

# Community Collaborations: COACHing to Better Outcomes

EHDI 2023

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# Meet the Team



## Revision Committee Members:

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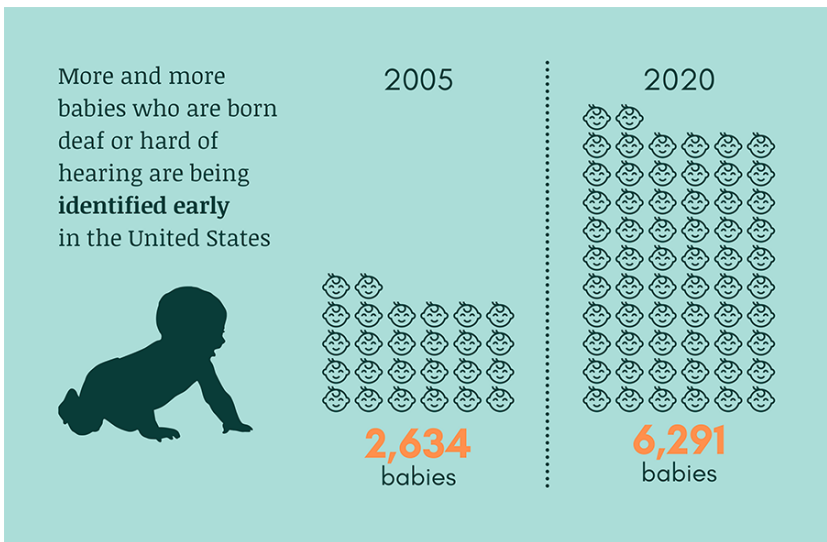
Angie Zemba, Au.D.



# Learning Outcomes

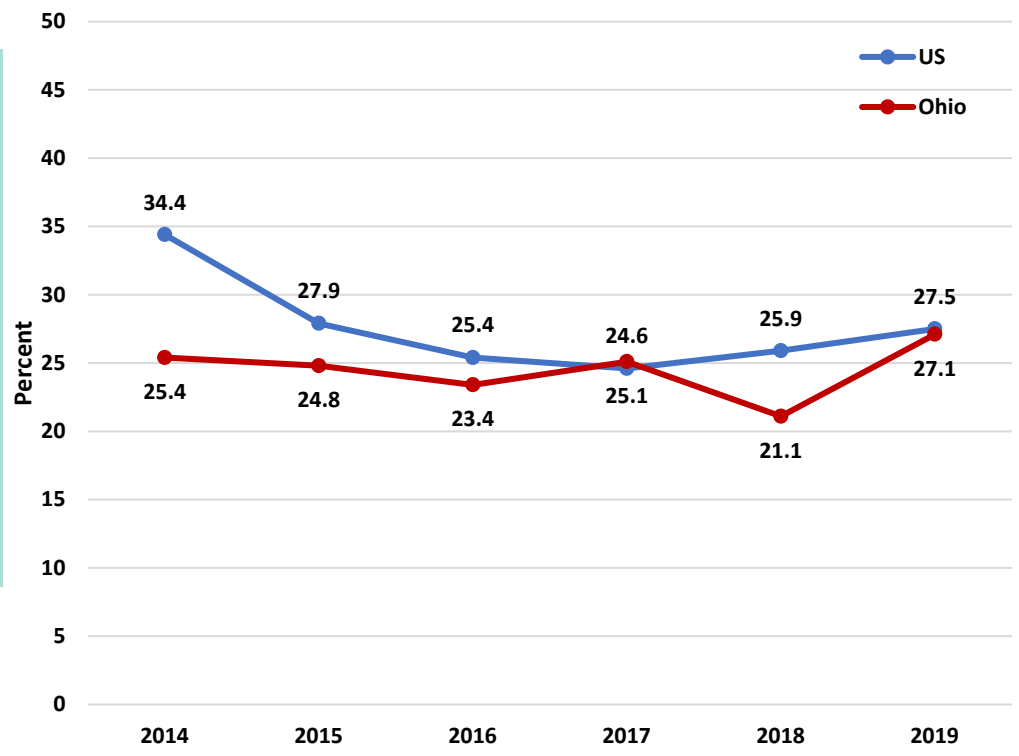
1. Describe the implementation and ongoing monitoring and revision of a statewide, evidenced-based infant diagnostic evaluation protocol.
2. Summarize key resources diagnostic audiologists need to facilitate diagnosis and management of pediatric hearing loss.
3. Describe how participatory partnerships with your state EHDI program can empower practitioners to improve the EHDI process for children who are D/HH.

