



Quarterly Newsletter WINTER 2022

# North Dakota Early Hearing Detection and Intervention

## We're excited that the new year will bring for the EHD I community

On behalf of the North Dakota Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program staff, we want to take a moment to let you know how thankful we are to have you as part of our North Dakota Hearing Health community. We can't thank you enough for all of your support this year as we maximize our potential through our vital and unique services. From our entire team, we want to wish you a happy and healthy 2023 for you and yours!

Happy New Year from Jerusha, Joyal, Sue, Tory, and Christine



EHD I Team Work Retreat Day from June 30, 2022  
(In the picture L-R Joyal, Jerusha, Christine, Sue, and Tory)

## Hearing Professionals Use These Important 1-3-6 Benchmarks

- 1 mo** Before **one month** of age: *Hearing Screening*
- 3 mo** Before **three months** of age: *Hearing Evaluation*
- 6 mo** Before **six months** of age: *Early Intervention*

**Hearing screening** is the first hearing service to determine if a baby may have a hearing loss.

**Hearing evaluation** is a comprehensive test to determine if a baby has hearing loss and the severity and type of hearing loss.



For more information visit:  
[www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss)  
email: [ehdi@cdc.gov](mailto:ehdi@cdc.gov) call: 800-CDC-INFO  
Follow us on Twitter: @CDC\_NCBDDD  
CS294435-A September 06, 2022



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



# A Mother-Daughter Experience at the 2022 Hands and Voices Leadership Conference

My Daughter Gracie Krueger and I were able to attend the 2022 Hands and Voices Leadership Conference in Fairport, NY, in September. Bringing my 17, almost 18-year-old hard-of-hearing child was a fantastic experience both for me as her mom and for her to see and witness the advocacy world her mom has been immersed in!

We were able to attend many informational sessions, hear speakers, both hearing and deaf, witness all modes of communication, and enjoy others that have traveled the same path we have! For my daughter, this was the first time for her to witness an event solely focused on the Deaf/ Hard of Hearing community.

During our visit, we were also able to tour and learn more about the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) college within Rochester Institute of Technology RIT in Rochester, NY. This visit was the highlight of Gracie's trip, and it was amazing to see how the college is set up to benefit all forms of communication modes and just the little things that they tweak to make everything accessible for the Deaf/ Hard of Hearing students. During this visit,

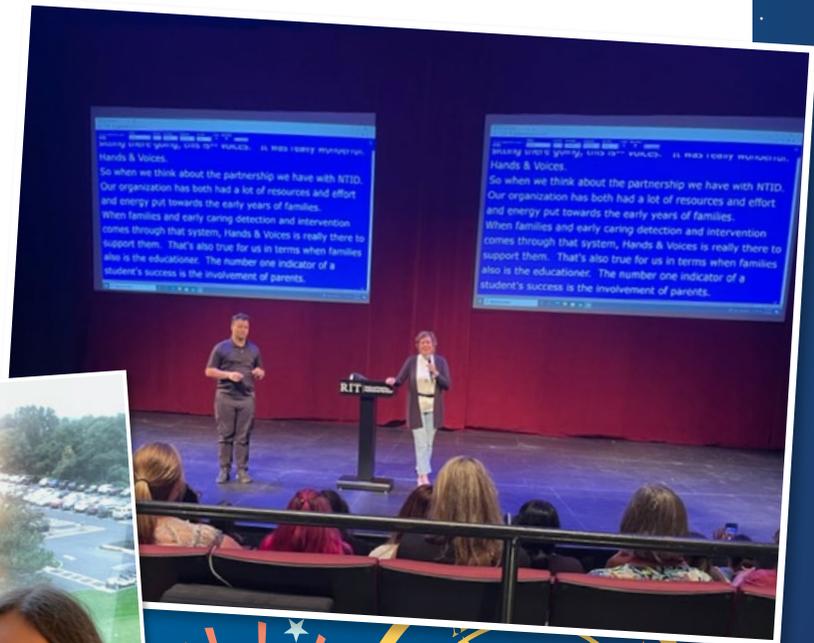
we were also able to visit with other D/HH students and parents.

