

North Dakota EHDI

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention

Quarterly Newsletter FALL 2023

GOOD NEWS!

ND EHDI just received notification that we did receive the funding from HRSA to support "program efforts to assess and build capacity to address language acquisition and other developmental milestones at age 3 for children identified as deaf or hard of hearing (DHH)."

This is some exciting news, and we look forward to working with our partners to develop a plan for North Dakota.

*Jerusha Olthoff, MSM
ND EHDI Program Director
The North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities*



2021 ND EHDI Stats

98.5%

of infants completed a hearing screen

15

children were identified with permanent hearing loss in the ND EHDI system

A new website Life.ND.gov, is now available to the public.

The website is an information hub for pregnancy and parenting resources intended to educate and guide expectant families in North Dakota.

The website was created to fulfill legislative requirements passed into law by the 2023-24 Legislative Assembly to provide a distinct online resource for information on social services, financial assistance, parenting information, maternal and childbirth life services, planning guidance, care centers, and agencies, and other available public and private resources for expectant families and new parents.

Please feel free to share the website with your partners and families you serve and post this link on your websites. Thank you!

*Joyal Meyer, MSN, RN
Newborn Screening Program Director
Special Health Services
ND Department of Health and Human Services*



NORTH Dakota | Health & Human Services
Be Legendary.™

Big News from CHI St. Alexius Health Williston

We're so excited to share some news from our CHI St. Alexius Health Williston clinic.

We are proud of our new Providers, Ms. Boateng, N.P.- Pediatric, and Ms. Stevi Meade P.A. student who follows our pediatricians, Dr. Mulu and Dr. Giyanwani. Ms. Stevi and Ms. Boateng discovered how important early detection of hearing loss is.

Here is a great message from Stevi: "As a physician assistant student at Rocky Mountain College, we learn to implement efficient patient care and ways to use the appropriate skills to help our patients. To apply this knowledge from the classroom to the clinic, I was given the opportunity to learn about the ERO SCAN hearing testing machine. During my pediatric clinical rotation at CHI St. Alexius Health Williston, I was able to have hands-on experience with this machine to screen newborns that failed their initial newborn hearing screen. In addition, I was able to understand its use and the results from the test. Hearing loss can lead to delayed language development, behavioral problems and poor academic achievement. This machine can help with early detection of hearing loss in infancy. The early detection will then allow for appropriate interventions that can result in improved language, cognitive, behavioral and even academic outcomes."

We are lucky to have new staff that follow our Pediatric team, where we can share how important the ND-EHDI program is in our community. We Hope every student in our family has a great back-to-school!!!!

Submitted by CHI St. Alexius Health - Pediatric Clinic - Williston



"Always remember you are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, smarter than you think, and loved more than you know." – Robin, Winnie the Pooh

What is Listening and Spoken Language?

What is LSL? LSL stands for Listening and Spoken Language. It offers a set of strategies and principles to teach babies and young children with hearing loss spoken language through listening.

Most likely, you learned to talk by listening to your family and those around you. As humans, our brains are “pre-wired” to learn spoken language by listening. While you may think we hear with our ears, hearing is really about the brain.

When babies are diagnosed with hearing loss early and get the right hearing devices, sounds can go directly to their brain. This means they can learn to listen and talk just like a child with typical hearing. How? With your help, along with technology and a support team. You’ll partner with specialists including a pediatric audiologist and an early intervention professional. The pediatric audiologist will help your baby’s brain grow and access sound through hearing aids or cochlear implants. The LSL early intervention professional will guide you to use specific strategies every day to make the best use of the hearing devices and to teach your child to listen and talk.

To read the full article, visit <https://www.hearingfirst.org/lsl/what-is-lsl>



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

Our newest member of our team is Jodi Scheeler

My name is Jodi Scheeler. I am humbled to have now practiced special education for 27 years after achieving undergraduate degrees in English Education and Deaf Education and later a graduate degree in Special Education with an emphasis in Deaf Education at Minot State University (MSU). Early in my career, I worked as an itinerant teacher of deaf and hard of hearing for Elko Country School District in Nevada, a teacher of community sign language classes, an adjunct instructor at Minot State University in Minot, and an educational interpreter for Minot Public Schools. For the past twenty years, I have worked as an itinerant teacher of deaf/hard of hearing for the Souris Valley Special Education Unit, serving rural school districts in northwest North Dakota. For the past two years, I have been doing the same role for Minot Public School District. I have had the opportunity to hone my skills in the deaf education with continual professional development to support families and school teams, such as training in "See the Sound: Visual Phonics," CID SPICE curriculum, and many other trainings specific to students with hearing loss. Most recently, I obtained in-depth training in the SKI-HI Curriculum geared for babies and toddlers with hearing loss.



