

## MEETING INFORMATION

DIVISION	Public Health		
MEETING TITLE	October EHDI Advisory Committee Meeting		
DATE	10/9/2025	TIME	10:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

## MEETING PURPOSE

The Iowa EHDI Advisory Committee represents the interests of the people of Iowa in the development of programming that ensures the availability and access to quality hearing health care for Iowa children less than three years of age. The membership of the Advisory Committee shall be representative of stakeholders with an interest in and concern for newborn hearing screening and follow-up.

## MEETING MINUTES

### Welcome, Introductions and Announcements

- Introductions of Members' Present:
  - Jennifer Macke, RN, [Stewart County Hospital](#) -- Representing Birth Screen Providers
  - Megan Palmer, [Mercy Ear, Nose and Throat - Cedar Rapids](#) -- Representing Pediatric Diagnostic Audiologists
  - Susan McDonald -- Representing [Iowa Association of the Deaf](#) (IAD)
  - Lisa Anderson, MA, CCC-A, [Iowa Ear Center](#) -- Representing Pediatric Speech-Language Pathologists (SLP)
  - Jennifer Proctor -- [Heartland Area Education Agency](#) (AEA), Representing Teachers of the Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing (TDHH)
  - Tonya Krueger -- Early ACCESS Program Manager [Child Health Specialty Clinics](#) (CHSC), Representing Children with Special Healthcare Needs
  - Barb Pline (Substituting for Annette Hyde) -- Representing [AEA Special Education](#) (SpEd) Administrators
  - Jacqueline Carder, Au.D, CCC-A -- [UI-Speech, Language, Hearing Center](#) -- Representing [Iowa Speech Language Hearing Association](#) (ISHA)
  - Susan Brennan, Ph.D -- Regional Director for [Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired](#) (IESBVI) and [Iowa Deafblind Project](#) Director
  - Emily Brandt -- Parent Advocate, [Iowa Hands & Voices](#)
  - Stacey Morgan -- [Outreach](#) Coordinator for [Iowa School for the Deaf](#) (ISD)
  - Tori Carsrud -- Statewide [Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#) Consult --

- Representing the Iowa [Department of Education](#) (DoE)
  - Vania Kassouf – Deaf Children Advocate
  - Kristin Moriarty, MD – Representing [Iowa Academy of Family Practice Physicians](#)
  - Tashina Hornaday – HHS Medicaid Program Manager, Representing [Iowa Medicaid](#)
  - Danja Hirsch – [American Sign Language \(ASL\)](#) Interpreter
  - Julia Lyttle – ASL Interpreter
- [EHD](#) Staff Present:
  - Tammy O'Hollearn –EHD Director
  - Heather Dirks – EHD Coordinator/Follow-up Coordinator
  - Hailey Boudreau - Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Section Supervisor for the Bureau of [Chronic, Congenital and Inherited Conditions](#) Screening and Management Section, overseeing the Iowa EHD Program
  - Jinifer Cox – EHD Quality Assurance Coordinator
  - Toby Yak – EHD Epidemiologist
  - Linda True – EHD Follow-up Coordinator/Audiology Technical Support
- CDC & HRSA Grant Updates
  - Funding – Grant funding and notice of award had been in question with many federal changes, but Iowa EHD did receive 100% of both HRSA and CDC grant funding for this fiscal year.
  - [CDC](#):
    - Iowa EHD continues to work on the following deliverables for the CDC:
      - 1) Iowa individualized data file for all 2024 occurrent births - currently no due date is provided. EHD staff continue to work to complete the 2024 data file. In the past, the dataset was due in November. Iowa EHD will keep moving forward so it is ready when requested.
      - 2) Aggregate annual survey – typically due in early January. Tammy and Jini typically complete this at the same time as the match in preparation for the individualized file. It is done and ready to be submitted.
      - 3) In May 2026, the Iowa EHD program will have another individualized file due for final 2024 occurrent birth population, which will be an update to the November 2025 submission.
    - NO EHD staff at CDC since April 1, but there is a contact within the Grants Management program. Right now, they are furloughed.
  - [HRSA](#) Infrastructure Plan - was due and submitted 9/15/2025.
    - Tammy explained the plan was essentially a needs assessment with a work plan. HRSA EHD will review and provide feedback at a later date. This information will be shared with the national technical assistance (TA) centers so they can provide TA in the areas identified

within state and territory plans. EHDI staff continue to have quarterly meetings with the designated HRSA contact. HRSA personnel currently unable to travel or offer group meetings.

- EHDI TA centers are still available to EHDI programs, as need.
  - Implementation and Change Center (IIC) or Beacon Center – [Gallaudet University](#)
  - Family Leadership in Language and Learning Center (FL3) – [Hands & Voices](#)
  - Provider Education Center – [American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
- EHDI Connect – made up of EHDI directors and coordinators, as well as follow-up coordinators meets every other month. It is a way for EHDI programs to connect with peers to remain informed.
- Annual progress report for HRSA will be due in December 2025 and EHDI programs hope to have guidance for this report in November 2025.
- [Hearing Aid & Audiological Services](#) Update – There were several children on the wait list from 2024. All of the waitlist children and new applications have been processed to date. Funding is close to being 100% allocated. Tammy O'Hollearn will let providers know when money is allocated for this year. A new wait list will then start and children will be prioritized based on age.
  - It is important to note that if money becomes available while processing a claim, then the next child on the wait list can potentially receive funding. It is important to apply if there are no other means, even if funding looks to be allocated, as funding may become available following the claims process.
- Review EHDI Advisory contact list/update – Advisory committee members were sent the current list to check for edits/changes. The contacts list is an internal list for EHDI personnel only. The external list will not include phone numbers or emails. Please contact Tammy O'Hollearn if changes are needed to the list.
- Advisory Committee Charters – At the July 2025 meeting, Tammy O'Hollearn discussed member responsibility. Previously EHDI Advisory Committee responsibilities were included in the Iowa administrative rules, but that has since changed. EHDI has resumed the use of a charter for membership rules and responsibilities. Tammy O'Hollearn will reach out to members who have not submitted a signed charter form.
- Member Updates:
  - Jacqueline Carder, Au.D, CCC-A has taken over for Julie Jeon, PH.D, CCC-A representing [ISHA](#).
  - Jennifer Proctor reported that watching the last [EHDI educational webinar](#) sparked conversation for point of contact following diagnosis of hearing differences with other Teachers of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing (TDHHs) and AEA staff. She also was a good reminder how AEAs may not be conducting service provision consistently with families.
  - Tammy O'Hollearn noted that reminders for EHDI Professional Learning Webinars may not always be reaching Speech Language Pathologists