# Loss to Diagnosis is part of LTF



<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/ehdi-data.html>

Overall LTFU/LTD For Diagnosis

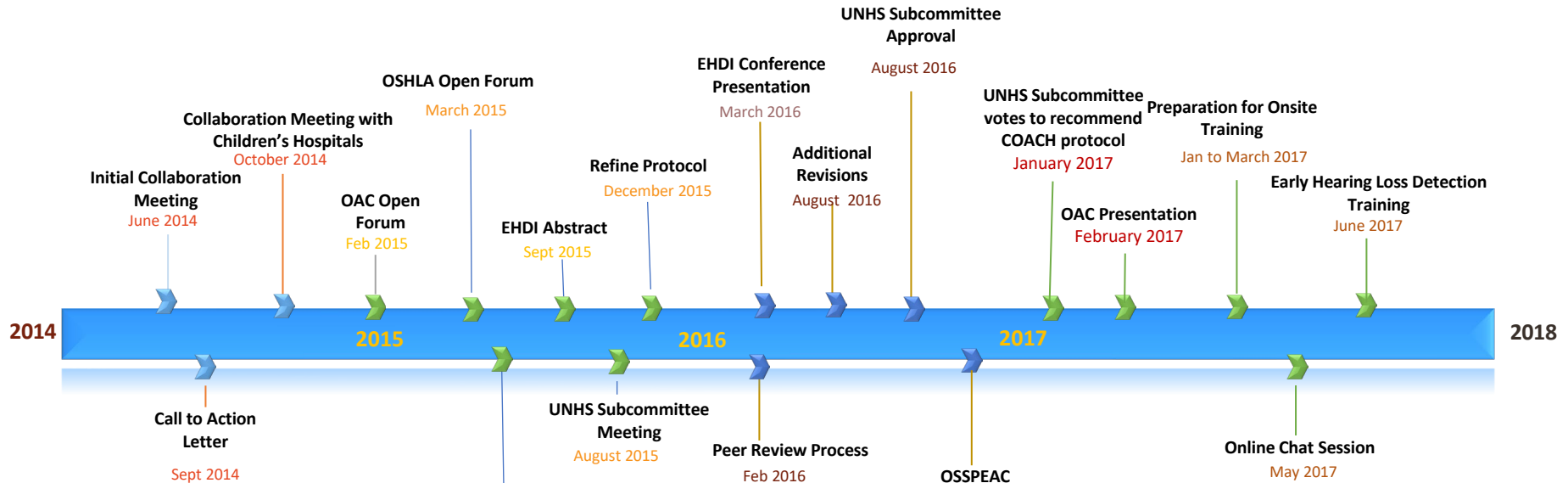


# Reasons for No Diagnosis

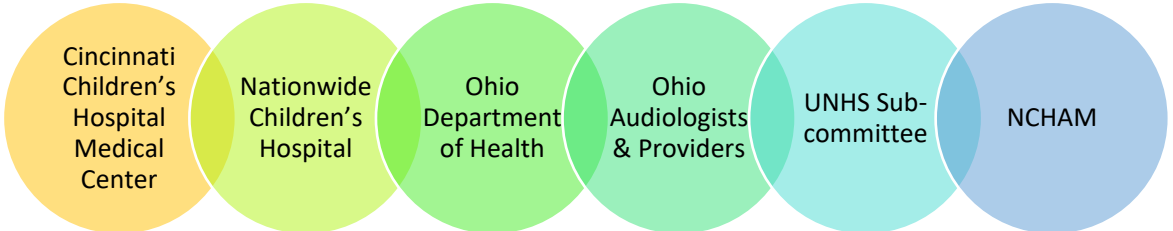
- Not referred for diagnostic testing
- Infant not sleeping for appt
- Middle ear disease causes delay
- Referral to ENT/PCP without return to audiology
- Complex medical status
- Insufficient or inefficient audiologic protocol



