



Quarterly Newsletter FALL 2022

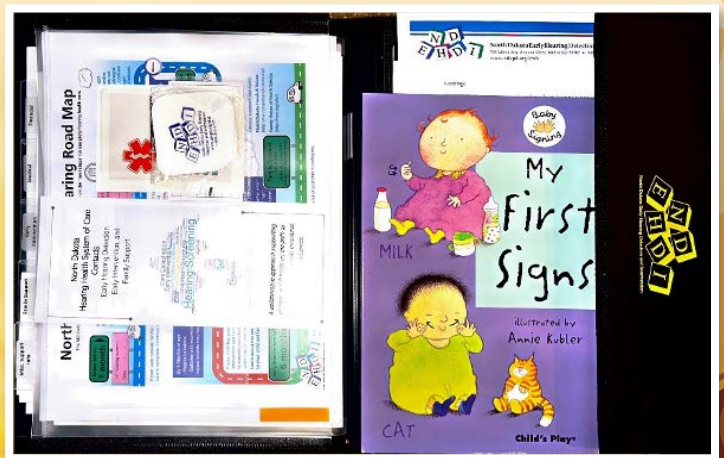
# North Dakota Early Hearing Detection and Intervention

## New Resources for Families and Providers!

To support a complete system of hearing health care, the ND EHD I program has been working on coordinating resources for families and providers. Two new resources for families are the "Follow-Up Support Packet" and a "Care Coordination Binder". The resources are provided to families depending upon where they are at in the hearing health care process.

Families with infants who did not complete the hearing screening or audiological assessment will receive a "Follow-Up Support Packet" (pictured top right) containing information about why it's important to receive and complete hearing health care until there is a confirmation of no further follow-up required.

A "Care Coordination Binder" (pictured bottom right) will go out to families who have a child with a confirmed diagnosis as Deaf or Hard of Hearing. This resource is meant to support families on their journey through the hearing health system of care and may be used to understand and organize all the information they may receive.





# The 2022 Hands & Voices Leadership Conference

The Hands & Voices Leadership Conference brings together family leaders from all over the world to develop skills, receive training on providing leadership to others, and impact local systems. It is the only conference of its kind devoted exclusively to teaching family members with children who are deaf or hard of hearing to be effective agents of change.

The North Dakota Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program (ND EHDl) program was proud to support these fantastic families in participating in the Hand and Voices Leadership National conference in Fairport, NY.



## H&V Leadership Conference 2022 Leadership: More than A State of Mind

Fairport, NY  
Sep 18 - 20, 2022



The North Dakota crew



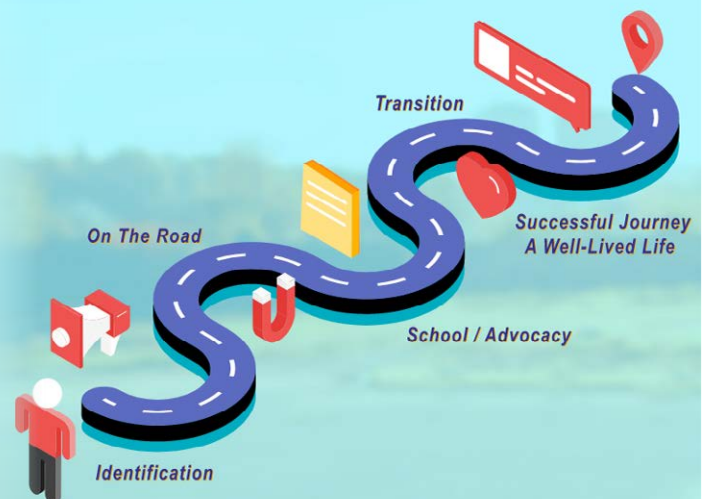
NORTH DAKOTA



## The Family Journey

Learning your child is deaf or hard of hearing can bring on different emotions at different times. We understand and support your need to think through your unique family situation, and Hands & Voices is here to help you to make informed choices for your family.

Learn more at [handsandvoices.org](https://handsandvoices.org).



*"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." – Albert Einstein*

## Exciting things are happening at the North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center

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Hello! Exciting things are happening at the North Dakota School for the Deaf / Resource Center (NDSD/RC). I am settling into the role of Superintendent with the help of the amazing staff and engaging students. A little about me: I was born and raised in Alabama. I spent all of my adult life in Washington DC, Washington State, Oregon, and Montana. I returned to the South for a couple of years recently and now, I moved to North Dakota at the beginning of September. I have been fortunate to work in mainstream schools, residential schools, and service organizations. I have worked with all ages of people. I have worked with individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind, and Deaf Disabled. I have volunteered in a therapeutic horseback riding non-profit and I am a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (Deaf Education, Kenya). I am a lifelong learner who loves to travel and laugh!