(SLPs) working with children who have hearing differences and requested contacts for SLPs:

- Tori Carsrud has been sending reminders out for webinars to TDHHs
- Tammy and Tori both send the information to AEA audiologists. Tammy sends to private audiologists.
- Jennifer noted they are starting to have leads for the various disciplines, so will be in touch with the SLP contact. Tori indicated that Des Moines Public Schools (DMPS) may not have an SLP lead within that group so they will need contacted separately.
- Linda and Jacqueline will continue to update the ISHA membership, which may include several SLPs, but that may not be an inclusive list.
- Lisa Anderson reported there is not a separate SLP group for medical/clinical SLPs.

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### **Deafblind and IESBVI Updates (Susan Brennan)**

#### **Iowa Deafblind Project:**

- Since July, the Deafblind (DB) Project has been in a holding pattern for funding.
  - Nationally, DB project grants have been on the chopping block, but received notice of award for the third year of the grant.
- Heather Dirks is on staff for the Iowa DB Project as the Family Support Coordinator again. This helps with coordination of family engagement and events.
- Susan noted a very busy spring providing [Deafblind Technical Assistance \(DTAT\)](#) support, and the DB Project continues to get referrals.
- [DB registry](#) continues to grow.
- There is an upcoming Deafblind Project collaboration with ISD at [Ditmars Apple Orchard](#) in Council Bluffs on October 24, 2025.
- The DB Project is collaborating with EHDI for Pumpkin patch events at [Bart's Farm](#) in Marion and at [Pumpkinville and Corn Maze](#) in Mitchellville on October 18, 2025.
- [Open Hands/Open Access modules](#) (OHOA) are available for paraeducators to gain more information regarding communication when working with DB students. \$100 stipend for paraprofessionals (up to 3 per facility). The current OHOA module starts in October 2025 and will end around Christmas in December 2025.
- January 2026 – will be doing some collaboration with a group that specializes in sibling workshops on how to provide sibling workshops.
- In February in Coralville, a DB resources workshop is being offered in collaboration with the [Texas DB Project](#) on 2 Saturdays. The workshop is primarily for educators working with DB students.

#### **IESBVI:**

- There have been several changes within the supervisory structure for Teachers for the Visually Impaired (TVI). The Expanded Learning Program Director for IESBVI retired and has not been replaced due to lack of funding. Susan Brennan has taken over this as a part of her responsibilities.
  - ISEBVI Program hired a new regional director following the resignation of Jonathon Karli. Brandon Schellhorn was hired as the new Regional Director. Brandon was the previous low-vision coordinator and TVI at Heartland AEA.
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- [White Cane Awareness day](#) is Oct 15.
- [Beep Baseball](#) World Series, will be hosted in Waukee, Dubuque and Council Bluffs.
- No shortage of referrals. IESVBI has had approximately 90 referrals since the beginning of the school year.

Questions:

- Vania asked about the Coralville Event – Susan indicated it is more of a professional development for professionals in Special Education for teachers that work with DB students.
- Vania asked about the age of participants or if parents or advocates were welcome – Susan indicated parents can attend, but the Coralville event with the Texas Deafblind Project will be more focused on school teams for preschool – High school students, and primarily those with developmental levels between 24-36 months with more complex needs.
- For professional development – do you have something for DB mentorship? Susan said they have not offered anything specific to DB mentors. The OHOA classes are free for anyone to take through the [National Center for Deafblindness](#) (NCBD). Susan dropped the [link](#) in the chat. She reported everyone has access to those if they create an account.

**Tele-audiology Update/Possible Diagnostic Provider** (Linda True)

- [Child Health Specialty Clinic – Oelwein](#) is the site of the Tele-Audiology Pilot for diagnostic hearing testing.
- Historical Perspective:
  - In July 2024, EHDI advisory members had a brainstorming session at the advisory committee meeting following the announcement Iowa AEAs were no longer providing unsedated diagnostic hearing testing. Advisory members discussed ideas to mitigate the loss of 1/3 of the diagnostic testing potential in the state. Following the discussion, [Child Health Specialty Clinic \(CHSC\)](#) Advisory member, Tonya Kruger, approached Tammy O'Hollearn and offered to facilitate a meeting between EHDI and CHSC Administration to see if CHSC site across Iowa might be used for diagnostic testing of infants.
    - Previous attempts at Tele-Audiology testing, approximately 10-15 years ago, were unsuccessful primarily due to connectivity and billing. With the COVID-19 shut-down, remote services have become more normalized in terms of both connectivity and billing of tele-health services.
  - At the October 2024 committee meeting, members were updated that Tonya had spoken to her administration, and Tammy would be following up with CHSC to share data and discuss collaboration to pilot at a CHSC site. Tammy was also in talks with audiologists at Wendell Johnson Speech and Hearing Center, now the [UI-Speech, Language, Hearing Center](#), to see if audiologists at that facility could provide service

provision.

