

Meeting Minutes

Division: Public Health

Meeting Topic: July EHDI Advisory Committee Meeting

Facilitator: EHDI Team

Date: July 9, 2026

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Meeting Objectives

The Iowa EHDI Advisory Committee represents the interests of the people of Iowa in the development of programming that ensures 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 Participants

ASL Interpreters: Carrie Wood and Elizabeth LeRose

Participants: Jenni Macke, Jennifer Proctor, Megan Palmer, Vania Kassouf, Tonya Krueger, Julie Bustos, Kristin Moriarty, Emily Brandt, Lisa Anderson, Tori Carsrud, Nicole Stoecken, Erin Schuweiler, Elizabeth Schardine, Jaqueline Carder, Chantelle Broome, Annette Hyde

EHDI program staff: Tammy O'Hollearn, Heather Dirks, Toby Yak

Agenda Topic and Items

Welcome, Introductions and Announcements

- CDC & HRSA Grant Updates
 - Funding
 - HRSA grant fully funded, CDC grant cut by 35%
 - Staffing has been affected, Jinifer Cox will have reduced time within the EHDI program
 - CDC grant runs July 1-June 30, 2027. The Iowa EHDI program, along with other state programs only plan to submit the individualized data file, just once in May. CDC EHDI still has no personnel, but does use support from CDC Foundation for posting 1-3-6 data.
- Hearing Aid & Audiological Services Update

- Amount will remain the same - \$156,000.
- Funding typically serves 65-75 children per year depending on the needs. Waitlist every year for funding. Last year, funding ran out at the end of the year and then maintained a waitlist and took on children one at a time to use up the funding.
- North Iowa Community Action Organization will only provide support through the end of 2026. A committee member asked what age range the funding covers. Tammy responded funding covers children 0-21.
- Currently over 30 children on waitlist from last year. The majority of funding will be used when the new year begins on July 15th. At the end of December, processing will be transitioned to the department.
- Member Updates
 - Jennifer Proctor – The National Deaf Baseball Team attended the Iowa Baseball Camp for the Deaf this year, and the camp was a great success. Camp is for ages 7-14. Colorado Springs hosts a similar camp for Soccer for deaf or hard-of-hearing (DHH) children as well.
 - Deaf Mentor program – has a colleague who is working with a Deaf Mentor with one of their families and has had good feedback.
 - Julie Bustos reported their Deaf Mentor program started with 6 families but now has 26 families matched with Deaf Mentors. Have made some changes in the Deaf Mentor program and will let people know in the next few months about changes in the program.
 - Jennifer Proctor asked the EHDI program to provide an update in an email on how the funding reductions have impacted EHDI programming. She noted she has received alerts from various professional organizations and would like to know for those members who like to advocate in their personal time? Tammy will check with her supervisor and send updates that can be shared.

Tele-ABR Update

Tammy O'Hollearn

- Tammy reported there were changes in the nursing staff assisting with tele-ABR at CHSC. A new nurse has been hired and trained to provide support.
- The audiologist performing the diagnostic assessments took a position outside of the state. The EHDI program had been working to have backups for both nursing and audiology to prevent gaps in service provision.
- The EHDI program has been able to utilize an audiologist that previously did diagnostic assessments at University of Iowa, Otolaryngology, but now works at an AEA. She filled the gap over the summer during break from AEA duties.
- EHDI program reached out to the Center for Disabilities and Development Audiologist, Emily Andrews to fill the gap until a new audiologist is hired and ready to take over. Emily used to provide audiology consultation for the EHDI program and was a part of the telehealth pilot years ago.
- Linda True, EHDI Follow-up Coordinator, Audiology Technical Support has been providing training and support. Today the audiologist and nurse were on

their own, with Linda available via Zoom. The ABR was successful and child shown to have typical hearing. The parent commented she had a child who was born a few years back and had to drive a long distance to the University of Iowa, and the baby did not sleep well and needed repeated testing. She compared the experience and said it was so much easier and a much shorter trip for the family.

