Making Strides: Improving Hearing Screening Rates for Babies Born at Home

Vickie Thomson
EHDI Coordinator,
Colorado Department of Health
vickie.thomson@state.co.us

Sara Kennedy
Colorado Families for Hands & Voices
Editor@handsandvoices.org
Finding the Babies who need EHDI

The Homebirth population
Hospital environment
Well baby visits
Homeschooling

Speaking at CMA Conference
2002, 2009
Local and Regional Resources

Pediatric Audiologist: ____________________________

M-Hear (Colorado Hearing Resource Coordinator): ____________________________

Health Care Program for Children with Special Needs (HCP) Regional Audiologist: ____________________________

HCP Regional Office and Team List: ____________________________

Hands & Voices Regional Parent Guide: ____________________________

Part C Coordinator: ____________________________

Statewide Resources

- Health Care Program for Children with Special Needs: www.HCPColorado.org
- Colorado Home Intervention Program: http://tinyurl.com/cdc51n
- Early Intervention Colorado, Services for Children Birth to Three: http://www.ecolorado.org/

National Resources

- www.babyhearing.org: Boys Town National Research Hospital Informational site for parents
- Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program, Centers For Disease Control website: www.cdc.gov/nbidd/ehdi
- National Center for Hearing Assessment & Management: www.infanthearing.org
- Hands & Voices: www.handsandvoices.org
- Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf/Hard of hearing: www.agbell.org
- American Society for Deaf Children. www.deafchildren.org
Service Delivery with a Local Flair

- Creating homebirth friendly screening opportunities
  - Midwife directed screening
  - School districts
- HCP audiologist-led clinics
- Regional EHDI team problem solving
  - Hospital outpatient clinics
Statewide Solutions

- Letter from state directly to families
- Feedback from parents
- Areas of state using/getting equipment
  - Western slope Delta/Montrose
  - Fort Collins
  - El Paso County
Letters as Tools

- From a mom of a deaf child born at home
- From the midwife who worked with the family

www.handsandvoices.org
www.mndeptofhealth.org (get real website URL)
Next steps

Will the wording of the regulation help?

“The direct-entry midwife shall arrange for or obtain the required newborn screenings required by Section 25-4-1004, C.R.S. “

Challenge of the expanded bloodspot screen

What is your state facing?
Viewpoint From a Registered Midwife
“Every baby born at home deserves the same access to newborn hearing screening as babies born in the hospital.”

Linda Joyce, a Colorado mom with a homebirthed baby who was screened on day 6.