- At the April 2025 advisory meeting, members were updated that CHSC Admin, EHDI personnel and UI-SHCL Audiologists met several times to discuss a possible site and service provision. The Eclipse Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) equipment previously used for diagnostic testing in AEAs would be utilized for the pilot.
- Update April 2025 – October 2025:
  - In June 2025, Tammy worked with CHSC Admin to determine the site for the pilot based on logistics with staffing and the areas of the state identified as a need area. Oelwein was chosen. Julie Jeon, PH.D, CCC-A former ISHA Rep for EHDI Advisory and Clinical Assistant Professor and Clinical Supervisor at UI-SLHC, agreed to conduct diagnostic testing via telehealth for this project.
  - In July 2025, EHDI staff and the clinic director at CHSC-Oelwein met to discuss logistics for setting up the pilot – times, appt blocks, staffing, space needs. Linda True and Julie Jeon met to discuss equipment, training with the Eclipse and setting up the remote aspects for diagnostic testing.
  - In August 2025, Linda and Julie met at UI-SLHC to set up the remote capability using the dedicated laptop connected with the Eclipse as well as have training on the set-up of the Eclipse ABR and run a trial using the Eclipse onsite at UI-SLHC.
    - Linda created training materials for the nurse at CHSC-Oelwein, Amanda Gelhausen.
  - On September 4, 2025, Linda and Amanda met for training at the Oelwein CHSC site on the set up and prep for diagnostic testing. Linda also met with the scheduler at the Oelwein site to discuss needs for scheduling and used current EHDI website materials – [ABR video created by Iowa Ear Center](#), [Diagnostic Audiology Center](#) sites and [Practical Parent Tips](#) for ABR testing to run through scheduling scenarios.
  - On September 25, 2025, Julie and Amanda conducted a Tele-Audiology run to look for any concerns during the testing process. Julie and Amanda were able to discuss communication during diagnostic testing and discussed possible scenarios and solutions for unexpected circumstances that might come up during appointments.
  - The pilot was scheduled to begin 10-9-2025 (today), but a baby was not scheduled during the time block. Linda True was contacted later that day to schedule a baby for the next appointment block on 10-23-2025.
  - The current schedule for diagnostic testing at the Oelwein clinic is the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of each month with a check-in time of 8:00 a.m. Appointment blocks are 2 hours to accommodate feeding, set-up and natural sleep, as well as counseling needed for any support services following a diagnosis of permanent hearing loss.



- Questions?
  - Barb Pline asked if [Early ACCESS](#) was offered as part of the support services?
    - Linda reported that [EA referral](#) will be offered if a child is diagnosed with hearing loss since it is a qualifying condition. Other support services are also offered, such as [EHDI Family support](#) or Non-Part C services, such as [private clinic SLP services](#) or [ChildServe](#). Additionally, an EA referral can be made by the audiologic provider if the child presents with another automatically qualifying condition that was not identified or present at birth. Linda has been in contact with audiologists from [Keystone AEA](#) to inform them about the Oelwein pilot and Tammy has notified birthing facilities in order to share the news with primary care providers serving infants in the area.
  - Jennifer Macke asked if there is still unused equipment for diagnostic testing?
    - Tammy reported there is a piece of equipment and is currently looking into HHS rules and speaking with leadership to see about the equipment going to an interested audiology clinic. She shared a clinic had reached out to EHDI personnel regarding the use of the unused equipment for diagnostic testing. They are willing to perform sedated and unsedated diagnostic hearing tests on infants.
    - Jenni shared there may be an audiologist who is consulting with [Stewart Memorial Community Hospital](#) who may also be interested in conducting diagnostic testing.

**Statewide ASL & Outreach Opportunities** (Stacey Morgan)

- Stacey works as a Community Resource Coordinator and [Family Outreach Coordinator](#).
- Purpose of ISD Outreach services is to collaborate with families and agencies statewide to serve children 3-21, who are deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind.
  - Children aged 0-3 are under the purview of [EHDI](#).
- Partner agencies for the [ISD Outreach Services](#) Program include DoE, EHDI/HHS, AEAs, Iowa DB Project, IAD, [ISD Alumni Association](#).
- PowerPoint presentation of services (attached below).
- Outreach Department includes 5 separate programs:
  - [Family Resources](#):
    - This program hosts different events for families while modeling ASL with Deaf role models.
    - ASL Story Nights occur monthly at ISD.
    - [Li'l Paws Camp](#) – 3<sup>rd</sup> summer for this camp
      - Partnered with EHDI Family Support Coordinator, Heather

- Dirks. Heather helped distribute camp information and collaborate at the camp.
- 8 families and 9 children attended.
  - 8 deaf mentors provided resources, modeling and mentoring for families.
  - Activities at the camp included story times, family activities, and attending the children's museum in Des Moines.
- [Extended Learning Program](#):
    - Statewide program.
    - Usually an event is held by this program in Des Moines, which is called S3 – the Signing and Saying Symposium.
      - In the first couple of years, it was held at the Children's Museum, but this past year it was held at Living History Farms.
      - Time to Learn and Interact with other Deaf Students
    - The Extended Learning program also has a summer Camp Component
  - [Assessment Program](#):
    - ISD has a team of professionals who can travel to schools or a family home to assess/consult for language assessment, primarily for students using ASL for communication, but can do speech as well.
    - Referrals can be made by filling out an assessment form and then a team will conduct the language assessment and provide feedback for areas in need of improvement.
  - [Language Resources Program](#):
    - Group is responsible for language support, which includes:
      - Language coaches – may come into schools or virtually for the number of minutes in the school depending on the IEP needs.
      - Assessments are offered at home and school settings.
  - [Literacy Resources Program](#):
    - Resources shared through ISD outreach website.
    - The website includes videos of children stories and vocabulary at multiple language development levels.
    - Program consistently adds to this library new story narratives read by Deaf mentors, family resources, and language and literacy resources.
- ISD offers [free ASL virtual classes](#) for families. Mini-semester, 8-week blocks are offered. Two offerings in the fall and two in the spring.
    - Registration is now open for the next session.
    - Please share out for parents and families who would like to learn ASL.
  - [Upcoming events](#) –
    - [Apple Festival](#) on October 23 at [Ditmar's Orchard in Council Bluffs](#)



