartwout
@k12.nd.us



*Includes a parent/teen panel,
breakfast, lunch and snacks plus
receive a free t-shirt*

**Friday,
May 6, 2022** on NDSD campus

Language of Discipline for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children

Lynn Young has worked in public schools for over 30 years as a teacher, trainer, and coach. She has taught ages ranging from infancy to high school, with the last 25 years being at the infant to preschool levels, particularly young children with hearing impairment and other developmental delays. She has provided Conscious Discipline training to many parents and teachers.



NDCPD's M. Bryce Fifield Access Scholarship is designed to support students with significant disabilities to attend Minot State University. To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must be enrolled for a minimum of six (6) semester hours and have a significant sensory or mobility disability. The scholarship is awarded by the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities Consumer Advisory Council. Awards are made based on the availability of funds and eligible applicants. The application deadline is June 1, 2022. Application materials are available in alternative formats upon request and online at <http://www.ndcpd.org/access-scholarship.html>.

Scholarship Opportunity

Applications are being accepted for the M. Bryce Fifield **ACCESS** Scholarship which is sponsored by the **North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities (NDCPD)** at Minot State University. This scholarship was created to assist students with significant developmental disabilities attending MSU in financing their college experience.



For more information and access to the application form, go to: <https://ndcpd.org/consumer-advisory-council-cac/>

Deadline for applications: June 1, 2022

If you're **interested in applying**, complete the application form found online and send it to:

NDCPD @ Minot State University
Attn: M. Bryce Fifield Access Scholarship
Dr. Lori Garnes
Memorial Hall 203
500 University Avenue West
Minot, ND 58707

If you have questions, please call (701) 858-3580.

May is **Better Hearing & Speech Month** (BHSM), providing an opportunity to raise awareness about communication disorders. Join us on Facebook and Twitter in celebrating in May as we celebrate Better Hearing & Speech Month. #betterhearingmonth

Facebook www.facebook.com/NDEHDI

Twitter @NDEHDI_NDCPD

Website: <http://ndcpd.org/ndehdi/>



"Your present circumstances don't determine where you can go; they merely determine where you start."
- Nido Qubein.



Upcoming Webinar: Introduction to Evidence- Based Hearing Screening and Evaluation Practices for Children ages 0-5

When: June 14, 2022,
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm MT

Register at https://usu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3ws9T9Fi75hDYOi



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.
AVEd April 15, 2022, 11:30 AM MST - 12:00 PM MST

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

CMV Public Health & Policy Conference



The 2022 CMV Public Health and Policy Conference will be held in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Learn more at <https://cmv.usu.edu/index.cfm>

Save the Date for the North Dakota Power Up Health Conference



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

Save the Date for Hands & Voices



"Leadership: More Than a State of Mind" 18th Annual Leadership Conference

Sunday, September 18, 2022- Tuesday, September 20, 2022
Location: Fairport, NY (30 minutes outside of Rochester, NY). The Woodcliff Hotel & Spa
Hosted In partnership with NTID and with support from the Hands & Voices of New York Chapter
<https://handsandvoices.org/conference/2022/index.html>

More information is coming soon about the 2023 22nd Annual Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Conference at <https://ehdimeeting.org/>



Tuesday Talks: ACI Alliance Cochlear Implant Consumer Advocacy Network Members Lead the Way



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, 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

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>



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

Chime in! Check out the ND EHD I website at 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

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

Hospitals: do you need more brochures?
Contact Vicki by emailing
Vickie.Brandt@MinotStateU.edu



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-EHD I
Newsletter, email
Christine.Brigden@MinotStateU.edu.