



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands



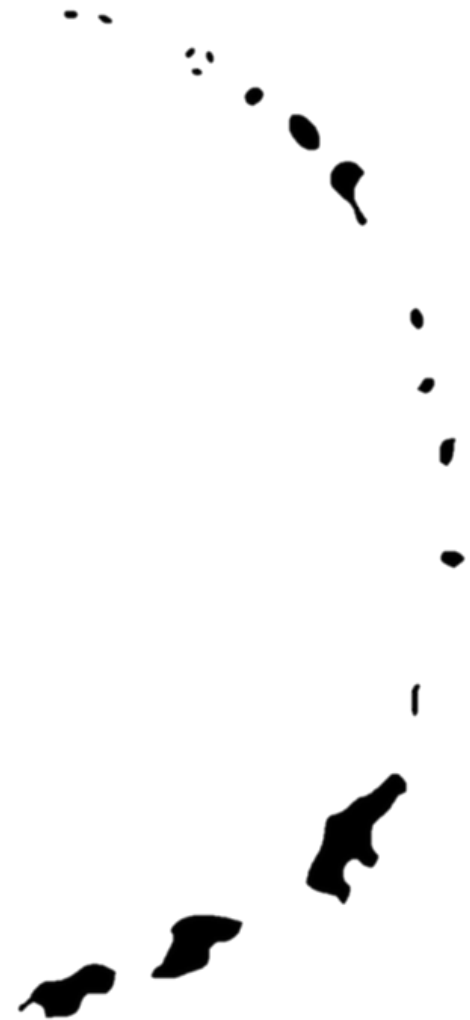
Providing quality comprehensive health services and promoting healthy environments for a resilient community.



Coordinated Systems for Children with Special Healthcare Needs in the CNMI

SAIPAN, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARCH 14 -18, 2026 | SHIELLA MARIE DERAY, CNMI EHDI PROGRAM



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation: Saipan, Tinian and Rota

OBJECTIVES

01

Enhance Early Identification and Referral Systems

02

Strengthen Interagency Collaboration

03

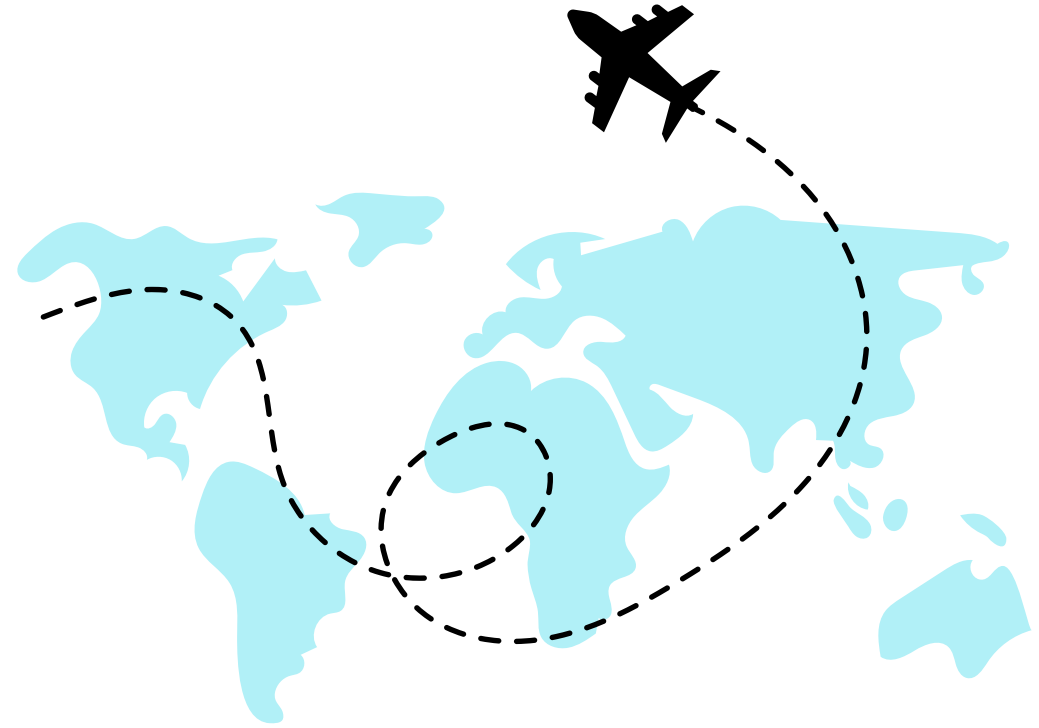
Improve Access to Comprehensive and
Continuous Care

