



Pediatric Specialty Certification in Audiology & NCHAM

Karen M. Ditty, Au.D.
Board Certified in Audiology
NCHAM



National Center for Hearing Assessment and
Management

Diane L. Sabo, Ph.D.
Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
University of Pittsburgh



NCHAM

- NCHAM is a multidisciplinary center focused on the implementation and improvement of comprehensive and effective Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) systems.
- NCHAM collaborates with key agencies & organizations, conducts research and serves as the National Resource Center for EHDI.



NCHAM

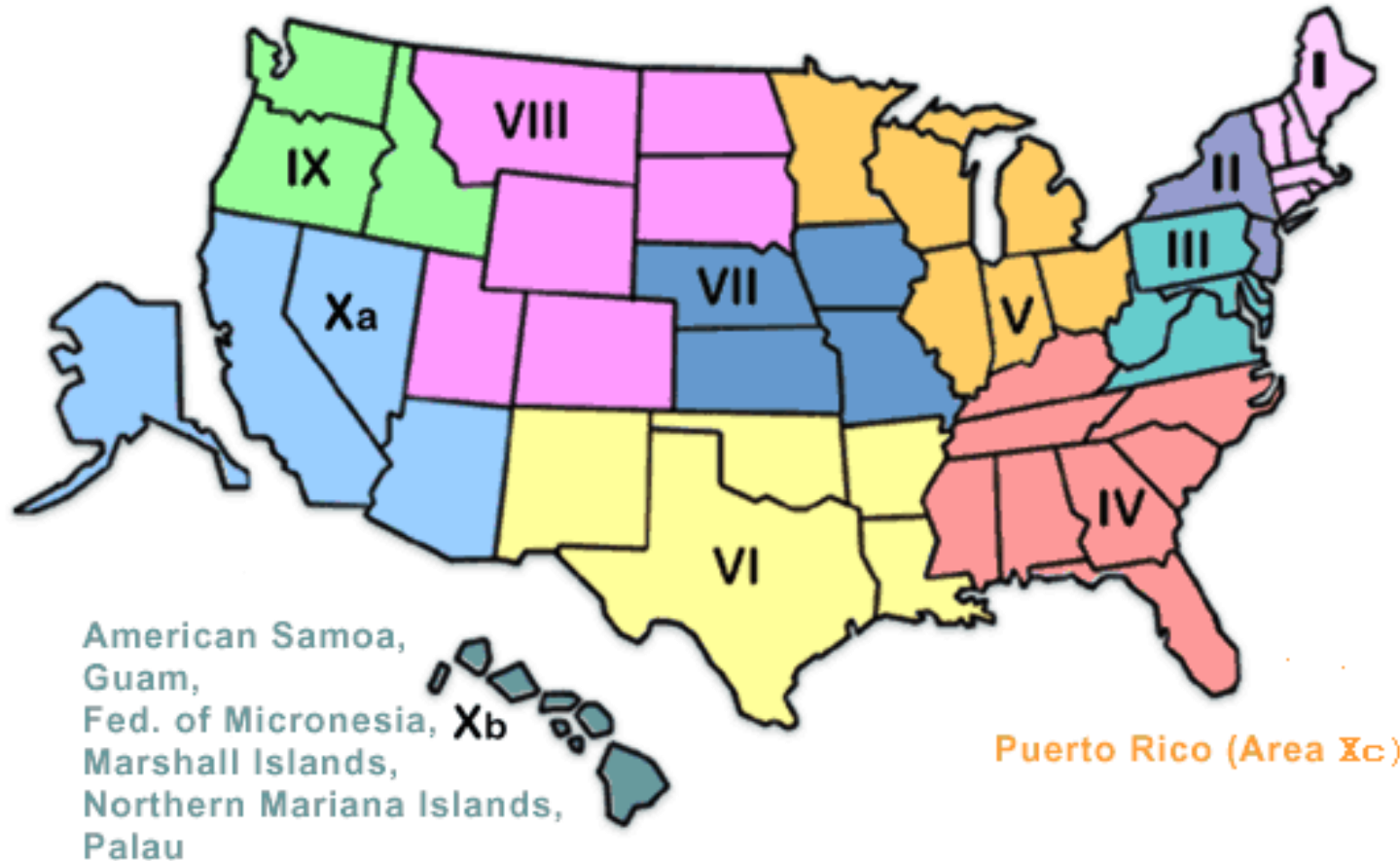
GOAL: Technical assistance to states to ensure all infants and toddlers with hearing loss are identified as early as possible and provided with timely and appropriate audiological, education, and medical intervention.