# IMPLEMENTATION – COACH protocol

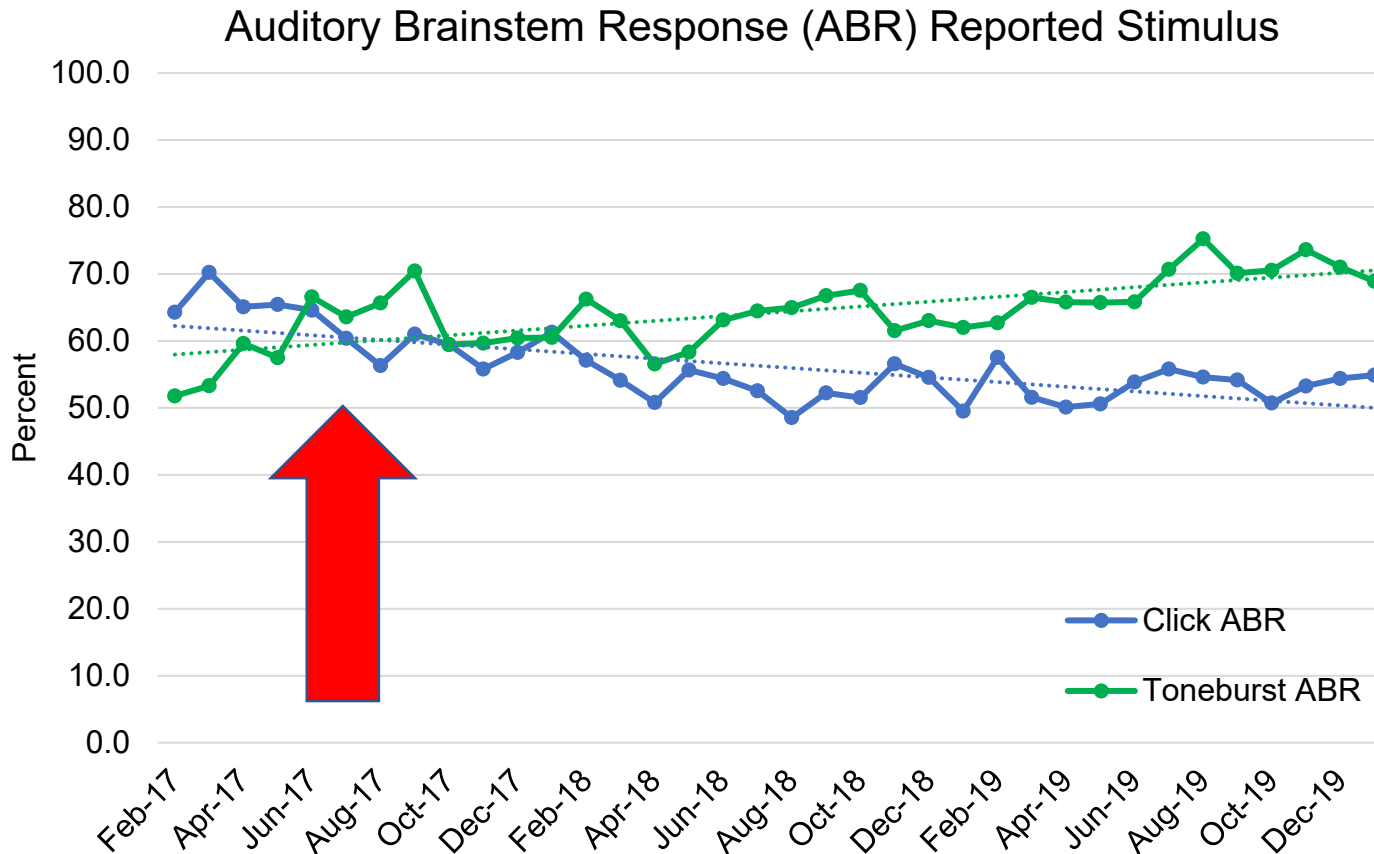


-OAC- Ohio Academy of Audiology Conference  
 -OSHLA- Ohio Speech, Hearing and Language Association  
 -OSSPEAC- Ohio School Speech Pathology and Educational Audiology Coalition



