Wisconsin Sound Beginnings
Putting Quality Improvement into Practice

2011 EHDI Grantee Meeting
February 23, 2011
Background

- Wisconsin one of 8 states who participated in the first EHDI Learning Collaborative
- State replication in 2009-2010
  - 7 county teams
  - Barron, Dane, Eau Claire, Fox Valley, Marathon, Milwaukee, Wood
  - Multidisciplinary teams with hospital staff (nursery, NICU); primary care/medical home; audiology; specialty care (ENT, genetics); Birth-3; parents; Guide By Your Side; Regional Centers for CYSHCN
- Regional spread meetings 2010-2011 and toolkit
In 2007, 97.7% of newborns were screened for hearing loss.

1,073 Did Not Pass
205 Typical Hearing
38 Enrolled Early Intervention
1641 Never Screened

81 Hearing Loss
43 Not Enrolled
787 Lost to Follow-up

Follow these infants in the Sound Beginnings WE-TRAC report.

Improving communication among Early Hearing Detection and Intervention providers and between providers and families can eliminate loss to follow-up and assure a sound beginning for Wisconsin infants.

Use this Toolkit to learn about:
- The Joint Committee on Infant Hearing Position Statement and the 1-3-6 month algorithm.
- Improvement Strategies identified by the National Initiative for Children’s Healthcare Quality (NICHQ).
- Best Practice Guidelines and Tools for Improvement tested by communities of practice in Wisconsin where they have successfully closed the follow-up gap.
Best Thing: WSB Team Reflections

• Seeing the participants attitude change as they collected data and saw that the change was in fact an improvement
• Watching implementation of the small tests of change empower individuals to try bold new ideas
• Meeting partners face-to-face and working together to create solutions
• Sharing information in person about the data tracking system or ideas for follow up
• Connecting EHDI with other CYSHCN initiatives and resources
Biggest Challenge: WSB Team Reflections

- Recruitment of teams that represent the EHDI continuum
- Conveying the value of data collection
- Keeping teams motivated especially to collect and send in data
- Reaching those in greatest need of improvement
Strategies

• Recruitment
  – Designate regional contacts/leads to assist with reminder phone calls – emails alone are not enough
  – Use professional networks; keep them informed of progress through listservs, newsletters; obtain CEUs for participation

• Data Collection
  – WE-TRAC provided team, region and state level data; teams saw the importance of data collection
  – Specific personal outreach to select locations in need of improvement with WE-TRAC data reports
Key Strategy

• Get Families Involved – Regional Guides supported teams and family team members
• Family involvement helped keep other team members motivated
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