Funding for the National Resource Center for EHDI comes from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau

Web site address is: www.infanthearing.org



NCHAM Technical Advisory across the USA





The Team

**Early
Interventionist**

Family

**Specialty Medical
Care**

**Screening
facility**

Audiologist

**Medical Home
Physician**





The Audiologist's role the EHDI process

The Audiologist :

- ✓ Provides timely follow-up screening
- ✓ Performs all diagnostic audiological tests necessary
- ✓ Provide comprehensive reports for various stakeholders within the EHDI team
- ✓ Educate families and Team members concerning EHDI & Audiology
- ✓ Provide on-going audiological management



Abides by specific guidelines; ie: JCIH 2007

- At least 1 ABR test conducted as part of a complete audiological diagnostic evaluation for children <3 yrs of age.
- Infants with a risk factor, passing newborn screening should have at least 1 audiological assessment by 24-30 months of age
- Early and more frequent assessment may be indicated for children with certain factors



Requires:

- Appropriate equipment and protocols for testing newborns/young infants.
- Timely and frequent assessments with minimal wait times for infant's and their families.
- An Audiologist that **WANTS** to specialize in working with infants and young children.





Requires:

- The Pediatric audiologist must be familiar with the procedures of the Part C system, including IFSP development and procedures for acquiring hearing aids or assistive technology.





Provides:

BEST PRACTICE:

- Although there are no mandated national protocols or standards many states have guidelines for their audiologists.
 - These guidelines can be obtained via the following link on the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management website:

<http://www.infanthearing.org/states/table.html>



What we know

- Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that audiologists held about 12, 800 jobs in 2008
- There is; however, an acute shortage of audiologists able, willing, or trained to work with infants
- Audiologists who work with babies, choose to work with babies. Not unlike the title Physician of which there are specialties: Pediatricians, Cardiologists, etc.



Why a shortage?

- Audiologists have varying knowledge, experience, and skill in infant assessment.
 - UNHS has been around for 10 years, with that there was an influx of newborns identified with hearing loss. The client changed from 2 year olds to 3 month olds.
- Equipment of pediatric testing is not available in all clinics
- Great need for training and education



NCHAM and ongoing Audiological training

- Have provided Pediatric Audiology Training workshops since 2003
- Have trained approximately 1000 audiologists in 15 states and one territory.
- Have provided a blend of distance education
 - Required readings
 - Web-based chats with experienced Pediatric Audiologists.
 - 4 days of “hands on training





NCHAM and ongoing Audiological training

- Upon conclusion of the distance education an exam was administered to assess mastery of the online portion of the workshop.
- Students travel to a central location within their own state for 4 days of “hands on” training
- Diagnostic equipment is available for training as well as advanced topical presentations.
- Pediatric amplification training is provided utilizing real-ear-measurement equipment



NCHAM and ongoing Audiological training

- Additional presentations included:
 - Behavioral Audiological assessment
 - Counseling & Validation
 - Cochlear Implant theory
 - Role of the Audiologist in the EHDI process



Goals of Audiology Training Workshops

- Update practicing audiologists in current standards of practice in Diagnostic Audiology
- Update theoretical knowledge in addition to practical clinical application in Pediatric Audiology
- Improve the standard of care for infants and their families
- Increase the number of Pediatric Audiologists in the United States



Pediatric Audiology Specialty Certification (PASC) by Academy of Audiology(AAA)

- AAA felt that obtaining Specialty certification means:
 - Audiologist demonstrates a high level of knowledge in the area of pediatric audiology
 - While NOT a guarantee of any any particular skill or competency, the audiologist demonstrates the ability to pass a rigorous examination and has a minimum of 2 years of audiological practice



Why Specialty certification in Pediatric Audiology chosen?