- Partnering with Iowa Deafblind Project, EHDI, and Iowa Hands & Voices.
- Attendance is free at this event.
- [Explore ASL Event](#) – November 8, 2025, held in Des Moines
  - Theme is Deaflympics, as the [2025 Deaflympics](#) will be held in Tokyo Japan the week following this event.
  - Keynote is [Easter Fa'afiti](#), 2-time Deaf Olympian, who will present on November 8.
- ISD has hired a new Outreach Director, Julie Bustos who will begin her position on October 13, 2025.
- Linda True commented that she had worked with a student who used the outreach program, and it was very successful for that student. Linda reported the interesting thing about the situation was that the student had a brother who used a different form of communication, but his language development dramatically improved when this program came into the schools and supported him. Linda thanked the program for their work.

#### [Statewide Family Support](#) Mentor (Anne-Michelle Pedersen)

- [Program](#) began two years ago and offers three types of Mentors Services:
  - Inspire to Empower Mentors --families who want to connect with a deaf adult to learn about their life experiences/Deaf Culture, but don't necessarily want to learn ASL at this time.
  - Deaf Mentors – ASL, facial expression
  - Family-to-Family mentors. There is one family-to-family mentor at this time.
- Since the onset of the program, there have been 10 Family Support Mentors who are Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing, with a variety of communication and hearing experiences
  - Deaf Mentors are located all over the state, but primarily in the Eastern third of Iowa.
  - The program encourages meaningful connections with families.
    - Example: A Deaf Mentor went shopping with the family to teach signs and encourage language and signs they can use together in everyday life.
- Referral sources
- Events across the state of Iowa
  - Attempting to schedule events monthly and has several upcoming events in collaboration with EHDI and other agencies.
  - Previous activities:
    - Family Bowling in Waukee – April 26, 2025. 22 children and families came for bowling, story time and crafts.
    - Burlington AEA Event – arcade, bowling, swimming, presentation for summer tips and communication needs – 2 families.

- Held event with 7 families to Explore Deaf/HH technologies at Easter Seals. Families learned about different types of assistive technologies to use (ex. Alarm clocks, fire alarms, etc.), for home and safety.
- Upcoming Activities:
  - Pumpkin Patch Events, which includes partnerships with EHDI, ISD and Iowa DB Project, October 18, 2025
    - [Bart's Farm in Marion](#)
    - [Pumpkinville and Corn Maze in Mitchellville](#)
  - Partnering with DB Project and ISD for [Apple Festival](#) at [Ditmar's Orchard in Council Bluffs](#) on October 23, 2025
- Numbers of Families Serviced
  - Supporting 20 DHH families – partnering with EHDI, ISD and AEAs
  - 1-2 families enrolling weekly
  - 8 children currently awaiting a Deaf Mentor who were referred by the EHDI program
  - Families enrolled have said they have heard about the program through EHDI, AEAs, other families, ISD, and family friends
- Questions?
  - What does the program do? Mentoring helps families communicate in their daily life, helps introduce functional communication for the child, and depending on the age, introduces routines to help the child pick up vocabulary,
  - Vania asked: Where are families located? Mostly Eastern Iowa. A few in Central and Western, but mostly on the Eastern Side of Iowa at this time.
  - Vania asked how many of the mentors are Deaf Mentors? Anne-Michelle indicated there are 5 Deaf Mentors on the Eastern Side of Iowa.
  - Vania asked where information about events is found? Jennifer Proctor sent [link for events](#).
    - Anne Michelle indicated that there are events posted on this link from EHDI, ISD, AEAs, and DB Project on this calendar of events.
    - Tammy shared the EHDI Facebook page also includes a variety of events and the EHDI Website includes all family support activities.

**Hospital Quality Assurance Reports & Internal QA** (Jinifer Cox) –

- Jini and Tammy have worked together in the EHDI program for 20 years.
- Jini provided an overview of hospital QA reports and everyday QA she performs to ensure the data collected for Iowa's EHDI program is "clean."
- Quarterly QA report card (shared)
  - Every birthing hospital in Iowa (54) receives a quarterly report.
  - QI tasks are conducted daily to make sure records are complete.
    - How many babies were born at the birthing facility,
    - How many babies transferred to another facility,
    - How many babies were deceased,
    - How many babies were lost,
    - How many parents refused screening for their baby.
  - A QA report is done each month to fill in missing information from EHDI database records (e.g. primary care provider, missing babies).
  - Multiple reports are run within the EHDI database to fill in missing information and check if all babies are screened:
    - How many babies passed hearing screening,
    - How many babies did not pass hearing screening,
    - How many babies were lost during this process,
    - How many babies were diagnosed with a hearing loss,
    - Example 1: Outpatient Report captures how many passed/did not pass from the children who referred on birth screen.
    - Example 2: If a baby did not pass and went straight to audiologic testing, that is also captured on the QA report.
  - Other QA tasks c
    - Checking for PCPs in each record (EHDI Law)
    - Vital Record matching to ensure all records have been entered,
    - Number of days to enter the birth screening (days to report), and
    - Number of birth screening attempts for each baby
- Jenni Macke reported this information is helpful to nurse managers to cross-check data entry is being conducted appropriately. She can then share with other staff members at her facility for training and the facility QI for tracking.
- QA Quarterly Report Card (Shared)
  - An at-a-glance report for hospitals so they are aware of how they are doing compared to themselves and other facilities in the state.
  - All Hospitals are listed on the report card.
  - Report Cards tracks these metrics:
    - Refer rate percentage,
    - Missing PCP Information,
    - Children missing from database,
    - Number of days to enter screening results
  - Each facility is given a "grade"
    - The table for each hospital shows the current and last quarter's grade as a way to highlight progress or need
    - Grades are Distinguished, Benchmark and Non-Compliant
  - Jini provided a visual for reports for improvement
  - QI is done with hospitals when they are continuing to show noncompliance
    - Site visits are held virtually. Site visits allow 1:1 technical support for areas of improvement.