04

Empower Families and Support Caregivers



East Asia and Oceania



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation: Saipan, Tinian and Rota

802002 (A04113) 2-92

SAIPAN

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
(CHCC)



TINIAN

Lucia "Chiang" Villagomez Arizapa Health Center

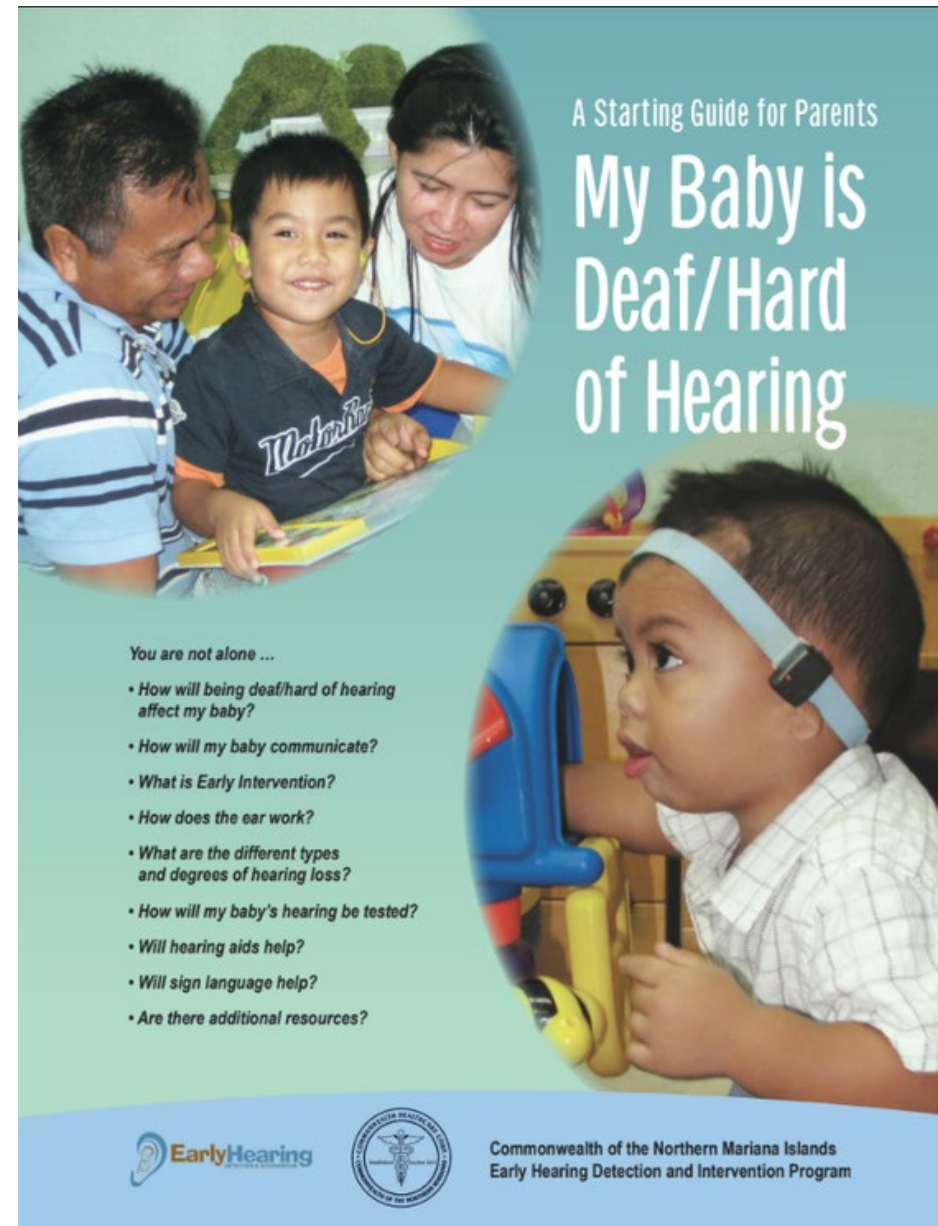


ROTA

Rota Health Center (RHC)



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation: Saipan, Tinian and Rota



