

**IDAHO SOUND
BEGINNINGS**

**NEWBORN
HEARING
SCREENING IN
IDAHO
HOSPITALS**

January 2003



**The Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Project (EHDI)
Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Penale S. Cooper, Executive Director**

Why Is The Early Identification Of Hearing Loss So Important?

- Babies who are born with hearing loss, if not identified and treatment started within a few months of birth, do not develop language normally.
- The goal of the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Project in Idaho is to maximize language, literacy and communication development of children who are hard of hearing or deaf.
- Audiological and medical evaluations should progress before three months of age. Infants with confirmed hearing loss should receive intervention before six months of age from health care and educational professionals with expertise in hearing loss and deafness in infants and young children.
- Currently, approximately 98% of Idaho babies are born in hospitals with universal newborn hearing screening programs. The EHDI grant allows monitoring of the infants who are referred from the screening program to ensure that they receive timely and appropriate diagnostic audiological evaluations, and where necessary, enrollment in early intervention programs.
- This EHDI grant expands newborn hearing screening programs to more hospitals in Idaho and develops a system whereby all infants, who need it, receive timely and appropriate diagnostic evaluation and early intervention.

LEADERSHIP

Pennie S. Cooper, Executive Director ID Council for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

Pennie has over 30 years experience in social service programs including direct service, program development and administration, and consulting.

- Six years administering the Iowa Medicaid program.
- Five years as the Chief of the Bureau of Benefit Payments in the ID Dept of Health & Welfare, which administered Medicaid, AFDC, and Food Stamps.
- Six years as a Consultant in the private sector.
- Two years as the Executive Director of the Illinois Assistive Technology Project
- Nine years as the Executive Director of the Idaho State Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
- In 1995, initiated activities which resulted in the formation of the Idaho Newborn Hearing Screening Consortium
- Principal Investigator, EHDI Grant

Bee Biggs-Jarrell, R.N., B.S.N., M.P.A.

Bee has a wealth of experience working in health systems in Idaho and is familiar with resources available through various organizations and has experience as:

- Idaho Public Health Administrator
- Certificated Family Nurse Practitioner
- Maternal and Child Health Project Manager—Africa

Kathleen A. Wachtler, AuD., CCC-A

Kathleen has been an audiologist since 1993 with a major emphasis in pediatrics and the operation of newborn hearing screening programs.

- Diagnostic Pediatric Audiologist for 8 years
- Coordinator of Universal Newborn Hearing Screening programs at five hospitals with about 1/3 of the births in Idaho.
- Clinic Manager and Supervising Audiologist at Idaho Elks Rehabilitation Hospital.
- Cochlear Implant Candidacy Evaluations

MISSION

To reduce the age of identification of infants with hearing loss to three months, or no more than twelve months, in accordance with the Joint Commission on Infant Hearing (JCIH) and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations.

GOAL

The goal of this project is to establish an effective EHDI system for the state of Idaho which can be sufficiently institutionalized by the end of the four-year grant that it will be maintained without extramural funding, such as will be provided by this grant.

The specific objectives that will be completed by the end of four years are as follows:

- 99%+ of all newborns in Idaho will be screened for hearing loss before they are discharged from the hospital.
- Infants who do not pass the screening test will receive an audiological evaluation by three months of age.
- Infants identified with a hearing loss will be enrolled in an appropriate early intervention program before six months of age.
- All infants detected with a hearing loss will be connected with a medical home.
- Families of all newborns detected with hearing loss will be provided a culturally-competent support.
- All families of newborns will have adequate private and/or public insurance to pay for newborn hearing screening and any necessary diagnostic and intervention services.