- Previous site visits were in-person, but funding limits on-site visits at this time.
  - Tammy indicated that when these metrics were created, there were several rural and urban hospitals in Iowa who collaborated to come up with the metrics, similar to what the audiologists on the advisory committee have done recently to determine the metrics for the Diagnostic Quarterly Reports.
    - Many of the metrics are requirements by state law [and Joint Committee on Infant Hearing](#) (JCIH) recommendations.
      - [Iowa EHDI law](#) mandates that the PCP is listed in the child's record upon discharge from the birthing facility.
      - Iowa EHDI law requires results to be entered within the EHDI database/reporting system within 6 days of birth. The exception to this would be for children in the NICU. The record should still be entered with demographics and then later the hearing screening data when child is medically able to have hearing screening.
    - Timely reporting allows EHDI staff to be able to conduct appropriate follow-up to families.
- Tammy reports with current efforts, the EHDI team is looking for areas of improvement for both birth hospital QI reports and diagnostic audiology QI reports.
  - Impact shows up in Iowa's 1-3-6 data or processes.
  - Iowa has had great improvement in the 1 month of age but still lacking in meeting the 3-month diagnostic goal.
  - EHDI hopes that Iowa will show improvement in the diagnosis by 3 months of age and enrollment into EI in the coming year.
- Jini performs monthly checks in the EHDI Reporting System/INSIS:
  - De-duplicating reports, which is impacted by transferring records or duplicate reporting.
  - Follow-up on children who transfer outside of Iowa.
  - Follow-up with home birth families, especially for those who have not shown up in another facility for birth screening.
- Ensures data is clean and completes the data match with Tammy so the data can be easily coded by the EHDI epidemiologist.
- Questions?
  - Tonya asked: Do we ever know how many children that did not pass their hearing screens have confirmed hearing loss? Jini reported the information is tracked and reported on the QA report.
  - Tonya asked: Are outpatient screens mostly completed by birthing hospitals? Tammy reported that outpatient (OP) screens are conducted about 95% of the time by hospitals who bring infants back for OP screens when the newborn screening indicated a did not pass result. She noted that has changed over time. When Tammy began with the program, the AEAs were doing many of the OP screens. Tammy has worked for many years to have birthing facilities bring families back to the birth hospital for outpatient screening and/or at the well-baby appts. There are several clinics that perform OP screens when babies come in for well-child visits.
  - Tonya asked if the diagnostic testing happens after the screening? Tammy responded: Yes, when a child does not pass the OP screening,

then a diagnostic test should be offered immediately.

- Jacqueline asked: Where are home birth babies receiving OP screens? Some are done by midwives (on border), some by community healthcare facilities, audiology clinics.
  - In the past, many home birth babies were screened by AEAs, but that process has changed. Home birth babies will now be screened as part of an EA assessment and hearing screening is a part of the assessment.
  - Families can also go to hospitals or audiology clinics that offer OP screens, but there is a cost. If they have insurance, it is covered through insurance.

#### [EHDI Family Support](#) (Heather)

- All Events are posted on the [EHDI Family Events](#) calendar
- Past activities since the July Advisory Meeting:
  - Baby/Toddler Time at [Iowa City Library](#), August 2025
    - In-person version of the online book club for toddlers.
    - Activities with parent interactions and crafts occur after story-time.
    - A Deaf partner comes to read stories, and ASL interpreters are present for these events.
    - Library events typically held on Thursdays beginning at 10:00 a.m.
    - 5 families attended the Iowa City event
  - September Baby/Toddler time in the Des Moines metro was cancelled due to low registration but Heather will try later in the year due to conflicts with the Iowa State Fair and start of the school year.
  - [Easter Seals](#) event with [ISD Family Support Mentoring Program](#) (see above)
  - New to the Journey event on IEPs/504s at the beginning of the school year for families with children transitioning into preschool or Part-B programs.
- Recent and Upcoming Activities
  - Baby/Toddler Time event in Rock Valley at the [Rock Valley Public Library](#) on October 16, 2025 (next week) – have a couple of families registered
  - Baby/Toddler Time event on December 11, 2025, will be at the [Creston Library](#)
  - Pumpkin Patch Events (see above) on October 18, 2025, in [Central](#) and [Eastern](#) Iowa
    - Currently 28 families are Registered for this even
  - [Apple Festival](#) with ISD (see above) on October 23, 2025
  - Virtual Art Activity on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in Collaboration with Statewide Family Support through ISD
    - This event for children birth-high school
    - There will be 4 age groups offered
    - Art Activities that will be conducted over zoom
    - Planning another collaborative virtual event for Spring 2026.
- Monthly Book club for Toddlers

