>> We're going to go ahead and get started. Karen... we're going to get started.

>> Yes, ma'am.

>> Hi, everybody, I'm Randi Winston-Gerson, and I am the program manager for EHDI-PALS. And my colleague, Dr. Karen Ditty is here today to co-present with me. And we're going to talk about some of the new -- let me see if I can figure out how to forward this.

Let's see... enter...

This is a little too soon to have technical issues.

I don't see a mouse.

>> Try this.

>> RANDI: Wait, let's not just press buttons...

>> They're arrows.

>> RANDI: I tried the arrows, so it's just this one.

Oh, edid...

Okay, we're going to -- things are now going to go very smooth because we got that over with.

So we're going to do a little bit of overview of the website and the program, and you can see just kind of go over updates over the past year and talk about some other important things.

So I always like to start by introducing and showing everybody who the Advisory Committee is and the organizations that have been involved in the development of EHDI-PALS and you can see that we have quite a multidisciplinary team of experts that came together in 2012 to develop this very robust program. The resources for ongoing maintenance and upkeep for EHDI-PALS weren't in place, and so NCHAM took the program over in 2019 and since then we have taken this amazing foundation and we have enhanced it.

So this is basically what EHDI-PALS is... you know, our mission statement. And you will see what EHDI-PALS is as we move on, but it's a web-based searchable national directory that helps families, healthcare professionals, and state public health organizations find pediatric audiologist expertise for children ages birth to five. We provide a lot of resources. We have developed resources over the past few years that have really enhanced our mission. And we're trying to create this place -- and I don't like to use the word "one-stop shop," but it's place where families and professionals can go to find quality pediatric audiology services. And we'll talk more about that

The goal, when EHDI-PALS started, and still is, was to really address the huge overwhelming issue of loss to follow-up, and especially between the newborn hearing screen and the diagnostic step, you know, between the one and the three.

And so developing this database of pediatric audiologists would allow state programs to have access to the audiologists in the state, the services they provide, and be able to create a seamless handoff for that family.

So we still... I mean, this is all, you know, JCIH guidelines governs all of the principles within EHDI-PALS. So this is really our mission.

Measures of success. You know, if we are -- if all facilities are enrolled, updated and accurate, then, you know... and families are successful, and healthcare professionals are successful at finding accurate pediatric -- when I say "accurate," I have a lot of passion behind" accurate ," because families might go and look for a pediatric audiologist, when they get to the clinic, they don't take their insurance, they're not open on Saturdays, they don't have accessibility, accommodations that the family needs, but EHDI-PALS is so incredibly -- there's a lot of depth to the information in it for the audiology facility. So we can reduce, you know, loss to follow-up, and we can minimize the time from hearing screening to diagnostics, just by empowering families, educating families to have information they need to get the services they need, and really it's -- and this is free. This is not, you know, costing anybody anything, and it's just a wonderful tool.

I always like to show the progress we have made and the facilities that are registered when we got EHDI-PALS and took over EHDI-PALS in 2019, we had approximately 1363 clinics enrolled, and I'm going to put my cursor on where I'm talk, but I don't know if... yeah, there it is. But out of those, like I said, the resources weren't there to make sure that the facilities were updated an maintained, and so there were only 352 facilities that had updated information. And that's key with EHDI-PALS. The information has to be updated on an annual basis by the audiology facility, because there is so much turnover. There were 352 facilities that were updated and 47 that were disabled.

So fast forward up to current -- and this is even an old slide I had in March, but somehow this slipped in there.

There are now a lot more facilities that are updated. We still have a lot of work to do, but we are making progress. And it's really hard to find, when there's turnover, it's really hard to find the new contact. So we try and work with EHDI coordinators who can help us in knowing, you know, they're the gate keepers for the facilities in their state. And so they should hopefully know who the new contact might be, but often they don't. And we just have to really search like little investigators.