CYSHCN GOAL:



TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTHCARE NEEDS (CYSHCN) BY PROVIDING FAMILIES WITH COMPREHENSIVE AND WELL-COORDINATED SYSTEMS OF CARE.



WHAT IS A SYSTEM?

A set of interconnected components:



with a definable boundary



that interact



and produce a set of outcomes



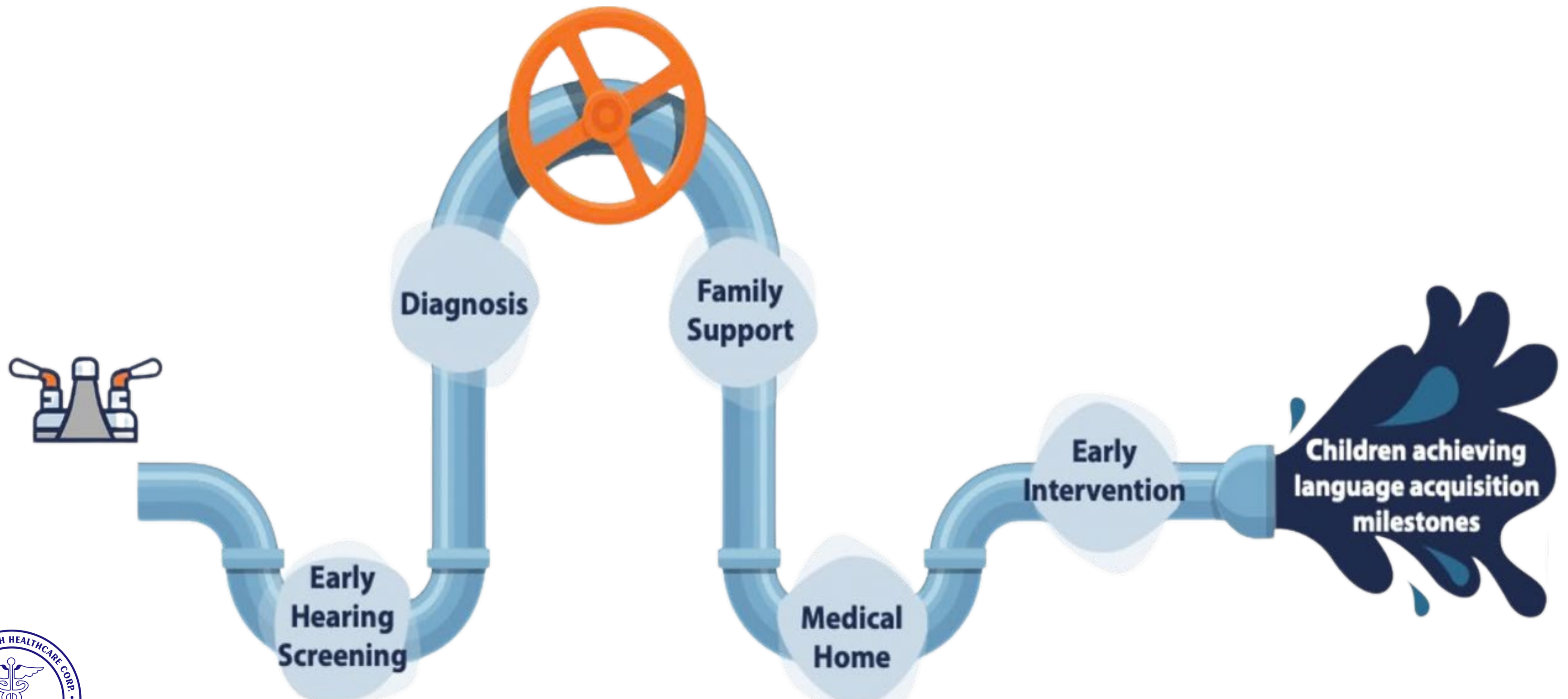
by accepting inputs, collectively, and producing outputs