- Averages 4-5 families/month
  - Alternate Saturday mornings and Thursday evening
- Monthly Newsletter
  - Currently 226 families subscribe, including a handful of providers
  - Includes a Book of the Month reference with DHH character
- Quarterly New-to-the-Journey Events
- Family Transition Packet
  - Transition Packets have started going out to families with children between the ages of 2-3.
  - Packets mailed to families with children aging out of EHDI and Part-C services with hearing differences.
- Partner and Mentor Updates
  - The Deaf partner program has changed, and all DHH referrals go to the Statewide Mentoring Program coordinated by Anne-Michelle (see above). This allows consistent mentoring as children grow.
    - EHDI has referred 12 families to this program since June 2025. In the last update, 8 families have been matched and 4 families waiting to be matched.
  - Parent-to-Parent Support is still conducted through the EHDI program
    - Currently there are 2 families working with Parent Partners
    - Program is offered to all families upon diagnosis of hearing differences, but families can enroll anytime with any program until their child ages out of EHDI Family support services.
- Family Stories: With professional webinars, EHDI personnel are trying to include family stories at each learning opportunity.
  - Allows families to share their experiences for professionals to learn from.
  - 6 families have shared their stories during a professional learning webinar hosted by EHDI this past year.
  - Three additional stories that have been recorded for upcoming webinars.
  - EHDI has been able to offer a small stipend to families who share their stories.
  - EHDI family support will continue to include family stories that relate to professional learning topics.

#### Family Support Enrollment Numbers:

- In 2023 – 57% family support enrollment for families with children identified with a hearing difference.
- In 2024 (preliminary) – 77% family support enrollment for families with children identified with a hearing difference.
- EHDI continues to grow family engagement, resources and support, and make adjustments to the Family Support program to meet family needs.

#### **2026 Advisory Committee Meetings (Tammy)**

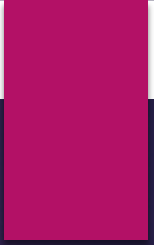
- Explore virtual (2) and In-person meeting w/workgroups (1)
- Advisory Committee meetings typically meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in person, but would like to hear when committee members would like to hold a longer in-person meeting and then virtual meetings to accommodate traveling and time
- Workgroups activities would be in the afternoons for in-person meetings.



- Avoid July due to vacations and work schedules. April or October for in person was suggested. Meeting will take place in the Des Moines Metro Area.
- Committee Member Feedback Requested:
  - Jennifer reported that child count makes October difficult and indicated that April would be better for an in-person meeting. She also reported that July is easy for her for in-person.
  - Tammy is not opposed to July, but that typically is a time when people do not come to the meeting, but EHDI staff can be flexible.
  - Jennifer indicated that she really appreciates the zoom option.
  - Dr. Moriarty reports that Zoom is helpful, but agrees that she would like at least one in-person, preferably April.
  - Jenny Macke also indicated April is better.
  - No preference: Megan Palmer, Susan McDonald, Emily Brandt, Jacqueline Carder, Lisa Anderson, Tashina Hornaday.
- Tammy noted that EHDI staff will make the final decision following feedback, but it sounds like the Advisory Committee will meet in-person in April 2026 and have Zoom option for July and October 2026 meetings. EHDI staff will get information out so that advisory members can plan accordingly.

### Closing - Questions or Discussion

- Next Meeting Topics (4/9/2026)
  - EHDI 1-3-6 Data, Data Analysis
  - Tele-Audiology
  - EA Hearing Screening Referrals
  - Other Topics?
    - None indicated
  - [25 years EHDI Conference](#) is in March 2026, in Jacksonville, FL.
    - This is opportunity to collaborate with other states, get ideas from other states on process/protocols, and learn about new research.
    - Typically travel for this event is Sunday – Tuesday.
- EHDI personnel try to get the agenda out about a month in advance, so if members have topics, be sure to reach out to EHDI personnel.
- **Upcoming meeting dates for 2026: April 9, July 9 and October 8**

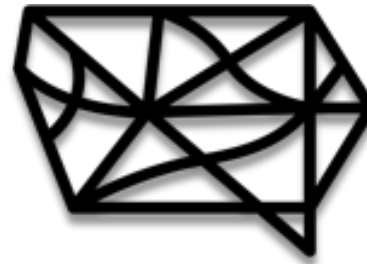


# Iowa School for the Deaf Outreach

STACEY MORGAN – FAMILY RESOURCES COORDINATOR

# Purpose of Outreach Services

Collaborate with families, agencies, and communities statewide to support the unique language and learning needs of children who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind ages three to twenty-one years



**Iowa School  
for the Deaf**



# Stakeholders we work with

- Iowa Department of Education
- Iowa Association of the Deaf
- Iowa School for the Deaf Alumni Association
- Area Education Agency
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Advisory Committee
- Iowa Deafblind Project



# Outreach Department



```
graph TD; A[Outreach Department] --> B[Family Resources Program]; A --> C[Extended Learning Program]; A --> D[Assessment Program]; A --> E[Language Resources Program]; A --> F[Literacy Resources Program];
```

The diagram is an organizational chart for the Outreach Department. At the top is a dark blue box with the text "Outreach Department" in white. A vertical line descends from the bottom center of this box to a horizontal line. From this horizontal line, five vertical lines descend to five separate dark blue boxes arranged horizontally below. Each of these boxes contains white text representing a program: "Family Resources Program", "Extended Learning Program", "Assessment Program", "Language Resources Program", and "Literacy Resources Program".