So I always like to show this for anybody who in a state about the NOFO, but it really does -- using EHDI-PALS in your state does assist with meeting the 1-3-6 goals. And like I said, it helps to really empower families to understand and find local resources available for their audiological needs.

And the ability for them to establish partnerships with audiologists and facilities and to know what that audiology facility actually provides. So we think that every state should really use EHDI-PALS, instead of duplicating efforts by printing out, you know, or sending a list to families or for other providers in the state, this is a place that everybody can go to get consistent information.

We have updated it a lot. The facility survey, we've now made it shorter. It's 65 questions, and the facility -- I don't know if I'm presenting on -- I have to just take a second. No, I'm not.

So the facility survey that the audiologist has to fill out is 65 questions. Approximately.

And those questions, like, have a built-in -- there's a built-in algorithm. It's quite brilliant. And it actually identifies the audiologist who can provide quality services by asking multiple questions about the services they provide, how comprehensive they are. And the equipment they have.

So if they say, oh, we're just -- we're doing diagnostic ABRs, but they fill it out and say, oh, we're just doing bone conduction, we're not doing clicks -- I mean, we're not doing -- we're just doing clicks, we're not doing bone conduction tone bursts, we're only doing 226 probe tone. They're not using high frequency tympanometry. They're not going to show up in EHDI-PALS. They have to demonstrate they're using the standard of care according to the JCIH guidelines. And we've updated the survey when the JCIH came out to reflect the new guidelines.

We just rebuilt the professional resources for audiologists. This is an old presentation, I'm sorry... I don't know how that got here. But that was me.

And I'm going to hand that over to Karen in a moment.

We added outpatient screening facilities. So now if you are searching for outpatient hearing screening, you can identify -- families can identify where to go.

We now have a reminder letter template feature. There is a lot of robust tools in EHDI-PALS for coordinators. So I'm going to skip through that so we have enough time.

It now has Google search options, and Google search options are great to get to where you want to go quickly. And we have great resources for families. And I'm not going to be able to actually go through those you today. I don't have enough time. But if you go on EHDI-PALS and you click on "family resources," I think Vicki is here, and Vicki worked with me, and so did Bob Pfeifer in the back, one of the original pioneers of EHDI-PALS, great to have you guys here. But we worked really hard to create wonderful family resources. And families can go there and it has every type of question a family may ask about all different categories, whether it's hearing aids, family resources, whether it's screening... I don't know what is wrong with my child, any kind of question. And we actually had families review the questions and provide feedback. And it's just wonderful.

So that was a new thing that we added over the last couple of years.

We're going to be updating analytics. We're going to do a complete overhaul, so states can look and see what kind of traffic they have had, you know, how many parents have been searching. It should just really be, you know, helpful.

And we're going to add more languages. Right now we offer Spanish. So a family can log into EHDI-PALS an get all their information in Spanish, as long as it's on the website and not outside of the website.

And we're going to update the look and feel of the parent facility pages.

So now I'm going to hand it to Karen, who is going to talk about a new resource in EHDI-PALS for audiologists. And it's our new professional resources.

>> KAREN: Some of you might remember over the last 19 years the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management had been having audiology, pediatric audiology workshops, it was a need we knew 20-some-odd years ago, and we started doing this, some states, workshops and others, not every state, traditionally whoever invited us in. We had some amazing speakers, amazing resources. We would provide an online training class, web-based, and then we would have an on-site, and on site we would have great speakers come in and present and we also had equipment, and training with equipment, hands-on training. And it went extremely well. And we continued to do that up to COVID, and we haven't done another one since.

So where do you put all this great material? Well, we thought, what an amazing landing spot on the EHDI-PALS website for resources. Pediatric audiology. Now, some of the resources have been dated, so we went in and updated those resources, but we also have some really great videos. Some of them are dated, but they're all relevant, because some aspects, face it, of ABR testing hasn't changed.