# IMPACT

## at Diagnostic Sites across Ohio

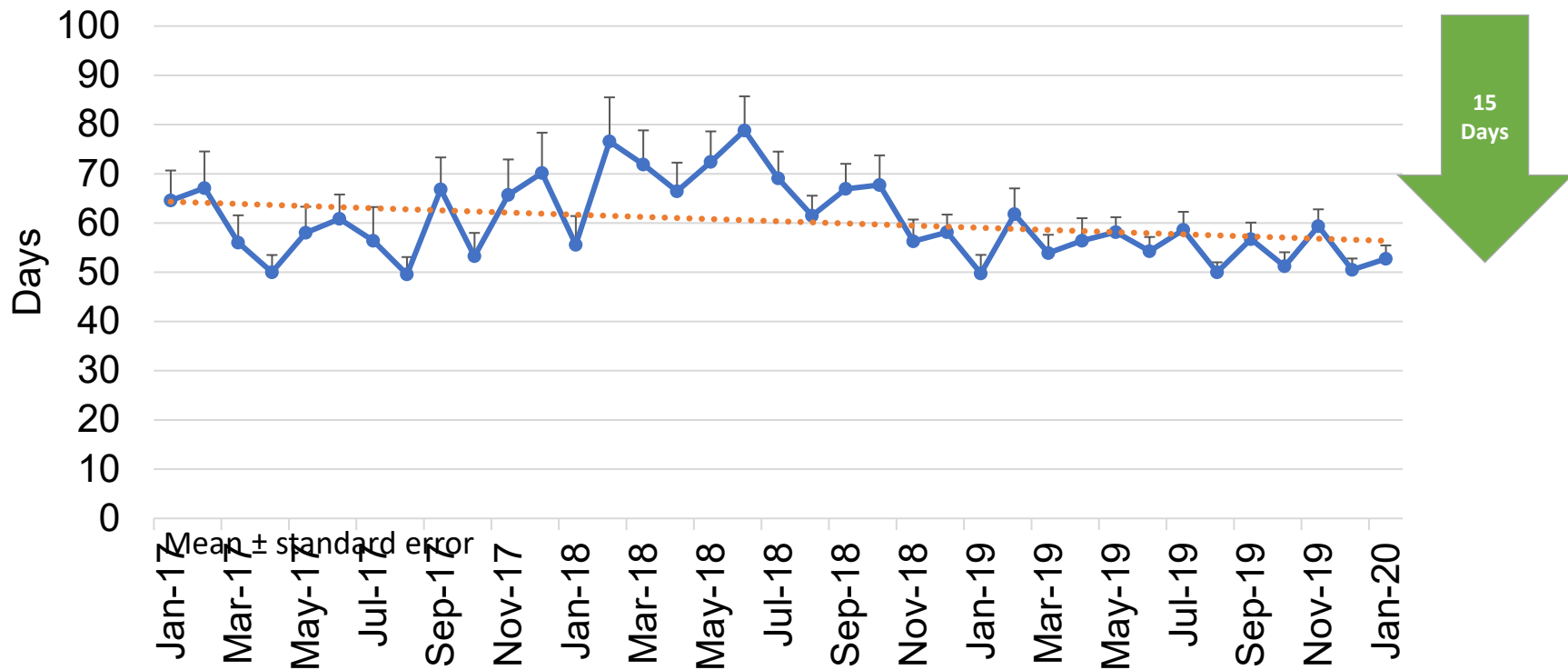


Data provided by ODH

# IMPACT

## at Diagnostic Sites across Ohio

Mean Age at Diagnosis



Data provided by ODH



# COACH Projects



2014-2018

COACH Protocol



2020

COVID Guidelines



American Academy  
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®

EHDI Promising Practice



2021

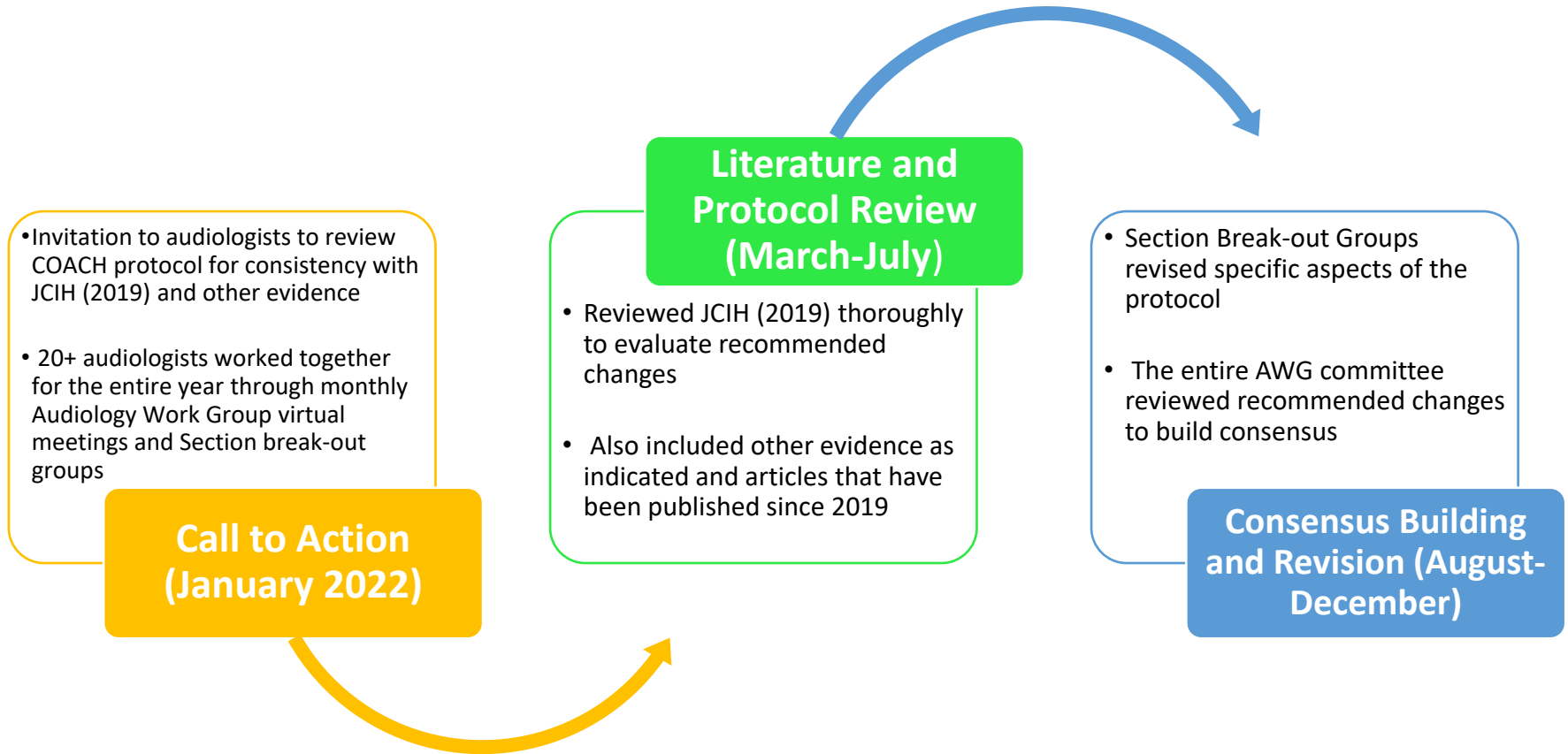
Pediatric Behavioral  
Guidelines



2022

COACH Protocol Revision

# Collaborative Process



# Final Product

## Recommended Protocol for Diagnostic Audiological Assessment Follow-up to Newborn Hearing Screening in Ohio (Rev. 2022)

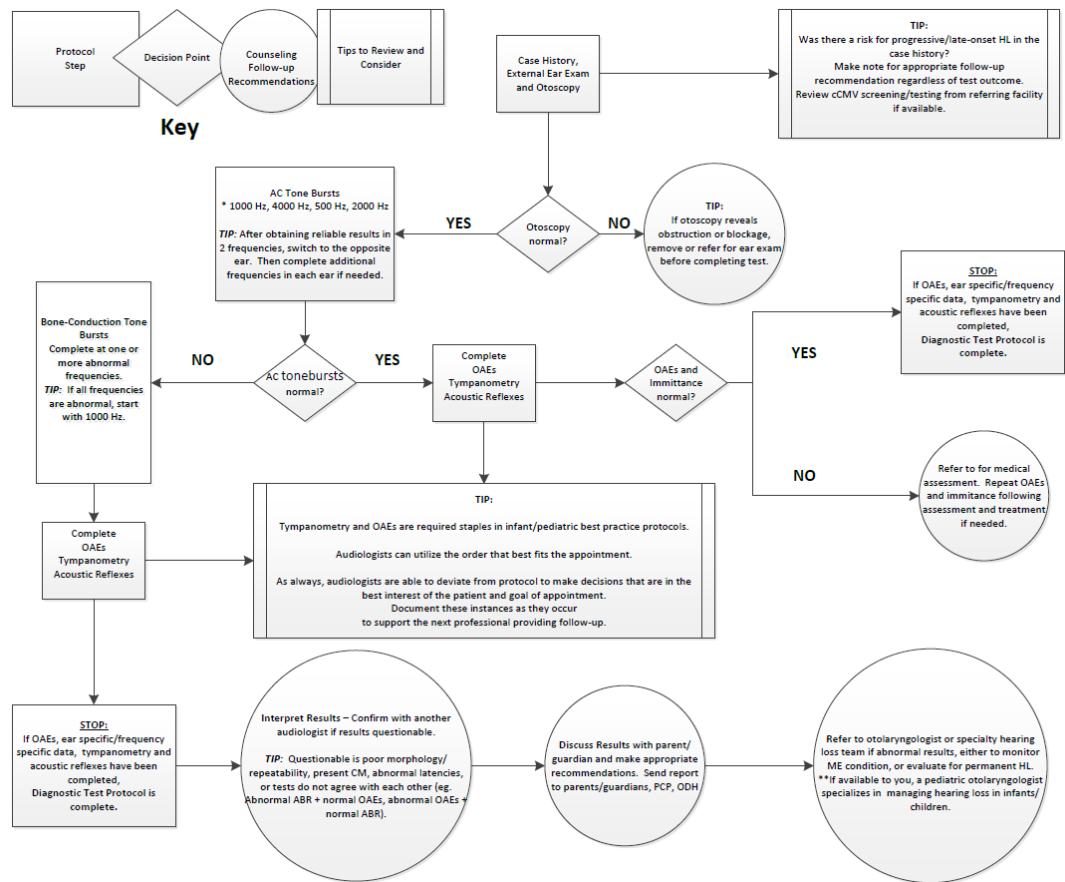
The Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program at the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Coalition of Ohio Audiologists and Children's Hospitals (COACH) formed a taskforce in 2015 to establish standardized diagnostic evaluation measures for infants who did not pass their newborn hearing screening. The outcome was a diagnostic protocol focusing on the first 3 months after birth, in which the diagnostic process should be completed. The protocol was designed to assist audiologists to comply with best practice for optimal universal hearing loss detection and intervention (EHDI) goals. The original protocol was endorsed by the ODH Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Subcommittee in August 2016. Subsequently, the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing (JCIH) released the Year 2019 Position Statement: Principles and Guidelines for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Programs. In January 2022 a Call to Action was issued to audiologists across Ohio to participate in the revision process of the diagnostic protocol to reflect JCIH (2019) recommendations. What follows is the revised diagnostic protocol.