Family Resources  
Program

Extended  
Learning Program

Assessment  
Program

Language  
Resources Program

Literacy  
Resources  
Program





# Family Resources

ASL STORYTIME NIGHT





# Family Resources

LIL PAWS CAMP





# Extended Learning Program



# Assessment Program



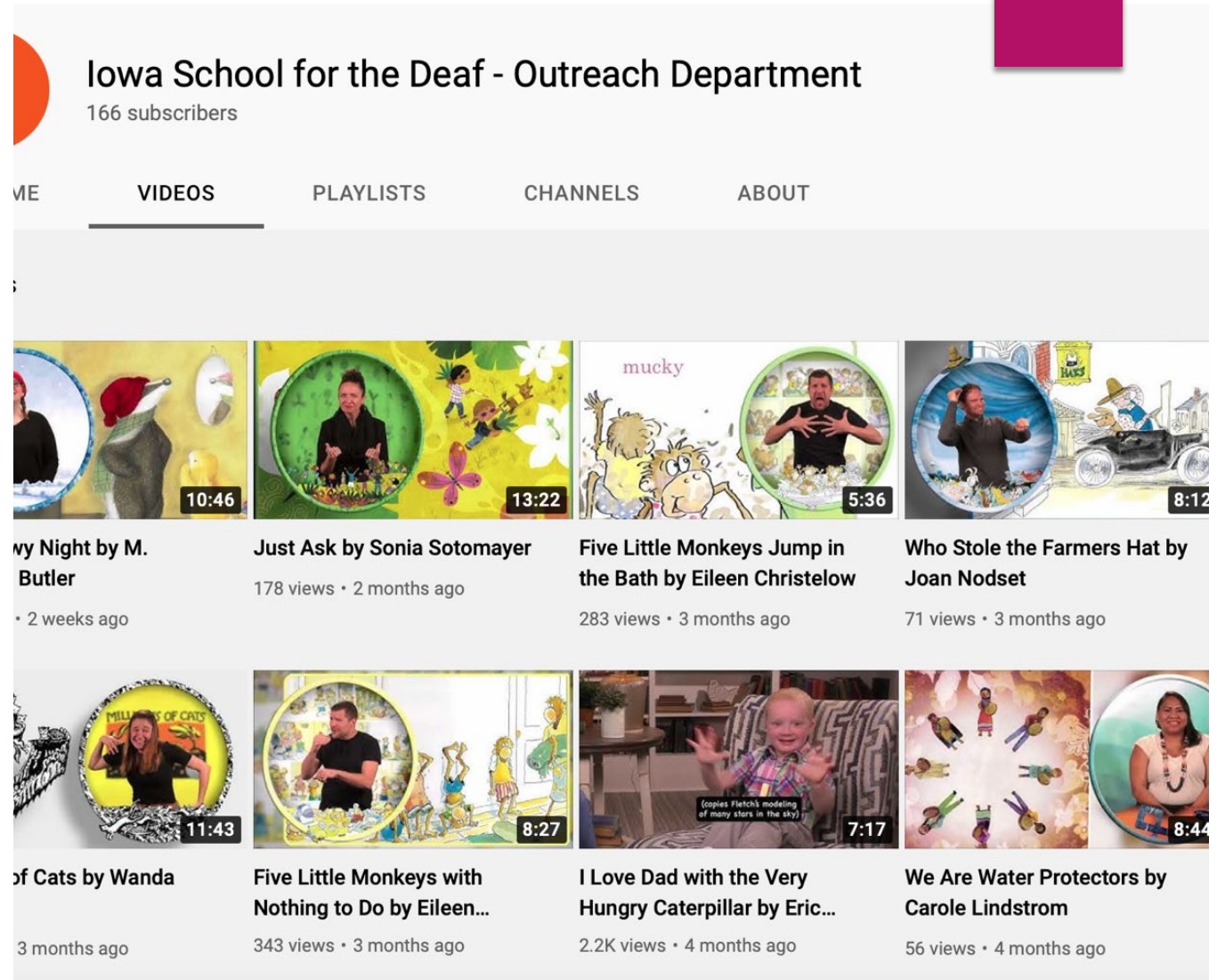


# Language Resources



# Literacy

- ▶ Children's Literature
- ▶ Deaf Narratives
- ▶ ASL Vocab/Dialogues



The image shows a YouTube channel page for the "Iowa School for the Deaf - Outreach Department". The channel has 166 subscribers. The page is organized into sections: HOME, VIDEOS, PLAYLISTS, CHANNELS, and ABOUT. The VIDEOS section is active, displaying a grid of eight video thumbnails. Each thumbnail includes a title, a duration, and a view count with the time it was posted. The videos are: "A Very Night by M. Butler" (10:46, 2 weeks ago), "Just Ask by Sonia Sotomayer" (13:22, 2 months ago), "Five Little Monkeys Jump in the Bath by Eileen Christelow" (5:36, 3 months ago), "Who Stole the Farmers Hat by Joan Nodset" (8:12, 3 months ago), "Millions of Cats by Wanda Gág" (11:43, 3 months ago), "Five Little Monkeys with Nothing to Do by Eileen Christelow" (8:27, 3 months ago), "I Love Dad with the Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle" (7:17, 4 months ago), and "We Are Water Protectors by Carole Lindstrom" (8:44, 4 months ago).

**Iowa School for the Deaf - Outreach Department**  
166 subscribers

HOME VIDEOS PLAYLISTS CHANNELS ABOUT

**A Very Night by M. Butler**  
10:46  
• 2 weeks ago

**Just Ask by Sonia Sotomayer**  
13:22  
178 views • 2 months ago

**Five Little Monkeys Jump in the Bath by Eileen Christelow**  
5:36  
283 views • 3 months ago

**Who Stole the Farmers Hat by Joan Nodset**  
8:12  
71 views • 3 months ago

**Millions of Cats by Wanda Gág**  
11:43  
3 months ago

**Five Little Monkeys with Nothing to Do by Eileen Christelow**  
8:27  
343 views • 3 months ago

**I Love Dad with the Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle**  
7:17  
2.2K views • 4 months ago

**We Are Water Protectors by Carole Lindstrom**  
8:44  
56 views • 4 months ago



# Free Virtual ASL classes





Event in  
October



Iowa School  
for the Deaf

# EXPLORE ASL

FREE EVENT!