One thing that has been most impressive about the NDSD/RC is the vast array of quality services that we offer to North Dakotans. Of most importance for EHDI-ND is our Parent Infant Program. We have highly trained teachers of the deaf who live across North Dakota and serve families with infants and toddlers who are deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind, or deaf disabled. Our teachers participate in home visits, offer support related to hearing technologies, auditory training, share visual learning strategies, knowledgeable on speech and language development, help families learn sign language, and so much more.

As families continue on their journey, NDSD/RC is here to offer educational services including residential services for students age preschool through grade 8. Students are able to access specially designed instruction directly from a teacher of the deaf. We offer residential services to

some high school students to attend our local high school with supports such as interpreting services. We also offer consultative services to schools throughout North Dakota. NDSD/RC continues offering services through adulthood for assistive technologies such as alerting systems for doorbells, amplified and/or captioning phones, continued learning for sign language, and more.

If you are in the Devils Lake area, feel free to stop by and see us! We love sharing what we do with others!

*Submitted by:*

*Donna E. Sorensen, Superintendent  
North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center  
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*"A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles." – Christopher Reeve*



# Trinity Health Audiology in Minot, North Dakota

An Audiologist is the primary healthcare professional who evaluates diagnoses, treats and manages hearing loss and balance disorders in adults and children. Whether a child has been diagnosed with mild or severe hearing problems, Trinity Health's team of experienced audiologists can help.

Hearing loss interferes with a child's brain development, can affect communication development, and can also affect everything from school performance to social relationships and emotional well-being. Our audiology team provides evaluation and treatment for children with hearing loss and hearing disorders to help them hear and communicate to the best of their ability.

A child's hearing can be tested at any age, including the newborn stage. The earlier hearing loss is detected, the greater the chance for normal auditory brain development. Early diagnosis and treatment also improves your child's ability to develop his or her language and communication skills despite any hearing loss. Our audiologists are experienced in treating complex cases, and recognize how hearing loss affects a child's overall development.

Trinity Health offers a variety of hearing evaluations, and often uses a variety of tests as part of a child's evaluation depending on his or her age, developmental level, and the signs and symptoms of hearing loss he or she presents. Our audiologists are skilled in working with children of all ages, including newborns, and those with special needs to provide an accurate diagnosis of hearing loss. We emphasize the importance of early intervention to ensure best possible outcomes. Our services include:

- Newborn hearing screenings
- Hearing evaluations including auditory brainstem response (ABR) testing
- Auditory Processing Disorder Evaluations
- Hearing tests
- Hearing aid fitting
- Cochlear implants
- Bone Anchored Hearing Systems

## Signs of hearing loss in children

Hearing loss can have a variety of causes. These include chronic ear infections, genetic conditions, birth defects and other health problems at birth, certain drugs, head injuries, viral or bacterial infections, exposure to loud noise, and tumors.

Infants and toddlers with a hearing problem may:

- Have had several ear infections
- Not always respond to sounds
- Not be startled by sudden loud noises
- Seem to have speech and language problems

School-age children with a hearing problem may:

- Frequently ask people to repeat words or phrases
- Have had several ear infections
- Misunderstand or be confused about what someone is saying
- Not hear the telephone or doorbell ring
- Play music or TV too loud

Each member of our team works closely with many other specialties, including otolaryngology (ear, nose and throat/ ENT), speech pathology and various outside providers, such as school districts, pediatricians and early intervention specialists.

Trinity Health audiologists have advanced training and expertise to give you the best care and treatment available. All our audiologists have doctoral degrees in audiology and are licensed by the North Dakota Board of Examiners and are certified by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association or the American Board of Audiology.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 701-857-5986. A referral from your child's physician may be required depending on the evaluation or treatment needed.



Kelsey Artz, AuD



Jerrica Maxson, AuD



Tricia Nechodom, AuD

## From the Desk of Family Voices of North Dakota

Hard to believe that the summer has gone by so fast and that we are seeing the changes in color as we enter the fall season. We hope this finds you all doing well.

Our extended learning calls have begun for the fall/winter. We were grateful to Mandy Dendy and Johanna Johnson, who kicked off the season for us on Supported Decision Making. You can find the information on our website at [www.fvnd.org](http://www.fvnd.org). Watch for information forthcoming on future learning sessions through our social media pages and our listserv. 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](mailto:donene@fvnd.org).

Our Parent Leadership Institute will be held Oct. 7-9, 2022, and we are very excited to be hosting this again after the Covid break.

Also, Family Voices is hosting three Trunk-or-Treat events in October in Grand Forks, Fargo, and a carnival-type event in Bismarck. All are welcome to attend.

We will also be hosting soon a Care Coordination training. This will be held virtually, and announcements on a date will be forthcoming via our listserv and social media. We would love to provide this information to the families of EHDI. Just give us a call.