EHDI Collaboration in Kansas: Obtaining Language Outcomes

Erin Schueweiler, Interim Lap-DHH Coordinator – Kansas School for the Deaf

Liz Shardine, Kansas EHDI Coordinator

- Kansas conducts at least two assessments per year at a minimum for each child. Sometimes they do more. Kansas feels strongly they need to do more assessments to identify the gaps. Information is used to drive intervention in gaps for all children and individuals. Kansas also uses the Communication Matrix for those not using ,the other assessments yet due to their personal needs.
- Document language milestones yearly to share with the legislature about those meeting milestones, etc.
- ASL and English Milestones Assessment document was reviewed.
- Data collection is being done with several researchers. One from Vanderbilt, Temple, and Sacramento State Universities. Liz was able to work with them to incorporate the data into their EHDI data system.
- Question: Vania – do you get the data for the hearing screen results? Liz – yes, the information comes from hospitals and midwives. Audiologists enter or fax results to EHDI program who enters them into their system. Kansas reported they are pretty successful obtaining the results. Often receive results a few days after birth or assessment. Kansas Lost to Follow-up has been approximately 6% for the last couple of years.
 - Question: Julie - inquired asked how many students are enrolled in the English Language Program? Erin commented they keep following same children through age of 9. Erin reported they have 288 children enrolled. Preliminary was 240-5 last year that were enrolled in their LAP program. Iowa reports to the legislatures: [2025 Legislative Report: Language and Literacy Development for Learners Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing](#) . 2026 will be posted later following reviews.
 - Question: Julie How many DHH kids are on IEPs in Iowa. We have a large number of DHH students, but not many that have test scores. How can we increase those numbers so we can look at impact, etc. Tori said to see page 4 for eligible learners in the report link.. Broken down by AEAs, Iowa School for the Deaf (ISD, DSM Public Schools.

- Comment: Julie – I did look at the Standard Core Curriculum. It is old. Could the Department of Education develop a more current, acceptable assessment for the standards? Tori: The Iowa version of the Lead K bill allows teams in education to administer one of the assessments for children Birth-8, once per year. The teams choose which assessments will be completed. There are learners who may not have a language assessment score because the team has used a different assessment. They cannot say the child has not had a language assessment, but it may not be one of the ones that is required to be reported. Could have teams using Expanded Core, but it may not be reported. Still may meet the needs of the child based on that assessment.
- Question: Vania what is date for DHH Advisory. Tori said they are waiting on administrators for it to be scheduled.
- If child is eligible learner (IFSP/IEP), the team for that child determines which assessments are completed. It may include more than just language or communication. Team members must be knowledgeable in those areas. Not all teams decide to administer something new. They may have enough information based on information they already have.
- Comment: Jennifer see page 6 of report shows 0–8-year-olds eligible for testing. 651 eligible, and 132 were assessed. Do we know if they were above average, average, etc. Jennifer provided information on the practicality of implementation, team members, etc. All kids she serves 0-3, get a score each year. After 3, it may not be a new score or assessment done each year. It is not required. If the family asks for it, then they will do it. Tammy commented that parents don't know what they don't know so may not even ask for a new assessment.
- Question: Julie - do EA providers let families know they can ask for that assessment. Tori: Yes, but when the child turns 3 it changes.
- Question: Julie - Who are the qualified assessors in Iowa? How is that validated? Tori said when the committee selected the assessments, they selected ones where they would have the staff that were qualified in administering their assessments based on the guidance in the training materials or instructions that came with the assessments. Also, Tori noted there may be other team members that could support implementation. Tori commented the guidance is to use the manual and follow the description in the manual for administering assessments.
- Question: Tammy - asked if there is training on the assessments. Tori reported it was an unfunded mandate. There was a statewide training on a more recent assessment available. Day-C2, AEAs provided training for new staff. Communication matrix is used for complex learners. Learners should

not be compared to others. Blind and Visually Impaired provides training on that assessment. Tori noted there is no money to go out and buy materials and provide training, etc.