I was able to attend many different advocacy sessions during the 3-day conference that will help me in my journey with family support and advocacy, along with making new relationships with other parents, and professionals in other states!

Gracie and I came away from this experience refreshed to continue our advocacy journey, she was able to make some lifelong relationships with others like herself, and she was able to really witness others like her for the first time in every day to day life.

We were lucky enough to enjoy some of the New York sites and got to check to visit Niagara Falls off our bucket lists!

*Submitted by Tory Allen, ND EHDI Family Follow-up Coordinator*



# A Mother-Son's Experience at the 2022 Hands and Voices Leadership Conference

Attending the Hands & Voices Conference in New York was an experience my son and I won't forget.

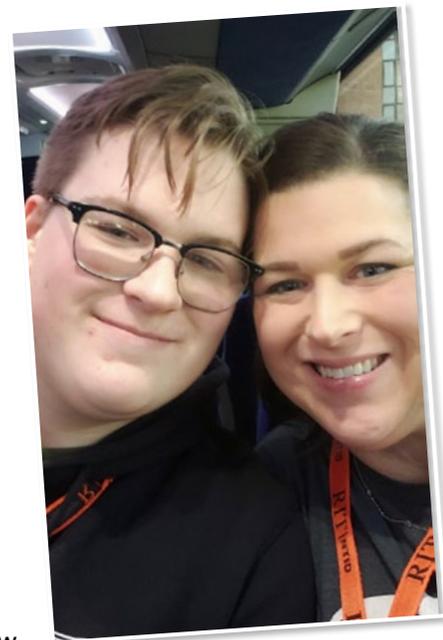
Being able to attend the conference with my 16-year-old son was so special. Before the conference, we took the time to read over the break-out sessions and decided which ones we would like to attend. Holden volunteers with the North Dakota Hands & Voices Board, helping plan and carry out events for teens in our area, so we looked at break-out sessions that would help him reflect on that work and think about new ways to serve. The break-out sessions we attended offered a variety of topics that we would both benefit from.

Holden and I talked a lot about the conference on our way home. We both agreed that the opportunity to attend the school tour at Rochester Institute of Technology was the highlight of the trip. RIT is internationally recognized for the education of deaf and hard-of-hearing students. As a mother of a child with hearing loss, I have concerns for Holden's future. I wonder what his future will look like and if he will have the same opportunities to be as successful as his typical hearing peers. As we participated in the tour, we were blown away by what was offered. Holden kept looking at me when we would hear something that was shared. Holden was able to ask the questions he had. The supports that are automatically offered at the school are part of the normal routine there - but they are the same things that we fight for at his current school. RIT definitely made an impact

on both Holden and I. As we rode the bus back to the hotel after the tour and dinner, Holden shared with me how much he liked the school and how it would be cool to attend a school with other students with hearing loss.

We are so grateful for the opportunity to attend the conference. We gained knowledge that we will use in our work supporting families. We gained new friendships with people who understand what it is like to live in the world of hearing loss. Most importantly, we were able to spend time together as Mother and Son creating new memories and learning and growing together. That will never be forgotten.

*Submitted by Mistie Bouilly  
Parent and PTI Program Coordinator & Support Specialist*



## Teen Advisors Wanted!

Are you a teen, or do you know a teen with hearing differences that would be a good mentor for younger children with hearing differences or a junior leader in an organization? Check this out:

North Dakota Hands & Voices is looking for Teen Advisors. Our mission is to support families of children who are Deaf or hard of hearing without a bias around communication modes or methodology. We are a parent-driven, non-profit organization providing families with the resources, networks, and information they need to improve communication access and educational outcomes.

Within the last year, our North Dakota Chapter of Hands & Voices has focused a number of our social/networking events toward teens. We have seen some great connections being made during these events. We would like to build on this energy and provide young adults a

means for developing leadership and mentoring skills here in our state. Therefore, we will be adding Teen Advisors to our Chapter.

We are looking for teens with hearing differences aged 16 to 19 years of age. They will be expected to present any proposals for events or requests for funds to the board for approval. They will also be called upon for advice in planning future events/programs. If interested in learning more, please contact us at [ndhandsandvoices@gmail.com](mailto:ndhandsandvoices@gmail.com) or call/text 701 484 1605.