through a transformation process



COORDINATED SYSTEMS OF CARE



WHAT IS THE EHDI SYSTEM?

- THE EARLY HEARING DETECTION & INTERVENTION (EHDI) PROGRAM WAS IMPLEMENTED AS A STANDARD OF CARE IN THE CNMI IN 2002.
- BEFORE 1993, HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS SCREENED FEWER THAN 10% OF NEWBORNS IN THE U.S. FOR HEARING LOSS; TODAY, THAT FIGURE HAS RISEN TO MORE THAN 98% OF ALL NEWBORNS.
- 1-3-6 BENCHMARKS
 - BY MONTH 1: SCREEN ALL NEWBORNS FOR HEARING LOSS
 - BY MONTH 3: DIAGNOSE FOR HEARING LOSS
 - BY MONTH 6: ENROLL INTO EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM
- BY MONTH 9: REFER AND CONNECT FAMILIES WITH FAMILY TO FAMILY SUPPORT



BY MONTH 1: SCREEN ALL NEWBORNS FOR HEARING LOSS



Newborn hearing screening				
Left ear result	Right ear result	Date		Screener Initials
Pass	Refer	Pass	Refer	
Pass	Refer	Pass	Refer	

Newborn bloodspot screening		
Test result	Date	Provider Initials
Normal		

Lead & anemia screening			
Age	Result	Date	Provider Initials
12 months			
24 months			

Oral health visit		
Visit	Date	Clinic
1st Dental Exam (1st tooth or 12 months)		
Fluoride Varnish Application (start with 1st tooth and repeat every 3 months)		

Tuberculin skin test (as needed)		
Placement Date	Reading Date	Result

This project was supported by Grant awards 6 H61MC30523-10-01 from the Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC). The contents above are solely the responsibility of CHCC and do not necessarily represent the official view of DHH HRSA.

CNMI Child Wellness Card

Name of Child _____

Hospital Number _____

Date of Birth _____

(670) 234-8950/8951 | www.chcc.health

Your baby's hearing health depends on you.

- ✓ **Babies learn to talk from what they hear.** Doing the 2nd test early helps your child and their health team take steps to improve your child's speech, language, social and emotional development.
- ✓ **Get a 2nd hearing test right away. It's free!**
- ✓ **Results are available on the same day.**

@cnmiccc | www.chcc.health

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Your baby needs a 2nd hearing test

Appointment date: _____

Time: _____

Location: _____

Your next appointment

If you can not make your appointment, please call (670) 236-8709 to reschedule

The 2nd hearing test is quick and easier to do when baby is asleep. Comfort your baby at their appointment by feeding them or giving a pacifier.

Your baby's hearing health depends on you. Get a 2nd hearing test right away. It's free!

