

Expanding Access to Pediatric Diagnostic Audiology

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Meeting, 2024

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Universal Newborn Hearing Screening



Genesis of Project



CARES Act funding, Maternal and Child Health
Telehealth Capacity in Public Health Systems
Direct Awards



Received \$50K, equipment purchases allowed



Demonstration project

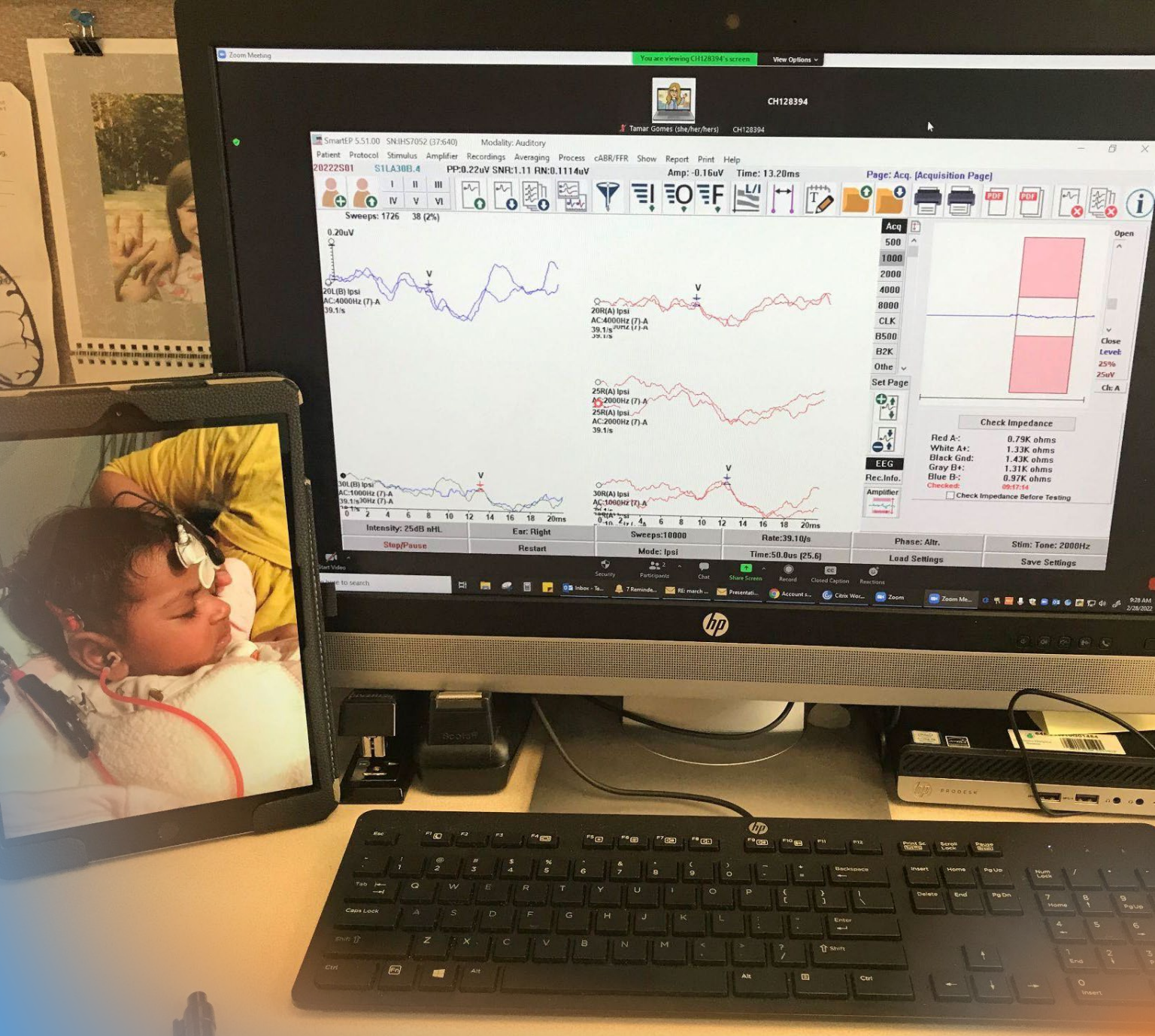


Collaboration between MA DPH, Boston
Children's Hospital and Cape Cod Hospital

Timeline

- Project funding period October 2020-April 2021, no cost extension until June 2021
- Project put on hold to work out legal, administrative and billing issues
- Restarted February 2022