These are some of the speakers. James Hall did many, many, many workshops with us. Shane Moodie did many. He did hearing aids in Verifit and that kind of thing. Diane Sabo, Christine Yoshinaga-Itano. Lisa Hunter, very well-known pediatric audiologists, and we were fortunate to have them do these presentations. And later we were able to do more videotaping as technology improved over time.

These are a few more. Some of the original people who worked on it was Dr. Judy Gravel. Unfortunately we lost her. Dr. Richard Seewald. Roger Ruth we also lost. We weren't able to film him, but he was a strong proponent of all the workshops we did over the years. The Raushs, Sheila Moody, Ryan McCreery. Some of the videos are a little more rough, but they were too good not to post. So we posted those, and we also posted the most recent ones we did in Cincinnati in 2017. So some really, really good presentations. We also have some webinars and videotapes that were done by some NCHAM staff, like Dr. Karen Munoz.

Over the years -- and I would be wrong not to mention this. All those workshops were supported by these manufacturing companies. Now, I know people bought each other out. A lot has happened in the last two years, but I would be remess not to show that we've had some amayesing support financially. They would come on their own dime to do this training and hands-on training and they also financed a lot of these videos. So I want to give them credit where credit is due. So we hope you will see -- can I go to the website?

So we hope that you will find the information. By the way, we plan to continually enhance this. I've even had offers of people letting me use some of their videos that are more current. So the goal is to provide pediatric audiologists the most current information.

>> As she is pivoting, our guidelines -- sorry, Karen -- our guidance tells us what we have to do as audiologists. You have to do this and you have to do this in order to be in compliance and in order to be following best practice guidelines. But a lot of audiologists don't know how to do it. Well, how am I supposed to know how to do this? Some have never done infant diagnostics or have done very few. So this is more of -- this is like not what to do but how to do it.

And that can be really, really helpful in empowering audiologists and giving them knowledge that they can get through some hands-on materials.

>> KAREN: And we want you to know it's not an exhaustive review of all the literature. I don't want anybody to assume that. It was a lot of material we used in our audiology workshops.

I'm just a little bit taller than Randi. We want you to know that we would love to get input from you, resource that is you find that are available and well vetted.

The point is we can't turn people into pediatric audiologists, but we want to turn as many audiologistst that direction as possible. We just heard a discussion from Maine, and 72 -- come to Texas. We have 400 hospitals, and we have, oh, gosh... how many babies refer?

A lot. A lot.

And we have a tremendous shortage. It's about 2,000 people to one audiologist in Texas. So we need more pediatric audiologists. So that is sort of the goal here.

EHDI for audiologists, I'm just going to kind of grab on something -- let me go to risk factors. That's a good one.

All right, sure will.

Let me go to expand all.

These are some of the topics that we're going to be presenting, and the nice thing is you can hit "expand all," and you can see everything under every topic. There's not a video in every topic and there's not clinical guidelines, but when there was clinical practice guidelines, we provided it. We provided relevant articles. So you kind of know where to go. And the goal is you get there, all of these are open sourced, so we didn't do any copyright work here, but if there is a website that is a copy right, it will get you there and you can decide if you want to pay the $25 or something to download the PDF. But they were such good sites, we had to do that.

These are where the videos are. I'm not going to open them up because there's been problems with video playing. Do you want me to open them up?

>> RANDI: You can. They're working now

>> KAREN: I'll try one. Yeah, we... this is a really good one here. This is the 2017. And all you do is just click on it. You just have to have Internet. The world is so much faster now.

>> It's really a pleasure to introduce Dr. Kelly Barrett, who is a close colleague here at Cincinnati childrens and has been the coordinator of the Infant Hearing Program since --

>> KAREN: So she presents an entire protocol how to work with pediatric audiologist. And she comes with a very distinct perspective that you don't see with all audiologists. And this is enabling us to do something that had like 50 audiologists at conference, to share with more audiologists across the nation. And to improve standards and encourage better work.

Then we also have many articles, and physician statements and that type of thing. I'm afraid to go back and mess this up. Let me go back here.