The North Dakota School for the Deaf Parent-Infant Program establishes a Deaf Mentor Program

Two Deaf adults, Linda Ehlers and Kale Smith, received training in SKI HI's Deaf Mentorship last April, and the first Deaf Mentor home visits were started at the end of August.

Kale Smith said, "The training was an excellent experience, and a lot of information was learned. I just started working with a few families at the end of August. I am really enjoying teaching sign language and deaf culture to families that have deaf or hard of hearing child..."

The Deaf Mentor Program, created in the early 1990s, is part of the SKI-HI program that has been around since 1972. SKI-HI, a program that helps families learn how to promote communication and language with the child in ways that best match the child's needs, is used in every state as well as some other countries. The Deaf Mentor Program has the early interventionist and Deaf mentor work together to establish a Bilingual-Bicultural home environment wherein the child has access to early language and the benefits of the skills and values of both the Hearing and Deaf cultures. The Deaf Mentor Program focus on deaf adults (mentors) who make regular home visits to the children and their families, share their language (American Sign Language), culture, and personal knowledge of deafness with the families; and serve as role models for the children. The children also receive regular home visits from a parent advisor, who is also SKI-HI trained specifically in working with children with hearing differences, age birth to six, who help the family promote the child's early listening, English, and literacy skills. In North Dakota, these SKI-HI trained parent advisors also hold degrees in the education of deaf and hard-of-hearing children.

"We've been wanting to be able to provide this service for a long time." said Linda Ehlers, "I'm excited that it now is a service that we can offer to our families. It is also an opportunity for the children and their families to meet a Deaf adult as often many have not ever met a person similar to their child."

NDSD is dedicated to serving and supporting all deaf children and their families, regardless of their preferred communication approach.

Join us for the 2023 Parent Leadership Institute Family Voices of North Dakota Parent Leadership Institute Call for Applicants

Deadline: September 15, 2023

Greetings families!

Through grant funding from the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services the Maternal and Child Health Bureau and personal donations, Family Voices of North Dakota is able to offer their Parent Leadership Institute and we are inviting you to attend!

We are very excited about this opportunity to join other families from across the state! This will be the 16th year this has been offered.

Is this for you?

Well, first of all let us say this....YES!

Yes, because as families, we need to be able to first speak on behalf of our own children, and second because there are many issues we as families face on behalf of our children. So in our opinion, yes....YOUR VOICE COUNTS AND IS MEANINGFUL.

The Parent Leadership Institute will bring together 25 to 30 family members of individuals with chronic health conditions, developmental disabilities and medically complex children from across the state of North Dakota for a weekend retreat.

Family Voices of North Dakota and partnering Parent-led Organizations will offer:

1-Information and education pertaining to services offered for your child/youth by both the public and private sector of services and how those services are currently funded from the federal, state and local level.

2-We will also provide tools for personal leadership growth,

3-Discuss the importance of family-centered care and care coordination

4- Provide specific training related to the legislative process. Participants will have the opportunity to meet with a legislator and others on the legislative process.

The weekend retreat is an opportunity for networking and mentoring by other family advocates.

The weekend retreat will be held October 6 through the 8th, 2023 in Edgeley, ND. It will start at 12p on the 6th and end at noon on the 8th to allow time for participants to travel home.

All applicants must commit to the full weekend in order to be selected for the Institute. Applicants will receive

recognition of graduating from the Parent Leadership Institute, plus the cost of motel, food and travel will be covered for the two day retreat! We cannot offer childcare at this time.

"Our daughter was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. There was a lot to learn just to keep our daughter healthy and safe, and we relied heavily in those first few months on our medical team. As we started to feel solid ground under our feet again we began looking for resources and support in the community but weren't sure where we fit in and what services we were eligible for. I, heard about the Family Voices Parent Leadership Institute, and event that was supposed to assist families like mine navigate the local, state, and federal agencies to obtain the support and resources available to us."

The Family Voices Parent Leadership Institute not only made me aware of my child's rights and the resources available to our family, they introduced me to other parents of children with extra needs who understood a lot of the emotional challenges we faced as a family which was invaluable. There was also guidance on how to advocate for our child both in our immediate community but also at the state and federal level. The services and support that Family Voices offers has given our family confidence in our ability to give our daughter the best start in life, and we are grateful for their passion and dedication to supporting vulnerable populations."