*Submitted by  
North Dakota Hands & Voices*



*"Kindness is like snow—it beautifies everything it covers." —Kahlil Gibran*



North Dakota Early Hearing Detection and Intervention

# The 2022 Parent Leadership Institute Weekend

I was fortunate to attend the Family Voices of North Dakota- Parent/Family Leadership Institute weekend retreat, along with multiple other parents who attended a packed full weekend (Friday to Sunday) to collaborate, connect and learn.

The purpose of the Leadership Institute is to provide family members with the tools to expand their grassroots advocacy efforts through coalition building and mentoring activities.

## Learning Objectives:

1. State leadership --increase capacity and knowledge for family leaders regarding health policy in order to strengthen partnerships and policy development.
2. Individual families - increased awareness and understanding of the impact of health issues and services for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs.
3. Promote and support family/professional partnerships.
4. Increase the families' ability to navigate the complex service system and access needed services.
5. Provide families with access to information and opportunities for training.
6. Provide skills necessary for family support and leadership development by bringing together community resources based upon identified family needs.

I recommend this experience for any parent/ guardian/ child caretaker as it deeply dives into the legislative processes and resources available for families with children with special needs. I came away from this experience with much knowledge, resources, and relationships that will last a lifetime!

To learn more about the 2023 Family Voices of North Dakota has held a Family Leadership Institute, visit <http://fvnd.org/family-leadership/>



Submitted by Tory Allen  
ND EHDI Family Follow-up Coordinator  
701-320-1801  
Website: [www.ndcpd.org](http://www.ndcpd.org)



# Committee Meets to Update Informational Paper for Educating Students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing

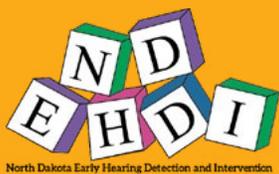
On Monday, November 21, 2022, a group of Teachers of the Deaf (TODs) met at the Capitol building in Bismarck to update the Informational Paper for Educating Students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing from the Office of Specially Designed Services, North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI).

The following individuals took part in the committee work:

- Paula Fitzgerald, South Valley Multi-District Special Education Unit
- Natasha Howard, Sheyenne Valley Special Education Unit
- Tami Iszler, ND School for the Deaf/Resource Center
- Randa Kinzler, Morton-Sioux Special Education Unit
- Lisa Krueger, Jamestown Public Schools
- Bambi Lambert, Fargo Public Schools
- Lacey Long, NDCPD and NDDPI
- Wendy Palmer, ND School for the Deaf/Resource Center
- Dr. Holly Pedersen, Minot State University
- Jodi Scheeler, Minot Public Schools
- Donna Sorensen, ND School for the Deaf/Resource Center
- Nicole Swartout, ND School for the Deaf/Resource Center
- Jaci Rynda, Wilmac Multi-District Special Education Unit

Submitted by:

Lacey Long, M.Ed. Special Education/Strategist  
Project Director, North Dakota Dual Sensory  
Project TSVI, TOD, COMS, CATIS  
Adjunct Instructor, Minot State University

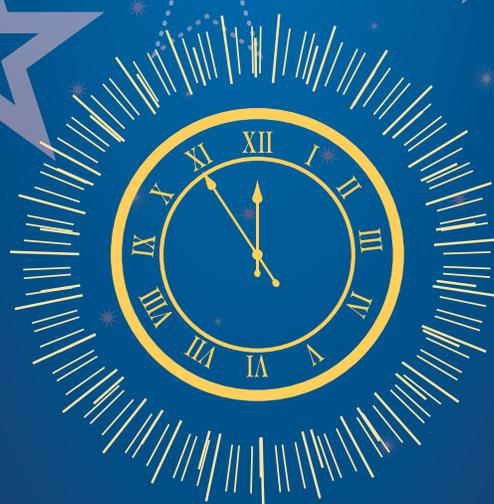


Everyone should have access to affordable health care. When you're deciding if you should see a doctor, the cost of care might be a big factor in your choice. With health insurance coverage, you'll feel a lot better about getting the care you need.

ND Navigators offer free and unbiased assistance with health insurance enrollment and education. Our job title, Navigator, means that we help people "navigate" their health insurance. Our team has been trained and certified to assist you with all the confusing, moving parts of health insurance.