## Deaflympics & Deaf Athletes

November 8, 2025

 Holiday Inn & Suites  
4800 Merle Hay Road - Urbandale, IA

 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

### FEATURING...

A Deaflympic medalist  
& Deaf Athletes



#### REGISTER HERE!

Registration required!  
Includes lunch and Kids  
Camp for ages 5-12

**DEADLINE: Oct. 24**

Join us for a day of American Sign Language discovery offering educational and fun events for families and educators! Explore ASL is made possible by the Iowa Department of Education and Iowa School for the Deaf Outreach.

*Events are in ASL. Interpretation from ASL into English will be available.*

**For more information, go to:**  
**[iowaschoolforthe deaf.org/explore-asl](https://iowaschoolforthe deaf.org/explore-asl)**

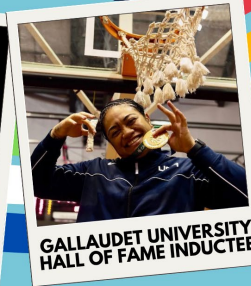
## EXPLORE ASL SPOTLIGHT!



3-TIME GOLD MEDALIST  
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



2-TIME CONFERENCE  
PLAYER OF THE YEAR



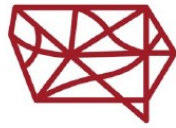
GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY  
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

INTRODUCING OUR  
2025 KEYNOTE  
SPEAKER:

## EASTER FA'AFITI

Easter Fa'afiti's journey shows what's possible when resilience meets community support. Born Deaf, she grew up in mainstream schools, relying on lip-reading, speech, and hearing aids to play on hearing teams. At Gallaudet, she found ASL and a deep connection to the Deaf community. Join us at Explore ASL to hear her inspiring keynote—a story of perseverance, pride, and Deaf identity. **Register today!**

# Event in November



**Iowa School  
for the Deaf  
OUTREACH**

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

**REFERRAL FOR ASSESSMENT OR CONSULTATION**

SENT VIA:	E-MAIL [OUTREACH@IAEDB.ORG]
	POSTAL SERVICE [IOWA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF ATTN: OUTREACH 3501 HARRY LANGDON BLVD. COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51503]
<b><u>**PLEASE COMPLETE ALL AREAS ON THIS FORM SO THAT OUTREACH MAY BE ABLE TO BETTER PROCESS THIS REFERRAL**</u></b>	

**REFERRAL INFORMATION**

Referral Date:	Referred by: <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Guardian <input type="checkbox"/> AEA/TDHH <input type="checkbox"/> Audiologist <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		
Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing (TDHH):	if different than Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing		
AEA/TDHH E-mail:	AEA/TDHH Ph#	AEA/TDHH Fax#	
Information included with referral: <input type="checkbox"/> IEP/IFSP <input type="checkbox"/> Audiogram(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Language/Speech Eval. <input type="checkbox"/> School Eval. <input type="checkbox"/> Other			
Previous Services: <input type="checkbox"/> First Steps/Early Intervention <input type="checkbox"/> Private Therapy _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> See attached IEP Notice of (Re-)evaluation for reason for referral and requested areas of assessment; DUE DATE (Timeline): _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> No IEP Notice of (Re-)evaluation generated.			
<b>REQUIRED-Reason for Referral (Why are you requesting services from ISD Outreach?): [be specific]</b>			

**STUDENT INFORMATION**

Student's Last Name:	First Name:	DOB:	Age:	Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F Other: _____
School District:	AEA:	School of Service (where child attends):		
Does child/student have an IEP/504?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, s/he has an IEP/504 Date of Last Meeting: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> No, s/he does not have an IEP/504 Why? _____		
Current Grade:	Primary (IEP) Eligibility:	Secondary (IEP) Eligibilities:		
Parent/Guardian Names:				
Street Address:		City:	County:	ZIP:
Parent/Guardian Home or Cell Phone#:	Alternate Contact (Name and Phone #/Email):		Parent/Guardian E-mail:	
Preferred Contact: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	Family Member? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		Preferred Contact: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
Home Language: <input type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> ASL <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	Student's Language: <input type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> ASL <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____			
SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE ASSESSMENT TEAM:				

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of AEA/TDHH \_\_\_\_\_





Iowa School  
for the Deaf



8-week class | No charge | Must be eligible | For educators and families

# 2025 2026 | VIRTUAL AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES

## 2025-2026 DATES

### First Minimester

Registration: 7.25.25 - 8.15.25  
Course: 8.25.25 - 10.13.25

### Second Minimester

Registration: 9.19.25 - 10.17.25  
Course: 10.27.25 - 12.15.25

### Third Minimester

Registration: 12.12.25 - 1.2.26  
Course: 1.12.26 - 3.2.26

### Fourth Minimester

Registration: 2.13.26 - 3.6.26  
Course: 3.16.26 - 5.4.26

## Eligibility

- ▶ Have deaf or hard-of-hearing child age 0 - 21 years who reside in IOWA OR work in an Iowa K-12 setting with a child who is deaf or hard of hearing
- ▶ Have internet and access to Zoom, preferable with non-phone device
- ▶ Must attend weekly classes

Registration opens before sessions begin. Refer to [iowaschoolforthe deaf.org](http://iowaschoolforthe deaf.org) for details. CEUS offered for educational audiologists and speech language pathologists.

Questions?  
[carly.hiser@iaedb.org](mailto:carly.hiser@iaedb.org)