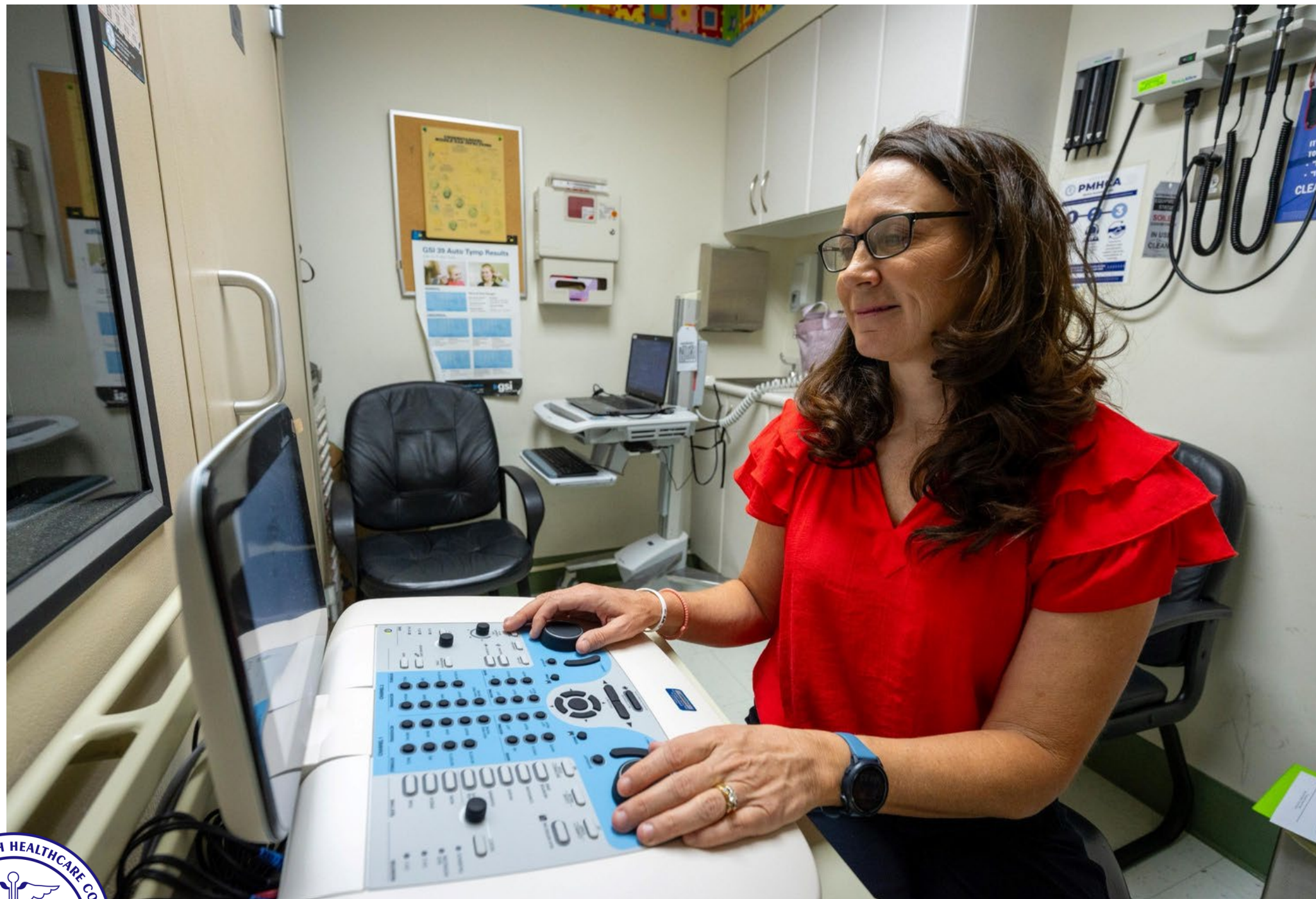
Conduct newborn inpatient hearing screening at > 18 hours after birth

When a baby "refers," they are automatically scheduled for a follow-up outpatient appointment.

Outpatient hearing screening is scheduled weekly, however there is an EHDI staff on call to assist daily as needed.



BY MONTH 3: DIAGNOSE FOR ANY DEGREE HEARING OF LOSS

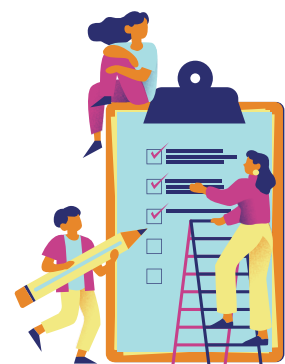


When a baby does not pass the outpatient hearing screening, the baby is referred for Diagnostic Audiologic Evaluation (DAE)