- 38 pages including tables, appendixes with resources, and citations

# Substantive Changes

- Removal of “Limited Diagnostic” option for testing
  - Did not require frequency-specific testing and therefore not consistent with JCIH (2019)
  - Contributed to unconfirmed diagnosis
- Risk Factor follow-up guidelines updated from 24-30 months to 9 months per JCIH (2019) Table 1
- Increased information and resources about counseling families and connecting families to services.

# Flowchart



# Key Resource Needs



## Training/Mentorship

- Webinar to review updated recommended protocol
- Novice providers in underserved areas mentored by experienced providers



## Updated equipment

- Some facilities reported limited or no access to diagnostic ABR equipment able to complete frequency-specific testing



## Administrative support

- Some facilities reported limited administrator support for training, equipment, scheduling time, etc.

# Participatory Partnerships

- Collaboration of partners from any area of expertise, provided that the expertise is seen as useful to the community. Being fully committed to a partnership of equals and producing outcomes usable to the community.



# Participatory Partnerships

- EHDI + Community Provider Expertise =
  - Statewide protocols
  - Training programs for all Ohio Audiologists
  - Strengthens PDSA cycles





# Sustaining 9 years of Progress...

- Welcome all collaborators and set expectations for participation
  - Understand when collaborators must decrease or increase their participation at different times
- Choose projects that are meaningful to the group and have measurable outcomes that you can monitor and share
- Keep evolving with your program's needs!

# Future Directions

- Continued support for the COACH Protocol
  - Request pending for Infant Hearing Screening Subcommittee (IHSS) to endorse updated protocol
  - Provide training and mentorship to increase access to evidence-based diagnostic assessment across Ohio
- Create Regional Networks to connect our EHDI Program
  - Establish “Champions” in NW, NE, Central, SW, and SE Ohio regions
  - Link each step of EHDI to increase completion of diagnosis and EI enrollment



# Resources

Ohio Department of Health Infant Hearing Program Website -  
> Diagnostic Audiologist

<https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/infant-hearing-program>

Proposed Revised COACH Infant Diagnostic Protocol:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pjQ0V-M8ABYkXijYk50ZRIMAz78w4Fop/view?usp=share link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pjQ0V-M8ABYkXijYk50ZRIMAz78w4Fop/view?usp=share_link)

Pediatric Behavioral Protocol:

<https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/infant-hearing-program/find-a-pediatric-audiologist/pediatric-behavioral-diagnostic-recommendations>

# Thank you!

For a copy of the Ohio COACH protocol or Ohio Pediatric Behavioral Guidelines emailed to your inbox, or any additional questions:

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