



## **Updates from Vermont...Creating Partnerships to Increase Hearing Screening for 1-, 2- and 3-Year Old's (and beyond): One Rural States Experience**

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# Financial Disclosures

We have no disclosures financial or non-financial.



# Learning Objectives

- The participant will be able to identify 3 partnerships for screening 1-, 2-, 3-year-olds and older.
- The participant will be able to list 2 benefits of partnerships to achieve screening 1-, 2-, 3-year-olds and older.
- The participant will be able to list 1 or more resources for training partners in providing early childhood hearing screenings.

# Long Standing Partnerships

VTEHDI has a long history of community partnerships in newborn and early childhood hearing screenings.

- Birthing Facilities
- Midwives
- Audiologists
- Pediatric Primary Care Providers
- Early Head Start/Head Start Program
- Part C Programs
- Educational Service Practice (ESP)



# Partnerships continued...

VTEHDI collaborates in various ways with these partners:

- Trainings/education
- Initial equipment/calibrations/supplies
- On-going clinical and technical support
- Clinical (direct services)

To meet existing and new screening goals set by HRSA and support our community partners, VTEHDI set out to create a new opportunity to support these partners as well as the families and children they work with direct clinical services.

# Hearing Clinic Pilot- Overview



Goal: reduce the # of children in Early Head Start/Head Start (EHS/HS) needing follow-up audiology or medical appointments

- Clinic was on-site at their programs
- EHS/HS provided initial and/or follow up OAE screenings, obtained permission from families and assisted day of clinic
- Otoscopy, tympanometry, diagnostic OAEs, screening OAEs, and pure tone screenings
- Results and recommendations in letter template
- Contractual agreement with EHS



# Pilot Updates/Outcome

To date the EHS/HS clinics have been seen as successful!



- Initial 2 clinics reduced need for audiology and/or medical follow-up by 50%
- Both programs contracted for us to return this school year
- Programs also contracted us for in person staff trainings
- Less children to be seen this school year- trainings, on-site with audiologist to observe/ask questions
- Smoother flow/less clinic time this year
- Awarded a grant for equipment and supplies
- Proposed clinic idea to Part C programs

# Additional Opportunity-Schools

- VTEHDI audiologists' support/partner with our state school nurse liaison at the department of health as content experts for hearing screenings(protocols, equipment, resources, etc.)
- VTEHDI and ESP audiologists have been contacted by school nurses for guidance on hearing screenings and support in getting their student population screened
- Through ESP we offered contractual audiology services to schools including training and screenings (direct service)



# School Pilots

2 schools contracted for hearing screening services with a total of 5 days on-site

- Initially contracted for pre-K, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Ended up screening most/all of student population
- 1-2 audiologists on site each day
  - Pure tone and OAE screenings
- 100s of students screened and many rescreened
- Both schools want to contract with us again next fall



# Take aways...

- Build on existing partnerships to understand what partners need and where gaps exist. You never know what might come together
- Think outside the box- pilot an idea, offer a service, brainstorm together, evaluate and adjust if needed
- Use your resources already available (i.e. program developed materials/trainings, national Learn to Screen)
- The most valuable resource might be **YOU** and your team!!!



# Benefits of Partnerships

- Increase the # of children screened, receiving follow up
- Decrease the # of children who referred on screenings needing an audiology appointment (large percentage never follow up according to our partners)
- Increase training opportunities which provides consistency in training/messaging/protocols, etc.
- Build on existing partnerships and find new partners
- Bring in funding for on-going work and program sustainability

# Thank You and Questions...

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