

EHDI in Tennessee: Developing Collaborative Partnerships over Time

Tennessee Department of Health's Newborn Hearing Screening (NHS) Program began in 1996 through HRSA technical assistance from the Marion Downs Center. Early partnerships included the Department of Education's Early Intervention Services (i.e. Part C), audiologists, hospitals, and parents. In 2001, Human Resources Services Administration (HRSA) funding was used to employ an audiology consultant and a parent consultant. In the same year, NCHAM began providing technical assistance to TN EHDI. TN EHDI is now working with more than 20 key stakeholders, 80 birthing hospitals, birthing centers, and midwiferies, and 70 audiology centers to provide hearing screening and follow-up services to ~90,000 babies born in TN each year.

Successes

- Audiology Consultant and Deaf Educator/Family Outreach Consultant contracted to provide statewide consultation and training
- Parents of children who are deaf and hard of hearing have been involved with all aspects of program development, assessment, community outreach and parent-to-parent support in an ever expanding role
- Collaboration with the Tennessee Disability Coalition to contract for parent support through the Family Voices Parent 2 Parent model and now the Hands & Voices Guide-By-Your-Side model
- Active collaboration by stakeholders to contribute to the development of policy, planning and quality assessment
- The provision of scholarships for parents, TEIS, audiologists, and others to attend National EHDI Conferences and state and local trainings
- Collaboration between State agencies and programs that provide services for children with special health care needs
- Increased in the number of Central Office staff participating in EHDI activities

Challenges

- Limited continuous EHDI training for medical providers and efforts in recruiting them to the statewide NHS Task Force or for program consultation
- Limited funds to purchase hearing screening equipment for hospitals, audiologists, midwives
- Delays in the implementation of a web-based data system to enable hospital reporting of screening/follow-up and audiology reporting of hearing follow-up and the importing of hearing results from hospital equipment
- Limited number of TN NHS staff to assist with EHDI program

Future Directions

- Continue to engage and mobilize new stakeholders
- Focus on reaching 1-3-6 goals and target the reduction of lost to follow-up
- Outreach to medical home providers
- Complete implement of the web-based data system

Current TN Newborn Screening (NHS) Task Force/Stakeholders

- Audiologist Consultant – UT Center on Deafness
- Deaf Educator/Family Outreach UT – COD
- UT Knoxville COD; UTK Audiology
- TNAAP Chapter Champion, Dr. Mark Gaylord
- Parents
- TN CDC EHDI Epidemiologists
- TN Disability Coalition
- TN Hands & Voices
- TN Hands &Voices Guide By Your Side
- UT Knoxville TN Early Head Start Coordinator
- TN Deaf-Blind Project
- Vanderbilt Univ. Dept. of Hearing and Speech Sciences/Bill Wilkerson Center
- Memphis Oral School
- TN Schools for the Deaf
- TN Council for the Deaf, Deaf- Blind and Hard of Hearing
- Audiologists (hospitals, private, universities)
- Hospitals
- Pediatrix Hearing Screening Consultants
- Title V CSHCN - CSS Care Coordinators

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TN Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Key Partners

TN Department of Health

- Develop and maintain a statewide network for TN EHDI
- Provide a statewide data collection system (Neometrics) for reporting, tracking, and follow-up utilizing the State Newborn Blood Spot Screening Program
- Coordinate activities and stakeholders to achieve the 1-3-6 EHDI goals
- Collaborate with TN Genetics Advisory Committee and Newborn Hearing Task Force
- HRSA EHDI grant funds contracts for audiologist, deaf educator, parent consultants, and equipment
- Conduct individual and statewide consultation and training
- CDC EHDI grant for epidemiological services such as data integration, evaluation and quality improvement

TN Dept. Education/TN Early Intervention Services (TEIS) (i.e. Part C)

- Follow-up on initial hearing refers and infants with risk indicators with calls and letters to parents/providers
- Enroll children with hearing loss into TEIS
- Document follow-up in State EHDI Neometrics data system
- Inform families on TEIS Part C services
- Participate in EHDI program planning, training, conferences, and QI activities
- Engage TN AAP START program for medical provider outreach

TN Disability Coalition

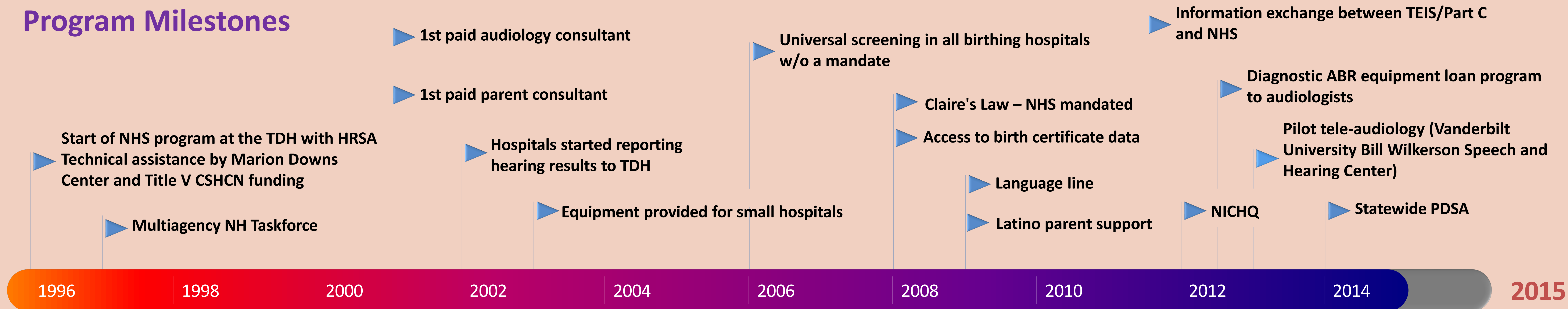
- **TN Family Voices (2000-2013)**
 - Statewide parent support by parent consultants in three grand regions
 - Latino parent support
 - Developed a tool for families – Staying on Track with Your Child Who Has Hearing Loss
- **TN Hands & Voices Guide-By-Your-Side (GBYS) (2014-present)**
 - Statewide parent support by parent guides
 - Individual calls/home visits to families of children with hearing loss
 - Provide parent workshops, family activities, and community outreach

University of Tennessee

- **Center on Deafness**
 - Provides contract services for TN EHDI including audiology consulting and family support and outreach
 - Follow-up on hearing referrals
 - Education, training and program evaluation
 - Engage and mobilize EHDI partners
 - Connect children with HL and their families with professional services such as audiology services, amplification (if needed and desired by parents), EI services and parent support
- **Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology**
 - Graduate student follow-up on initial hearing refers

TN EHDI Collaborative Partnership Timeline

Program Milestones



Key Partners

- Family Voices
- NHS guidelines for hospitals and audiologists
- HRSA funding for NHS
- NCHAM technical assistance
- CDC EHDI funding for data tracking
- TEIS/Part C provided funding for OAE equipment to all Early Head Start and Part C districts and OAE equipment for midwives