- Most rapidly growing area of audiology
- Due to significant strides in identification of hearing loss in infants and young children and subsequent efforts to achieve intervention at an early age
- EHDI has driven a need for many more audiologists to be available to care for children identified with hearing loss



Why Specialty certification in Pediatric Audiology chosen?

- As part of this need, ABA, other professional organizations, audiologists throughout the U.S. and abroad and state agencies all recognize a need in this area so that those who have dedicated themselves to achieving a high level of knowledge in this area may be identified



Eligibility Requirements

- Graduated from accredited audiology program
- Current state licensure or registration as audiologist (or ABA certified)
- Achieve 1 year (2000 hours) of licensed full-time clinical practice in pediatric audiology, mentored by a licensed audiologist
- Demonstrates 550 direct pediatric contact hours and 50 hours of pediatric case management over two consecutive years within past 5 years



Eligibility Requirements continued:

- 2 letters from professionals (preferably supervisors(s) familiar with candidate's work in the area of pediatric audiology) verifying the number of hours worked and eligibility for the specialty credential.



How often to renew specialty certification?

- Renew every three years
- Every 9 years, certificant must sit for re-examination in order to maintain specialty certification in pediatrics
- If already board certified, the renewal period will be aligned according to ABA policy



Continuing education requirements:

- 60 hours of continuing education every 3 years
 - 30 of the 60 hours must be in pediatrics
 - 3 of the 60 hours must be in ethics
 - 15 of the 60 hours must be at the Tier One Level (not necessarily in Pediatrics)



Does having the PASC mean that a child will have all of their audiological needs met?

- NO, Pediatrics is a broad field and many audiologists will specialize in specific areas, ie:
 - Diagnostics
 - Treatment (such as hearing aids, cochlear implants, surgical monitoring, educational audiology and others)



Should a family be concerned if their child was seen by someone without PASC?

- NO, if the audiologist demonstrates a high level of knowledge and high standards of professional education as those who do hold specialty certification in pediatrics, there should not be a concern.
- However, if a family is not satisfied with the services they are receiving they will have the option of identifying and audiologist with PASC



How to verify that an audiologist holds a current specialty certification in pediatrics?

- ABA maintains a list of audiologists holding specialty certification in pediatrics:
 - www.americanboardofaudiology.org
 - Or request list @ 800-881-5410
 - Or email: aba@audiology.org



Audiology Pediatric Test Blueprint

✓ Laws and Regulation	10%
✓ General Knowledge about Hearing & Hearing Loss	20%
✓ Child development	9%
✓ Screening & Assessment Procedures	21%
✓ Counseling	9%



Audiology Pediatric Test Blueprint

- ✓ Communication Enhancement Technology 16%
- ✓ Habilitation/Rehabilitation strategies, Educational Supports 15%



Specific Knowledge Areas on the Audiology Pediatric Test

- Can be found on the ABA website, in the Candidate Handbook
- List of recommended readings also available on the ABA website



Goals of future NCHAM Pediatric Audiology Training workshops

- Acquire Tier 1 CEU qualification for future Pediatric Audiology Training Workshops
- Identify key readings that will coincide with Pediatric Specialty certification
- Maintain Hands-on-Trainings in Pediatric Audiology training workshops
- Attempt to meet some of the training needs of the Audiologist wanting to acquire specialty certification



Goals of future NCHAM Pediatric Audiology Training workshops

- We are in the planning stages of developing online training modules for pediatric audiology that cover specific aspects of the diagnostic and habilitation process
- Modules will be separate from our regular training workshops
- Will enable audiologists to have another way to prepare for pediatric specialty certification



Why NCHAM and Pediatric Specialty Certification

- We support the highest of standards of Audiology in the assessment and habilitation of hearing loss in infants and toddlers.
- NCHAM is not endorsing Specialty Certification, but is endorsing the efforts to develop a better educated and larger Pediatric Audiology force as this is consistent with our efforts over the last 8 years of providing Pediatric Audiology Training Workshops



Stay tuned.....

Questions?

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