How it works

- Babies in the area that refer on their hearing screen are offered an appointment for diagnostic testing performed remotely at Cape Cod Hospital
- Appointments are twice a month on Fridays
- Family goes to CCH, nurses from CCH have been trained to assist with diagnostic testing
- Audiologist at Boston Children's remotely controls the testing
- If additional testing is needed, family is referred to a Boston Children's site
- Results are reported to EHDI program
- EHDI program owns equipment and pays for annual calibration

How do we measure impact?

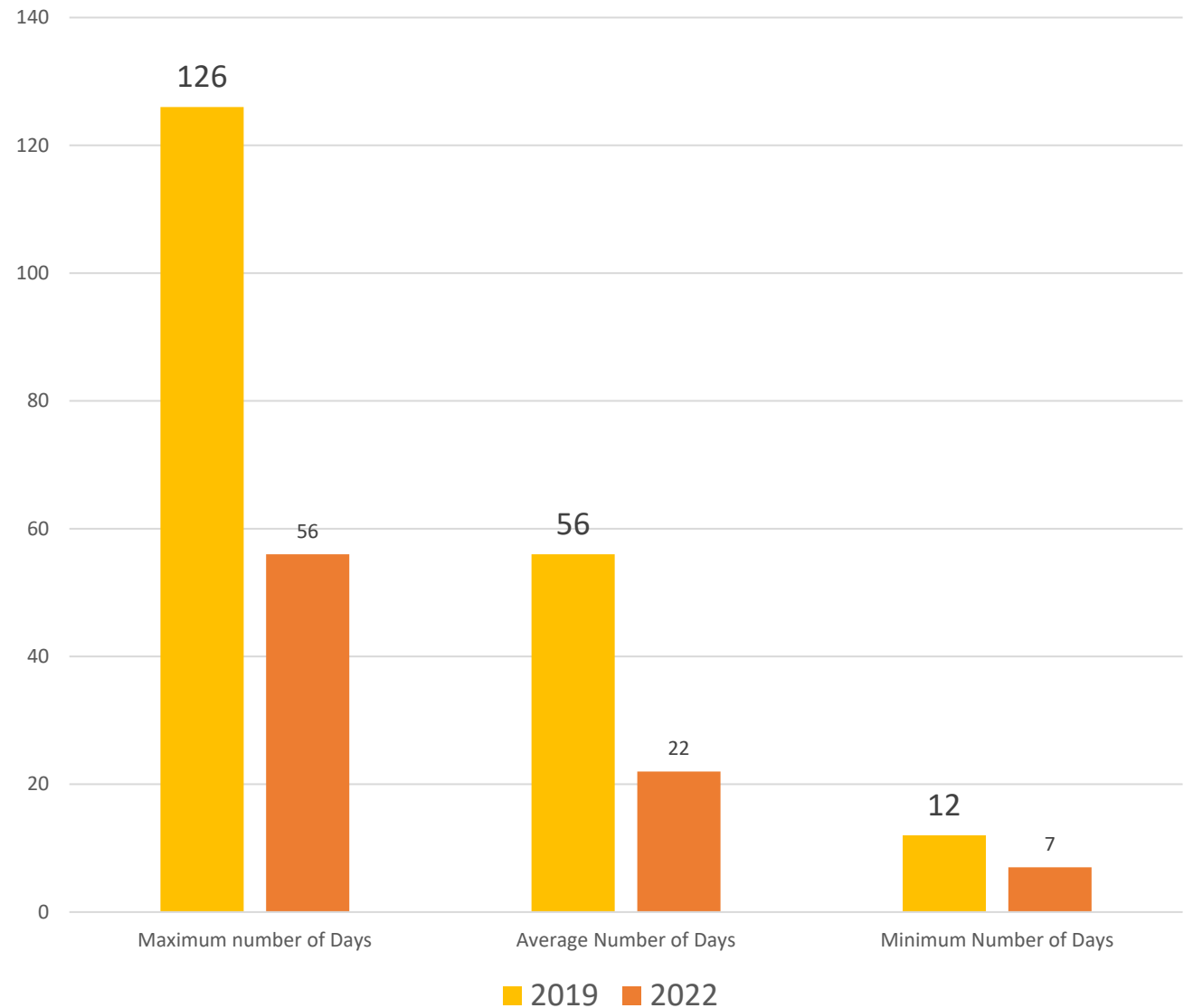
- Referred babies choosing remote site for diagnostic testing
- Characteristics of those families
- Lost to follow up rate
- Time to first appointment
- Time to diagnosis
- Time to early intervention