To contact us, call **1-800-233-1737**  
Visit our website: [www.ndcpd.org/ndnavigator](http://www.ndcpd.org/ndnavigator).  
Email us at [ndnavigators@minotstateu.edu](mailto:ndnavigators@minotstateu.edu)  
or find us on Facebook or Instagram.

**ND Navigators**



*"Every child you encounter is a divine appointment."*  
- Wess Stafford

## From the Desk of Family Voices of North Dakota

Hoping everyone had a great Holiday Season. Family Voices of North Dakota has held a couple of Extended Learning Calls; we hope you will join us for one in the future. As a reminder about our Extended Learning Calls, we host these calls on weeknights at 8 pm. They are held in the evening to assure families are able to attend. These calls are for families and providers to learn about new programs and expand their skills. Let us know if any provider would like to be a guest speaker 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.

We were participants at the end of November with EHDI staff and ND Hands and Voices. This was a really productive meeting. For family members getting this new diagnosis, sharing what is important to you and a parent

or caregiver is important. How do you receive information, do you need someone to contact you, and how would you like to be contacted, etc.? Let us know what works best for you and your family.

If you are a family member and need additional support, do call us at Family Voices of North Dakota or ND Hands and Voices. We are both here to help. Family Support is such 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 and 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!

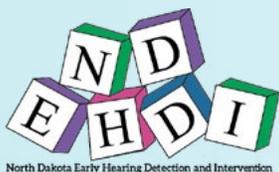
Hoping you all have a great winter.

*Submitted by Donene Feist*  
Director, Family Voices of North Dakota  
<http://fvnd.org/>

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

## At the Table with Hands & Voices

"At the Table with Hands & Voices" is a Podcast produced by Hands & Voices Inc. H&V is a parent-driven organization that supports families with children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing without a bias around communication modes or methodology. This series of interactive conversations cover topics of leadership, racism, the parent journey, and more - from the perspective of parents of children who are Deaf/Hard of hearing, and the professionals who serve them. Learn more at <https://handsandvoicesfl3centercourses.mykajabi.com/podcasts/at-the-table-with-hands-voices>



*"I continue to believe that if children are given the necessary tools to succeed, they will succeed beyond their wildest dreams!" – David Vitter*

# ND NEWBORN SCREENING AND FOLLOW-UP PROGRAM PRESENTS: **A Medical Home ECHO Series**

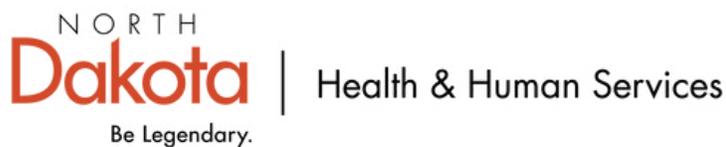
## WHAT IS MEDICAL HOME?

A medical home is defined by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) as an approach to providing comprehensive, high-quality primary care, which includes care that is:

- accessible
- family-centered
- continuous
- comprehensive
- coordinated
- compassionate
- culturally effective

Medical home is not a building or place. It builds partnerships with clinical specialists, families and community resources.

Upon completion of these sessions, the learner will be able to incorporate a medical home approach in caring for their patients.



## INTERESTED IN JOINING US?

### Online via Zoom

- No cost to participants
- Free continuing education credits
- Target audience: Physicians, Nurses, Social Workers and families

### Session Dates and Times

Every other Wednesday:  
Jan. 11, 2023 - April 5, 2023  
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm CT

**Have questions? Contact:**  
[krista.opstedal@minotstateu.edu](mailto:krista.opstedal@minotstateu.edu)

**For more information, visit:**  
[ndcpd.org/echo/medicalhome](http://ndcpd.org/echo/medicalhome)

## REGISTER

Click (desktop)  
or scan (mobile)  
to register.



