

Appendix C

Categorization of Audiologist Survey Open-ended Questions

What do you think is working well in your state for families who have an infant or toddler (0-3) who is D/HH?

1. Timely EI diagnosis (32)
 - a. "Earlier identification of those with hearing loss"
 - b. "tremendous improvement in the initial referral for diagnostic testing from the initial newborn screenings"
 - c. "I think we do great at tracking these infants and making sure they have received proper follow-up."
2. Timely access to EI (21)
 - a. "Ease of referral process that has been recently revised"
 - b. "Parents are contacted within days of diagnosis and start receiving services immediately."
 - c. "We do have a good number of children aged 0-3 enrolled in EI programs shortly after hearing loss diagnosis."
3. Effective EI services (25)
 - a. "The SKI HI program is working" they continue, "we don't have enough staff certified from their training facilities to proceed appropriately."
 - b. "Early Intervention services does a marvelous job."
4. Affordable EI (4)
 - a. "No cost approach is excellent."
 - b. "free services for those that need."
 - c. "Resources that are at financially appropriate based on income"
5. Family to family support (4)
 - a. "the availability of peer-to-peer support works well for those families that choose to be in contact with other families"
 - b. "Once a family gets connected with a deaf/heard of hearing supports, there are several excellent deaf mentors and teachers of the deaf who can support the family."
 - c. "Parent to parent support and resources through MN Hands and Voices."
6. Collaboration/Teaming (11)
 - a. "good collaboration between clinic audiologist and school audiologist and school audiologist"
 - b. "The audiologists within the AEA also have network relations with private audiologists which is helpful for the child as well as the family."
 - c. "Consultants, teachers and audiologists collaborate and work as a team."
7. Access to amplification (6)
 - a. "The EHDI funding for hearing aids and related services"
 - b. "being able to get hearing aids from EHDI program"
 - c. "funding resources for equipment is available if parent can find participating provider and will complete the forms necessary for approval"

(Audiology survey, con't)

What challenges face families who have an infant or toddler (0-3) who is D/HH living in your state?

- 1. Timely Intervention (10)**
 - a. "There have been cases of delayed diagnostic evals after a baby refers on the newborn hearing screening."
 - b. "Parents report delays in getting appts to providers and frustrations with the multi-stepped processes"
 - c. "Not knowing the services exist; EI not calling them back, EI providers cancelling or not showing up"
 - d. "Length of time it sometimes takes to get and ABR or referred for and ABR."
- 2. Limited access to specialized providers/therapy (55)**
 - a. "There are still a low number of providers in our area for audiology and speech pathology despite the growing population."
 - b. "Getting to or getting an adequate level of supports from a service provider who is knowledgeable about deafness/hearing loss appears a challenge."
 - c. "Having access to providers with experience with D/HH."
 - d. "Finding auditory verbal certified speech therapists."
- 3. Language barriers with providers (9)**
 - a. "Access to services in native languages."
 - b. "Access/availability to bilingual interventionists."
 - c. "There are enormous challenges for families who are non-English speaking in educating parents in all aspects of specialty service care for kids who are D/HH."
- 4. Funding difficulties for healthcare needs (26)**
 - a. "Finding the funds to pay for decent hearing aids."
 - b. Finding audiological services for the fitting of devices who take state aid insurance.
 - c. "Not able to afford FM system or wireless technologies because insurance doesn't cover it."
 - d. "Lack of consistent insurance coverage for assistive devices and community therapy."
- 5. Transportation to facilities(24)**
 - a. "Distance to receive full assessment/treatment."
 - b. "Distance from providers that accepts Medicaid/Medicaid replacement plans."
 - c. "Often do not have access to reliable transportation or do not have the money for gas to get to the appointment."
- 6. Parents needing training/help to know how to help their child (12)**
 - a. "Parents also lack sufficient training on equipment."
 - b. "Parental understanding of hearing loss and need for intervention, rehab, and using hearing aids."
 - c. "Lack of family support."