DAE – a comprehensive assessment of an individual's hearing and auditory system. This is performed by an Audiologist

Results from the Audiologist entered into Carevue and the EHDI Program Informational System (EHDI-IS)





BY MONTH 6: ENROLLED INTO EARLY INTERVENTION



Forward referrals to Early Intervention Program

Each family is assigned a Community Health Worker (CHW) to help families navigate the healthcare system

Serve families until the child is 3 years old and all services at no cost to the families



BY MONTH 9: REFER AND CONNECT NEWLY IDENTIFIED FAMILIES WITH FAMILY SUPPORT

Forward referrals to CNMI Family-to-Family Health Information Center (F2F HIC)

The Family Support Specialist aid CYSHCN families to connect with peer-to-peer supports, enrollment to other programs, guides families all available resources

Serve families until the child is 18 years old and all services are at no cost to the families



HOW DID WE GET HERE?

FEDERAL GUIDELINES/REQUIREMENTS

- 1-3-6 BENCHMARKS
- CONTINUOUS PROGRAM QUALITY IMPROVEMENT MEASURES
 - PDSA Cycles
 - Surveys and Feedback
 - Advisory Meetings
- DATA TRACKING AND SURVEILLANCE
 - Developed an informational system that links with our Health & Vital Statistics EVRS system
 - Data sharing & Data reports

COLLABORATION WITH PROGRAMS & PARTNERS

- Newborn hearing screening Trainings – to build capacity
- Collaborate with PSS Special Education Program for Audiological services
- Interagency Agreement with Early Intervention Program
- Sharing new developments with Pediatricians and Providers



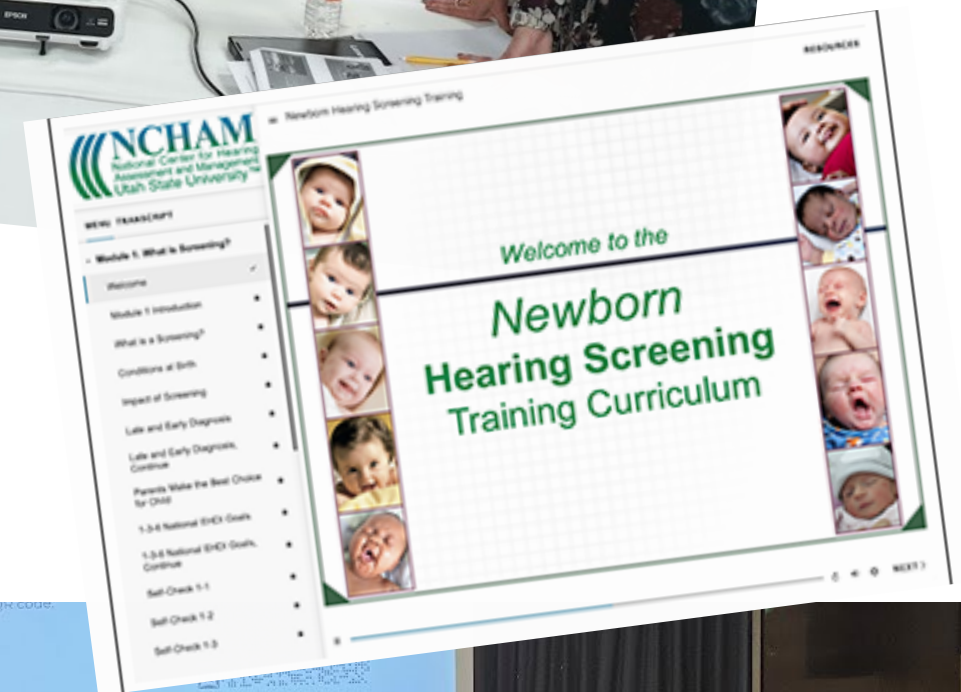
COLLABORATION WITH NATIONAL PROGRAMS

- National Center for Hearing Assessment & Management (NCHAM)
- Hands & Voices
- University of Utah
- Family Voices