Our Back to School issue of the Navigator was just released. You can find it on our website at [www.fvnd.org](http://www.fvnd.org). With fall ramping up, there are many events across the state that may be of interest to you. We send this information out via our listserv. This is also shared on our Facebook social media page. Or again, you can register for the listserv by emailing [donene@fvnd.org](mailto:donene@fvnd.org).

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 respectful, relevant ways 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.

*Donene Feist*

*Director, Family Voices of North Dakota*



### North Dakota Fast Facts 2021

Live births in ND:

**10,111**

Average # per day:

**28**



Most popular baby names in ND:

**BOYS**  
Oliver  
Liam  
Henry



**GIRLS**  
Olivia  
Amelia  
Evelyn

Day with highest # of births



Day with lowest # of births



Largest live birth:

**13 lbs. 10 oz.**



Information from: <https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Files/Vital/ff2021.pdf>

The information in this document is a summary of vital statistics in North Dakota for the year 2021. Included in this document are statistics for resident births, deaths, marriages, and divorces. For more information, please contact Vital Records in the N.D. Department of Health and Human Services at 701.328.2360.



*"Our daughter's hearing loss was identified through the newborn screen. Whenever friends have babies, I ask, Did they get the newborn hearing screen?"*

*- Dorothy*

## Newborn Hearing Screening

**Infants' and babies' hearing can be checked.** Do you know that your baby's hearing can be checked even before leaving the birth hospital? Many states, communities, and hospitals offer hearing screening for babies. A baby's hearing can be screened using Automated Auditory Brainstem Response (AABR), Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE), or both. Babies usually have their hearing screened while still in the hospital, either in the nursery or in their mothers' room.

**All babies should have a hearing screening before they are one month old.** Hearing screening is easy and is not painful. In fact, babies are often asleep while being screened. It takes a very short time – usually only a few minutes. Sometimes the screening is repeated while the babies are still in the hospital or shortly after they leave the hospital.

Babies who do not pass hearing screening should be tested by an audiologist. An audiologist is a person trained to test hearing. This person will do additional testing to find out if there is a hearing loss. There are many kinds of tests an audiologist can do to find out if a baby has a hearing loss, how much of a hearing loss there is, and what type it is.

**All babies who do not pass the first screening should have a complete hearing test before three months of age.**

Finding a hearing loss early and getting into a program that helps babies with hearing loss (beginning before a baby is six months old) helps a child to:

- Communicate better with others.
- Do well in school.
- Get along with other children.

**All babies with hearing loss should begin intervention services before six months of age.** Intervention services are types of programs and resources available for children and their families. An intervention might be:

- Meeting with a professional (or team) who is trained to work with children who have a hearing loss, and their families.
- Working with a professional (or team) who can help a family and child learn to communicate.
- Fitting a baby with a hearing device, such as a hearing aid.
- Joining family support groups.
- Other resources available to children with a hearing loss and their families.

*Article from Newborn Hearing Screening | Parent's Guide to Hearing Loss | CDC*

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

HAVE TEAMED

UP!



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The NEW North Dakota Health and Human Services (HHS) was Effective September 1, 2022. NDDoH and NDDHS become one team, working together to make N.D. the healthiest state in the nation.

Read the release: <https://www.governor.nd.gov/news/burgum-health-human-services-now-united-one-department-serve-north-dakota-citizens>.



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



Please share this excellent North Dakota Health and Human Service Financial Coverage program with the families you work with in the community.

## 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 a cost-share option if needed).
- **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 a 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>

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## Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Resources and Webinars



The **National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM)** at Utah State University serves as the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention, National Technical Resource Center (EHD I NTRC), funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) at the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The EHD I NTRC provides programs and professionals that provide:

- Technical assistance
- Training
- Access to information about evidence-based practices
- Partnership opportunities with national EHD I systems of care organizations and other key stakeholders, including those that represent and/ or serve families with children who are DHH.

Learn more at <https://www.infanthearing.org>.

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>



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

# Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Resources and Upcoming Events

## SAVE THE DATE:

### Annual Early Hearing Detection and Intervention 22nd Annual Conference

Mar. 5-7, 2023 | Cincinnati, Ohio | [ehdconference.org](http://ehdconference.org)



**HOSPITALS:** Do you need more brochures?

Please email [vickie.brabandt@MinotStateU.edu](mailto:vickie.brabandt@MinotStateU.edu)

## ARE YOU FOLLOWING US?

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

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



## CHIME IN!

Check out the ND EHD website at [www.ndcpd.org/ndehdi](http://www.ndcpd.org/ndehdi) for information or meet the staff. Also, if you have questions, find broken links or typos, or have suggestions, please let us know.

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!

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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North Dakota Early Hearing Detection and Intervention