Finding Lost EHDI Babies
Utilizing Partnerships

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Early Childhood Intervention
Texas Universal Hearing Screening

- Legislation passed in 2001
- TX Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
- Counties more than 50,000
- Results reported via:
  - (eSP\textsuperscript{tm} electronic data system; OZ Systems)
  - Fax
  - (handout)
What are the statutory requirements?

- Offer hearing screen
- Parents should get results
- Physician should get results
- DSHS gets results electronically/by fax
- ECI gets referral
Detect and Connect; One baby at a time
Early Intervention Referral

• Referral following the “failed” outpatient screening

• Sounds easy, what’s the problem?
  • Build the Plane
Why don’t we know?

- Some not reported
- Some move soon after birth
- Some are from other states/countries, and go home
- Some families have a problem getting to follow-up services
- Some families do not follow up
- Reporting limitations (confidentiality)
- Handout
Why don’t we know?

- Lack of understanding about reporting system by audiologists
- Need for better understanding about Early Intervention by audiologists
- Need for better understanding of early intervention by physicians
Lost to follow-up

The numbers are daunting in a state the size (population, demographic and geographic) of Texas.
TEHDI 2007

- 384,887 births reported by facilities
- 98.5%+ were screened at birth
- 13,512 needed follow-up
Follow-up was reported for 6780 infants (54% of those needing screening)
We want to know about all the babies
HRSA Grant

• Health Resources and Services Administration

• 3 year grant
Goals for the HRSA Grant Project

- Increase positive percents at all levels of process
- Support Medical Home
- Support development of comprehensive hearing record
Three Years

Year 1:

• Access to eSP\textsuperscript{tm} for rural birth facilities

• eSP\textsuperscript{tm} enhancements for Regional Specialist access
What’s a Regional Specialist?

- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services
- No direct contact with families

Small portion of their time to:
  - View information about babies who need follow up in eSP™
  - Remind screeners to report results
  - Remind screeners to report referrals made
  - Remind providers to enter testing results
  - Remind all in system to refer to Part C
Year 2

- Enhancements to eSP™ to add audiologists to data system
- Enhancements to eSP™ for referrals to Part C
- Training to and collaboration among all community partners
- Support to families
Training
Getting It Right from the Get-Go!

Working together to promote successful outcomes for infants and toddlers with hearing loss and their families
• Spring, 2007
• Two days
• 200+ participants
• Multidisciplinary
  – Planning
  – Presenters
  – participation
• Multiple agencies and providers
• (handout)
Texas Health Steps

- Medicaid EPSDT
- On-line training targets:
  - Physicians
  - Nurses and Physician Assistants
  - Midwives
  - Audiologists
  - Social Workers
- Approved CE credit for some providers
- Handout
Collaboration

The entire Texas system relies on collaboration to achieve positive outcomes
State Level Collaboration

- TX Deaf and Hard of Hearing Leadership Council for Birth to 3:
  - Parents
  - DSHS Newborn Hearing Screening Department
  - Part C (ECI)
  - Texas Education Agency (TEA)
  - DHHS
  - Texas Association of Infant Mental Health
  - University of Texas (Callier Center for Communication Disorders)
  - Texas School for the Deaf
  - Leadership from local providers across the state
  - Audiologist
  - Otolaryngologist
  - Neonatologist
Local Collaboration

- Local groups with similar composition supported and encouraged by State Agencies
- Service Delivery requires close cooperation and collaboration
Service Delivery

- MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between:
  - 58 local Part C programs
    - Service Coordination
    - IFSP
    - Developmental Services, Speech, OT, PT etc.
- Local Education Agencies (School districts and RDSPDs)
  - Parent Advisors
  - Teachers of the Deaf
  - AI services (from Part C array of services)
Support to Families

- Texas Parent to Parent
  - Primary mechanism
  - Parent support trainings
  - Developed a Parent resource manual
  - Participation on Leadership Council
Year 3

• Current activities
• Increased Physician Involvement and Look-up in eSP™ System (500 MDs)
• Development of training CDs for Early Intervention Providers
Data related activities

- Completed access for ECI to eSP<sup>tm</sup>
- Outreach to audiologists
- Training to ECI and audiologists
- Fine tuning of system to ensure timely and accurate referrals
- Access to eSP<sup>tm</sup> for outpatient providers and audiologists
  - Training on the system
Designation of a Referral to Part C via TEHDI eSP™
Each blue dot is a cumulative number from the previous 12 months
Referral to ECI by date of birth
Outreach to physicians
Outreach to Physicians

- The THSteps training website
- Attendance/exhibits at conferences
- State Leadership Committee
- ECI Child Find Coordinators:
  - Visits to offices
  - Other public awareness activities
- Materials
Continued work with TX P2P

- Assisted with implementation of Hands and Voices in Texas
  - MOU
- Links to parent organizations on state agency websites
- Continued parent support trainings (Tx P2P)
- Identified need for materials to prenatal parents
  - Collaboration with DSHS to develop
TX P2P

- Translation of Parent Resource Manual into Spanish
- Survey of parents to identify improvements needed in resource manual
- Train medical residents: Adding component on impact of hearing loss
Development and/or dissemination of materials:

- 1-3-6 (DSHS) to physicians (handout)
- Postcards for screeners (handout)
- Posters x2 (in development) for physician office
- Dissemination of Texas Connect U of TX Callier Center (handout)
Contacts and further information

- Christine.watkins@dars.state.tx.us
- http://www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis/index.shtml Part C in TX
- http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/audio/newbornhear.shtm newborn hearing screening in TX
- http://txp2p.org/ TX Parent to Parent