PARENT WITH TRAININGS AND FAMILY SUPPORT EVENTS

- 10 years of family support event (Saipan, Tinian & Rota)
- Created a EHDI Road Map and local deaf and hard of hearing guidebook
- Collaborated with local DHH Adults



QUALITY IMPROVEMENT



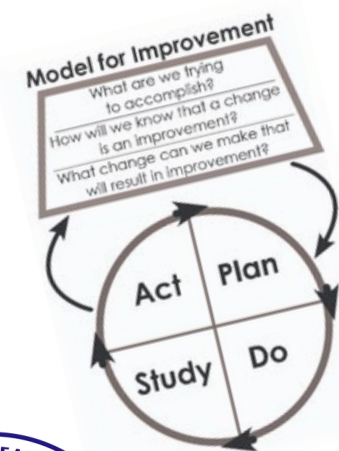
Alyson Ward



Karen Munoz



**ABR, ASSR, OAE,
TYMPS, REFLEXES, -
DIAGNOSTIC TESTING**





Lauri Nelson

LITERACY SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

HANDS ON COACHING

LISTENING AND SPOKEN LANGUAGE



Teresa Caraway





**HANDS &
VOICES™**

PARENT TO PARENT SUPPORT



Janet DeGeorge & Leeanne Seaver



Terri Patterson



Stephanie Olson



Karen Putz



Candace Lindow -Davies



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation: Saipan, Tinian and Rota

ANNUAL FAMILY EVENTS



Nancy Rushmer



Marlyn Minkin



FAMILY TO FAMILY SUPPORT



FAMILY DIRECTORY

A Starting Guide for Parents
My Baby is Deaf/Hard of Hearing

You are not alone ...

- How will being deaf/hard of hearing affect my baby?
- How will my baby communicate?
- What is Early Intervention?
- How does the ear work?
- What are the different types and degrees of hearing loss?
- How will my baby's hearing be tested?
- Will hearing aids help?
- Will sign language help?
- Are there additional resources?

EarlyHearing
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program

FAMILY GUIDE BOOK

CNMI EARLY HEARING DETECTION AND INTERVENTION
DIRECTORY
CNMI PSS EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM & SPECIAL EDUCATION

"Friendship is born at the moment when one person says to another: 'What! You too? I thought I was the only one.'"
C.S. Lewis

It is important to remember that you are not alone in being a parent of a child with a hearing loss. This directory provides the contact information of other families in the CNMI who are also raising a child with hearing loss. In the back of this directory are local, regional and national websites/organizations that may be a good resource for your family as well as a glossary of familiar terms.

SAIPAN TINIAN ROTA



National Resource Directory
for Families of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

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— C.S. Lewis

Remember you are not alone in being a parent of a child with who is deaf or hard of hearing. This directory provides contact information for national organizations that may be a good resource for your family.

EarlyHearing
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program

RESOURCE DIRECTORY



FAMILY-TO-FAMILY HEALTH INFORMATION CENTER



01

Family led organizations that support families, children and youth with special healthcare needs (CYSHCN)

02

The Maternal & Child Health Bureau (MCHB) funds F2F in every state including 5 U.S Territories and 3 F2F serving American Indians and Alaskan Natives.

The F2F Health Information Centers are funded through 2027.

03

Each F2F HIC are staffed by families with first-hand experiences of the challenges faced by CYSHCN and their families.

PROGRAM SERVICES

01

Connect with other CYSHCN parents for peer-to-peer and emotional support

02

Refer and connect CYSHCN families to other community-based programs/organizations

03

Get the right information about complex programs, eligibility and application processes.