Please refer to the following for each session:

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Accreditation Requirements and Policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of the University of North Dakota (UND) School of Medicine and Health Sciences, the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services and Minot State University. The UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences designates this Live activity for a maximum of *1 AMA PRA Category 1 credit(s)*<sup>™</sup>. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

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## North Dakota School for the Deaf Resource Center Parent-Infant Program/ School Age Outreach Specialists (Statewide Services)

### How to Care for Hearing Devices in Winter

It is important to keep hearing devices clean, dry, and warm. There are a few good ways to achieve this goal, such as:

#### 1. **Wear a Hat, Headband or Earmuffs:**

Wearing headgear when you go outside serves a dual purpose during the winter. First, it keeps your head and ears warm, which prevents condensation from forming on your hearing devices. Second, it helps keep sweat from running down your head and into or behind your ears.



ClipartKey

#### 2. **Use a Dehumidifier:** One of the best ways to protect your hearing devices is to use a dehumidifier or drying case.

Dehumidifiers are relatively inexpensive and can help protect the delicate circuitry inside your hearing devices. Some even function as cleaning and sanitation devices.



Maxi Aids

#### 3. **Open Your Battery Compartment:** Open the battery compartment and remove the batteries when your device isn't in use. This allows the hearing aid to dry inside and prevents your batteries from draining quickly.



BlogGang.com



*Parent-Infant and School-Age Outreach Department held private virtual visits with Deaf Santa either in the home or at school. Deaf Santa has cochlear implants and adjusted his communication mode to match that preferred by each child*

### Tips for visiting Santa

It's that time of year when the kids are writing that all-important letter to Santa and they want to see him in person. It's not always that simple when you have a child/children with hearing loss. Santa's beard and moustache are an occupational 'hazard' that can make it very difficult to lip-read most of what Santa is saying.

It may help to do some pre-planning. A visit to Santa is such a special memorable occasion.

If your child uses sign language, it may be tougher to find a signing Santa. Here is a video message from Santa that you could utilize. Use the QR code to the right or go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LrFsP-npH78>



Often the Santa events run by charities may allow for a better experience with Santa. Children can have their own individual, magical time with Santa. They may get more time with Santa which means time can be spent helping your child with communication.

If you do go to the Santa in the mall, whisper into the elf's ear that your child has a hearing loss. Ask the elf if you or they can repeat what Santa says if your child doesn't understand. Sometimes the Santa at the Mall know a few signs.



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## 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)



### SAVE THE DATE:

#### Hands & Voices Annual Leadership Conference

Oct 1-3, 2023 | Grand Rapids, Michigan | Check back for updates in early 2023 <https://www.handsandvoices.org/>



CMV-PHP Planning Committee is thrilled to announce that they will be holding an in-person CMV Public Health and Policy Conference in 2023. Please plan to join in **Salt Lake City, Utah, October 8-10**. This conference comes a year early (originally planned for 2024) to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Utah passing the first hearing-targeted CMV screening legislation and to get off cycle from the International CMV Conference. Look for the next steps in the coming months.

- Call for abstracts will be released on or before Feb 10, 2023.
- Registration will be available on or before May 10, 2023.

Need convincing on how amazing this conference is and help you find your WHY? View the plenary presentations (<https://infanthearing.org/meeting/cm2022/index.html>) from the 2022 conference that was held in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.



## 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 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 NTRC provides programs and professionals that provide:

- Technical assistance
- Training
- Access to information about evidence-based practices
- Partnership opportunities with national EHD 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>.

**Upcoming Webinar:** Building on Your Experience with Evidence-based Hearing Screening Practices for Children Ages 0-5: Refine Your Skills and Address Your Questions

**When:** January 24, 2023, | 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm CT

Register at [https://usu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_eX3DNnKQgqrTau1](https://usu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eX3DNnKQgqrTau1)

**Upcoming Webinar:** Evidence-Based Hearing Screening and Evaluation Practices for Children Ages 0-5: Useful Facts and Practical Tools

**When:** February 9, 2023, | 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. MDT

Register at [https://usu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_06XdalpgPhjrrPU](https://usu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_06XdalpgPhjrrPU)

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>



## Can Your Baby Hear?



North Dakota Early Hearing  
Detection and Intervention  
[www.ndcpd.org/ehdi](http://www.ndcpd.org/ehdi)  
1-800-233-1737



# 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 I website at [www.ndcpd.org/ndehti](http://www.ndcpd.org/ndehti) 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