- Question: Vania Did ISD and AEAs agree upon the type of assessments provided? Jennifer said that Tina from ISD was on the committee that worked on the assessments, etc. Tori said the committee assembled 3 years ago (ISD, DE, AEAs, 2 school districts, and University of Iowa). Audiologists, Speech and Language Pathologists, Teachers of DHH, and DHH adults all served on the committee. Tori reported they started out with 80+ assessments. Looked at ASL and English assessments. Wanted to make sure there was a score that said on target or below target. Wanted to compare apples to apples when looking at assessments. Tori said the list went through multiple levels of approvals after team narrowed the initial list. Thus far, they only have a partial year of data and second year will be released soon. In the first year, there was one assessment not used at all. They will reassess if not used in year two.
- Comment: Vania - Funding should be requested to the legislature to cover the costs.

EHDI Family Support

Heather Dirks

- Heather presented results from the family satisfaction survey for family support activities.
- Talked about upcoming Hands & Tales events in Ottumwa and Bettendorf and New to the Journey panels on Family Partners and Deaf Mentors.
- Question: Julie - What is the difference between Family Partner and Deaf Mentors or Deaf Partners? Heather provided the difference. Parents or guardians of DHH children with lived experience serve as Parent Partners versus Deaf adults who may serve in the role of Deaf Partner with lived experience or a Deaf Mentor who also teaches American Sign Language.
- Question: Vania - Looking at the survey data, parents wanted more frequent events. Heather said they are doing more events and moving them around the state. She explained the EHDI program hosts their own events and also collaborates with Iowa Hands & Voices, Deafblind Project or Iowa School for the Deaf on events. Heather reported having done events in Des Moines, Waterloo, and Northwest Iowa. Heather reported moving events around, but noted it was hard to get to where everyone is located. Heather does look at where the DHH families reside by using a heat map and tries to put events in their area. She also reaches out to families in those areas and lets them know about activities specifically hosted in their area.

- Comment: Jennifer - check when there are no school days to increase attendance. Also utilize AEA staff to share with families they work with.
- Rebranded Baby/Toddler Time at Libraries to Hands & Tales. The book club events in the regions were changed to Friday evenings. Heather has notified the AEAs in those areas too. She is also inviting preschoolers if they want to come. All events are posted on the EHDl website. The next three are on the schedule now. [EHDl Families | Health & Human Services](#)
- Heather shared the three one-page resource drafts developed through the work groups at the April Advisory Committee meetings. Asked for any feedback from committee members by July 15.

EA Data Presentation

Annette Hyde

- Annette Hyde reported she is now Chief Administrator for Keystone. Jody Albertsen will be taking her place on the EHDl Advisory Committee. Last time I joined, I shared some data. Annette reported she started questioning some of the data as she began to share it at the last meeting, and then she and Tammy spoke about some of the data being reported. Additionally, Annette talked to others about the data and realized the data was inaccurate due to the new database use and data collection.
- After this was discovered, Annette spoke with Tammy about the data and what might be helpful. Annette has asked the lead audiologists across the state for some data. The data is hard to compare as it is all over the place. Some of it included B-5 or school age. Annette reported Jody will schedule a meeting with EHDl personnel to review what data would be helpful moving forward and will then report out in the fall.

Closing

- Send out the educational tips sheets to committee members. Return comments to Heather within a week.
- For next meeting ideas and requests: Vania recommended LEAD-K Family Services – expansion of what the family services looks like in California. Tammy will reach out and see about adding them to our schedule if the focus is on birth to three years of age. If it is for older children, it may be more appropriate for Tori to have that discussion at her DHH Advisory Committee meeting.
- Jennifer Proctor would like EHDl personnel to put together a list of areas impacted from funding cuts. Staffing, programming, data reduction, etc. Tammy will speak with leadership about the request and get back to committee members.

Upcoming meeting dates for 2026: October 8 (via Zoom)

Upcoming meeting dates for 2027: April 8 (in person), July 8 and October 7