Join the now over 352 families who have attended and started their advocacy journey. Over the years, we know and understand that it may feel a bit uncomfortable to meet new people, and try something new. Please put your mind at ease! By the end of the weekend, you will have made new friends and have a ton of information in raising your child/youth with a chronic health illness and disability. Mostly that you do not have to travel this journey alone.

Important You can apply individually, or if you plan to attend with your spouse or significant other, please indicate this on your application. This will help us plan for the motel.

Apply: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/656JH5Z>

If you have questions, call us, happy to answer any questions that you may have at 888-522-9654

New Staff Announcement in our ND Hearing Community

We want to introduce Samantha Brown, Audiology Assistant with Trinity Health Audiology Department.

I'm Sam!

I have an 8-year-old son.

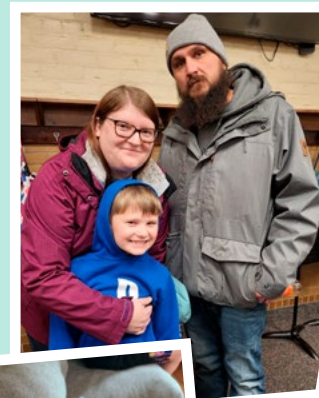
I have been married for 10 years.

We have 3 dogs.

I'm originally from West Fargo

I like to spend time with family and read in my free time.

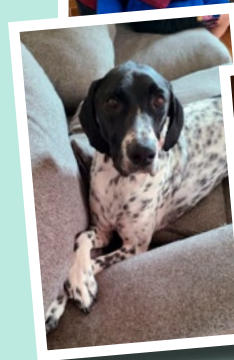
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trinityhealth.org



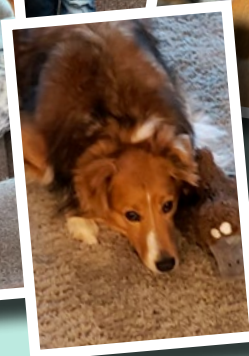
Sam's Family



Ash Brown



Hades Brown



Bruizer Brown

We want to introduce Daisy Ortiz, Audiology Assistant with Fargo Sanford Health Audiology Department.

My name is Daisy Ortiz. I have been with Sanford going on four years now. I started as a nurse aide, then became a Surgical Technologist, and eventually found my way into the Broadway ENT clinic as the Lead Office Coordinator. Aside from work, I love to be home with my cat named Percy, spending time with family and friends, and I LOVE spending time alone, whether it's at home, shopping, going to a movie, or going out to eat by myself. I am excited to be a part of the team and look forward to working with everyone.



Percy Ortiz

"Sometimes the things we can't change end up changing us." ~ Unknown

Tips for hearing aid maintenance

Do you use perfume or hair spray? Be sure to avoid using those kinds of products around your hearing aids.

Using aerosol products like hairspray, sunscreen, bug spray or perfume around hearing aids can corrode and damage the small components of the hearing aid.

Learn more tips for hearing aid maintenance:

<https://heardakota.com/care-and-maintenance/>

The 1-3-6 Goals for EHDI include:

All infants are **screened** for hearing loss no later than **1 MONTH** of age, preferably before hospital discharge.



All infants who do not pass the screening will have a **diagnostic** hearing evaluation no later than **3 MONTHS** of age.



All infants with hearing loss are enrolled in **early intervention** services no later than **6 MONTHS** of age.



Has ND Medicaid asked you for more information to renew coverage?

North Dakotans are getting letters, emails, and texts requesting information to renew their ND Medicaid. Even if you have other coverage, Medicaid needs updated information for everyone in your household. Your children may still qualify for Medicaid coverage even if you don't qualify or have another insurance plan.

QUESTIONS?

Contact North Dakota Navigators

We offer free and unbiased help

1-800-233-1737

NDnavigators@MinotStateU.edu

www.NDCPD.org/NDnavigator

ND Navigators

Health Insurance Marketplace



"Every survival kit should include a sense of humor." ~ Anonymous

REMINDER

ND EHDI Advisory Meetings

October 12, 2023, Noon - 2 pm via Teams

If you have any questions, please contact:

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,

jerusha.olthoff@minotstateu.edu



Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Resources, Upcoming Events, and Webinars

Webinar Topic: Assuming Competence: What to do if you don't know what to do!

When: November 9, 2023, | 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm CT

REGISTER/LEARN MORE:

https://usu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6RK6euUtobiTS3I

Webinar Topic: Getting Ready To Be Readers: Preliteracy During the EHDI Period

When: December 7, 2023

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm CT

REGISTER/LEARN MORE:

https://usu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cuy1DG7cycBGdJl



Join our free Direct Care Resilience ECHO Series today!