Data snapshot

- Looked at babies born in 2022 (last data set closed) and compared to 2019 (2020 excluded, program partially in place in 2021)

Time Between Screening and first Diagnostic Appointment
(Babies that did not pass screen at Cape Cod Hospital and evaluated at Remote ABR site)





What do families think?

- Phone survey of mothers of babies born in 2022, 27 were seen at the remote ABR site
- 11 mothers answered the phone, 10 of those remembered the hearing testing
- 9 spoke English, 1 Haitian Creole and an interpreter was used
- 10 did not pick up call, name not in voice mail
- 5 were no longer valid phone numbers
- 1 message was left, never connected



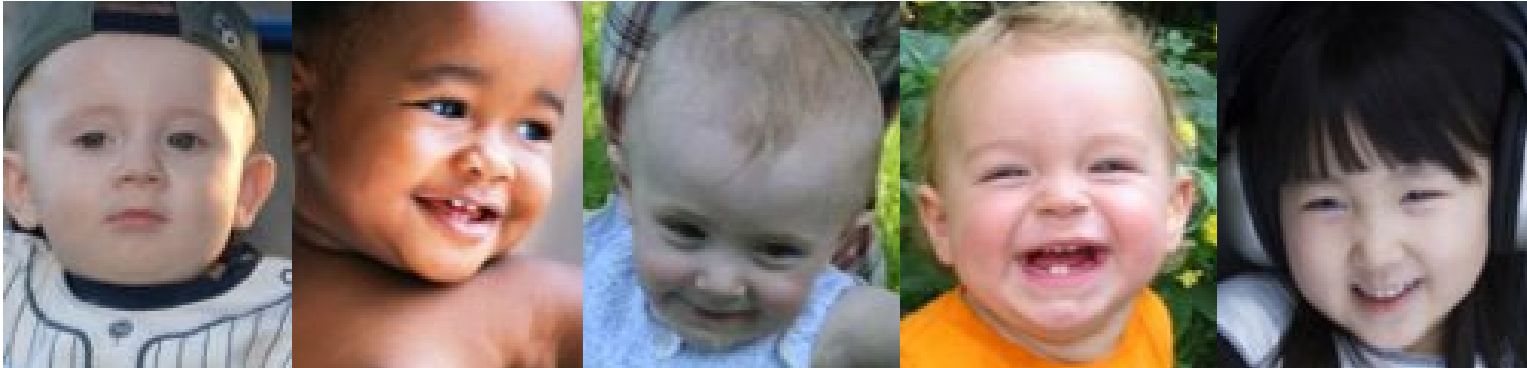
What do families think?

- 9 of 10 reported they were very satisfied with scheduling (1 did not remember the scheduling process)
- 9 of 10 reported they were very satisfied with appointment availability
- 8 of 10 reported they were very satisfied with the travel time to the appointment
- 10 out of 10 reported that they were very satisfied with the overall experience
- 10 out of 10 would recommend remote ABR testing to other families

Conclusions and Future Activities

- Limitations of small numbers
- Improvement to the EHDI goal of diagnosis by three months of age
- No families identified with a child with reduced hearing through the program in 2022
- Continue to monitor timeliness





Thank you!

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