Let me link out of this one.

So what we're hoping you will see is that on this resource page is that you can -- there's many, many different kind of links that you can go to -- it looks like it disappeared on me.

Where do you go you may ask? I'm going to tell you. It's EHDI PALS.org.

I would encourage you to go. It's live now. We're excited about it, but there will be enhancements as we go along and we're hoping this will improve. We heard she's making her own database. Own database. But if a mama who is moving to main is looking for an audiologist, she's not going to know about that database. But hopefully we can promote this so she knows where to go to find a pediatric audiologist and a zip code where she is moving. And that's the goal here.

>> RANDI: I would love to reopen this, and maybe we shouldn't, but I would love to show you a couple more things if I can.

So these wonderful resources, we're hoping this becomes a collaborative effort and that they continually -- we couldn'tually get more resources -- continually get more resources from experts or we would like to add to the current information we have. We just start getting started in this collection, and just, you know, really want to add different topics. I already have a couple I want to do, like tele-audiology will be another one. Add then some other ideas that I have. But this is just a start. And so I'm going to be, you know, reaching out to different state programs, to reach out to audiologists, and to ask for a review as well as sharing other information and resources that they may have.

So we're really excited about this. And I think Karen covered it. What I want to also show you are the family resources that I didn't really get to show earlier. Because I'm excited about these as well. I'm having technical issues when I'm scrolling, it's just... oh, there we go.

So here are all the topics for the family resources. So family is enrolling or they're trying to find an audiologist, I should say, and they, you know, now have questions about what they need to be looking for even. They can come here and they can actually look and get, you know, a lot of information. And this also had an expand all feature, but, you know, I'm concerned, my child hasn't started talking, should I be worried? And who can perform these tests? And just a lot of different things that they, you know, may not understand or know.

If we're talking about diagnostic hearing tests, things as specific as, you know, when should I make -- schedule my appointment? And what should I bring with me? And, you know, just on and on. And I think these things -- this accumulation of questions can really help a parent just even get started on their path of trying to get their child to the next step.

So we also have lots on early intervention and we have lots on family support.

So take a look when you have a chance just by going to EHDIpals.org.

>> KAREN: It's important to know we're not trying to reinvent the will. There's wonderful websites out there, baby hearing.org. Not all pediatric audiologists don't know about babyhearing.org. A lot don't know about infanthearing.org. That's because we're in a niche here. We need audiologists to learn that there are resources available for them to provide good work.

We're out of time. Is that it?

Thank you so much.

Just one quick thing. There are linking badges on the website. So if you would like to put one of them on your website, there is all of the coding there available for you. So all you have to do is copy it and you know, paste it. You don't have to figure it out yourself. But there are numerous sizes and different -- little different wording, but basically it's a great way to link to EHDI-PALS. And then the other thing we have now are new promotional resources, which are stickers that if you are testing in a clinic or if you are in a hospital, you can put these stickers on your equipment and you Connect a family right there to EHDI-PALS. We have now these wonderful QR codes.

And if anybody would like a postcard to take back with them with the QR code, we have some here as well.

So, thank you so much. And if anybody... yeah, you can come up and...

We have about five minutes. So if anybody has any comments or questions.

Yes?

>> AUDIENCE MEMBER: I am have Texas and I work with families post-identification, but we have three folks who work with families pre-identification to get them to the next step, and they are regularly referring families to the website all of the time, and we are just really grateful. And so if you have families, it definitely is worth sending them there.

>> We somewhere a couple minutes left. Otherwise I'm sure they would be happy to take questions after this session.

We encourage anybody to pass the word on and to encourage audiologists that you might work with in your community and to use this resource. If you are an early intervention, you are a service coordinator, you have a timeline that services have to be met. How can you reduce that time and make sure that family gets to an audiologist? I mean, there's just -- it's on and on, the advantages and benefits.

So we hope you use it.

Thank you!