Learn resilience principles, gain strategies and resources to build resilience, and hear inspiring stories from those with lived experience. Register now!

Session: October 4, 2023

Session: October 11, 2023

Session: October 18, 2023

TIMES: All sessions 11:00 am - 12:00 pm CST

REGISTER/LEARN MORE:

<https://ndcpd.org/echo/resilience/>

Social work CEU's are available upon request!

NDCPD Presents

FREE
TRAINING
SERIES



**Direct Care
Resilience**

SESSION TOPICS INCLUDE:

- INTRO TO RESILIENCE
- COPING WITH STRESS
- HOW TO CREATE A CULTURE THAT SUPPORTS MENTAL HEALTH
- FIRST SUPPORT TO EMPLOYEES SHOWING SIGNS OF STRESS, BURNOUT, OR MENTAL HEALTH DISTRESS
- HOW TO CREATE AN INCLUSIVE AND WELCOMING WORKPLACE



EVERY WEDNESDAY
STARTING AUGUST 2, 2023



11:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Denver 2024
23rd Annual EHDI Conference

March 17-19, 2024
Hyatt Regency Denver at the
Colorado Convention Center
ehdiconference.org

23rd EHDI Annual Conference March 17-19, 2024 | Denver, CO

Make plans to join the North Dakota EHDI stakeholders in Denver in 2024! For more information visit: <https://ehdiconference.org/>.

H&V Annual Leadership Conference

SAVE THE DATE
OCT 1-3, 2023

Grand Rapids, MI

2023 Hands & Voices Leadership Conference "From Why to How: Dive IN!"

Hosted by Michigan Hands & Voices

For more information, visit

<https://handsandvoices.org/conference/2023/>

Sunday, October 1, 2023 - Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Location: Grand Rapids, MI

CI2024 VANCOUVER:
17TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
on COCHLEAR IMPLANTS and
OTHER IMPLANTABLE TECHNOLOGIES

July 10-13, 2024 | Vancouver, BC



17th International Conference on Cochlear Implants and Other Implantable Technologies July 10-13, 2024 | Vancouver, BC

Abstract Submissions Opens August 2023.

<https://ci2024vancouver.org>

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Resources, Upcoming Events, and Webinars



SAVE THE DATE
OCTOBER 8TH-10TH
2023

CMV-PHP Planning Committee is thrilled to announce that they will hold an in-person CMV Public Health and Policy Conference in 2023.

Please plan to join us for the 2023 Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, Oct. 8-10, 2023!

For more information, visit <https://cmv.usu.edu/>.

The goal of the congenital CMV Public Health and Policy Conference (CMV-PHP) is to present the latest research on diagnosis and treatment, raise awareness, delineate prevention efforts, provide information about early intervention options, and disseminate family support resources in an effort to reduce the number of babies born with CMV and connect families affected by CMV with the resources they need to improve their quality of life.

With your help, we can reduce the number of babies born with CMV!



Plan to join your peers for the 2023 ASHA Convention, Nov. 16-18, 2023, at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center in Boston, MA.

The ASHA Convention is the premier annual professional development and networking event for speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and speech, language, and hearing scientists. For more information visit:

<https://convention.asha.org/>.

**2024 North Dakota Speech Language Hearing Association Conference
March 2024 | Minot, ND**

The 2024 NDSLHA Conference is tentatively scheduled for March 2024 in Minot, ND. Stay tuned for more information!

<https://www.ndslha.org/convention/>



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 (EHDI 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 EHDI NTRC provides programs and professionals that provide:

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

Learn more at

<https://www.infanthearing.org/>

Watch at

https://www.infanthearing.org/video_player/index.php?video=30

Visit Hands and Voices Family Leadership in language and learning cooperative (FL3) to explore past webinars and training on 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>



"Changing the world with a bilingual way of being" - Gallaudet University

Can Your Baby Hear?



North Dakota Early Hearing
Detection and Intervention
www.ndcpd.org/ehdi
1-800-233-1737

HOSPITALS: Do you need more brochures?

Please email Vickie.Brabandt@MinotStateU.edu

ARE YOU FOLLOWING US?

 www.facebook.com/NDEHDI

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



CHIME IN!

Check out the ND EHCI website at 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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Director, ND Newborn Screening

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Family Support Specialist

Tory Allen

ND EHCI Follow-up Family Support Specialist

North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities

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North Dakota Early Hearing Detection and Intervention