Cover Photo Courtesy of NCHAM

ID Hospitals Screening for Hearing Loss

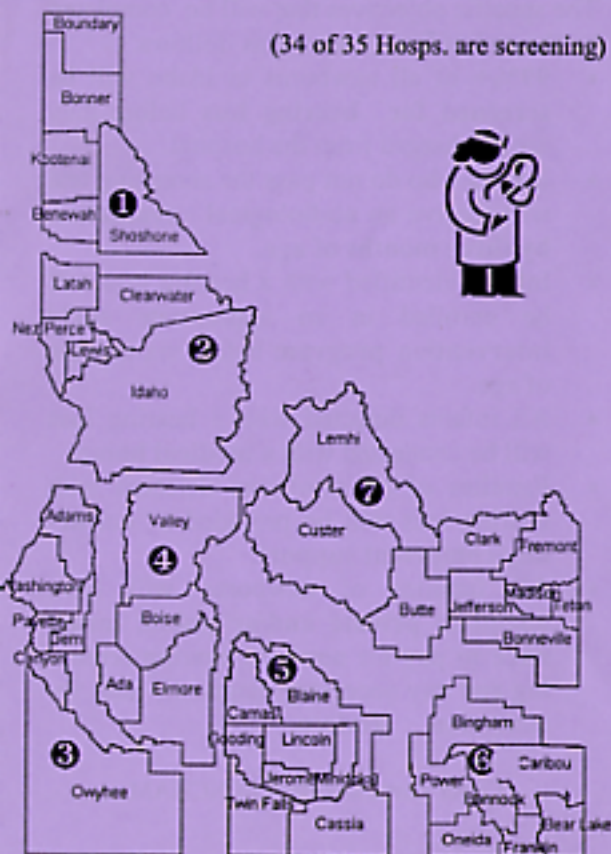
- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Bear Lake Mem. Hosp. | • Mountain View Hosp. |
| • Benewah Comm. Hosp. | • Oneida County Hospital |
| • Bingham Mem. Hosp. | • Portneuf RMC |
| • Bonner General Hosp. | • St. Alphonsus RMC |
| • Caribou Mem. Hosp. | • St. Benedict's Fam. MC |
| • Cassia RMC | • St. Joseph's RMC |
| • Clearwater Valley Hosp. | • St. Luke's Meridian |
| • Eastern Idaho RMC | • St. Luke's RMC |
| • Elmore MC | • St. Luke's Wood River |
| • Franklin County MC | • St. Mary's Hosp. |
| • Gritman MC | • Steele Memorial Hosp. |
| • Kootenai MC | • Syringa Comm. Hosp. |
| • Madison Mem. Hosp. | • Teton Valley Hospital |
| • Magic Valley RMC | • 366th Wing Hosp. |
| • McCall Mem. Hosp. | • Walter Knox Memorial Hospital |
| • Mercy MC | • Weiser Mem. Hosp. |
| • Minidoka Mem. Hosp. | • West Valley MC |

The Idaho Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Project would like to invite you to be included on our mailing list. The list will be used for EHDI quarterly newsletters, Training Seminars and Conferences, and to send out articles of interest. Please send your mailing and email address by email to biggsb@idhw.state.id.us or fax to *Idaho Sound Beginnings* Project at (208) 334-0952.

The names and addresses on the list will be kept confidential and for EHDI project use only.

On April 1, 2000, the Idaho State Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing was awarded a four-year grant totaling \$377,226 to implement an Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program (EHDI). During the first year of the project, grants were given to hospitals to implement UNHS programs. A network of pediatric audiologists was organized to provide diagnostic evaluations. Data management and tracking software was given to hospitals, and a statewide database was started to follow up on babies who are referred for further testing.

(34 of 35 Hosps. are screening)



Idaho State Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
 Idaho Sound Beginnings (EHDI) Project
 1720 Westgate Drive, Suite A
 Boise, ID 83704

(208) 334-0829 or (800) 433-1323 voice
 (208) 334-0803 or (800) 433-1361 TTY
 (208) 334-0952 Fax

For more information, check our web-sites:

www2.state.id.us/cdhh
www.infanthearing.org

This brochure was supported in part by project H61 MC 00010 from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (Title V, Social Security Act), Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services.