04

Increase CYSHCN parents awareness about their child's disability and build their advocacy skills



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Family Support Groups:

- Autism Support Group
- Down Syndrome Support Group
- Deaf & Hard of Hearing Support Group
- ADHD Support Group



LEARNING SESSION:

"Importance of Well-Child Check/Adolescent Health Visits"
CHCC Children's Clinic

TUESDAY
JULY 16, 2024 @ 11:00AM
Marianas Business Plaza, 5th Floor/Virtual

Scan the QR Code to register



JOIN US VIA ZOOM

Meeting ID: 899 1901 4570
Passcode: 320365

@cnmichcc | www.chcc.health



Speakers:
Dr. Wingerter,
CHCC - Children's Clinic

Well Child Checks

LEARNING SESSION:

"Back to School Success: Integrating AAC at Home"
CNMI Public School System

WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 14, 2024 @ 10:00AM
Marianas Business Plaza, 5th Floor/Virtual

Scan the QR Code to register



JOIN US VIA ZOOM

Meeting ID: 850 5350 7996
Passcode: 652642

@cnmichcc | www.chcc.health



Speakers:
Kathy Ruszala
M.Ed., M.A. CCC-SLP
Speech Language Pathologist

Augmentative & Alternative Communications

Basic ASL Class
(American Sign Language)

Marianas Business Plaza,
5th Floor, Susupe
June 13, 2023
5:30PM - 7:30PM

TRICIA TAITANO
&
KAELANI SAN NICOLAS

Register today!



https://bit.ly/3Bx8Koz

@cnmichcc | www.chcc.health

Basic American Sign Language Class

LEARNING SESSION:

"Audiology 101 - The Ear & Hearing"

TUESDAY
JULY 15, 2025 @ 10:00AM
Marianas Business Plaza, 5th Floor/Virtual

Scan the QR Code to register



JOIN US VIA ZOOM

Zoom info will be shared after registering for the session.

@cnmichcc | www.chcc.health



Speakers:
Dr. Angie Mister
Au.D CCC-A

**Audiology 101
The Ears & Hearing**

LEARNING SESSION:

"Legal Guardianship for Children with Special Needs"
Northern Marianas Protection Advocacy System Inc.

FRIDAY
JUNE 28, 2024 @ 10:00AM
Marianas Business Plaza, 5th Floor/Virtual

Scan the QR Code to register



JOIN US VIA ZOOM

Meeting ID: 863 2237 6809
Passcode: 523127

@cnmichcc | www.chcc.health



Speakers:
Elsie Rebueng
Program Manager - NMPASI

Legal Issues and Advocacy

LEARNING SESSION:

"Early Language and Literacy Strategies for Infants & Toddlers"

TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 12, 2024 @ 10:30AM
Marianas Business Plaza,
5th Floor/Virtual

Scan the QR Code to register



JOIN US VIA ZOOM

Meeting ID: 849 8278 4338
Passcode: 919986

@cnmichcc | www.chcc.health



Speakers:
Jonisa Sanchez, M.Ed. Sp.Ed.
Dr. Alljay Figueroa, PT, DPT
Peter Mendiola, MA SpEd

Early Language and Literacy Strategies for Infants & Toddlers

LEARNING SESSIONS

SUPPORTS & ASSISTANCE OFFERED:

Assistance with completion & submission of SSI & Medicaid applications



Need help getting to your child's healthcare related appointments?

Contact the CHCC Family 2 Family Health Information Center (F2F HIC)
For families with children (0-18 years old)

(670) 664-8700 or f2fhic@chcc.health

F2F HIC is located at Marianas Business Plaza 5th Floor | 7:30AM-4:30PM

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The advertisement features a white van parked in front of a building with a cross on top, representing a healthcare facility. Social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter are in the top right corner.

Transportation Assistance through COTA





HEALTHCARE TRANSITION

Ensuring a Smooth Journey from Pediatric to Adult Healthcare



WHAT IS HEALTH CARE TRANSITION?



Health care transition or HCT, is the process of getting your youth ready for health care as an adult.

During childhood, you usually help with health and health care needs - calling to set up appointment, filling out forms, & keeping track of medications. As your child gets older, managing those needs becomes their own responsibility.

Why is it Important?

- Promotes independence and self-management
- Ensures uninterrupted health care services
- Prepares for adult health care responsibilities



Steps to a Successful Transition

1 Start Early

Begin discussions about transition by age 12-14 with your child & your primary care provider.

2 Create a transition plan

Work with your healthcare provider to develop a personalized plan.

3 Educate & Empower

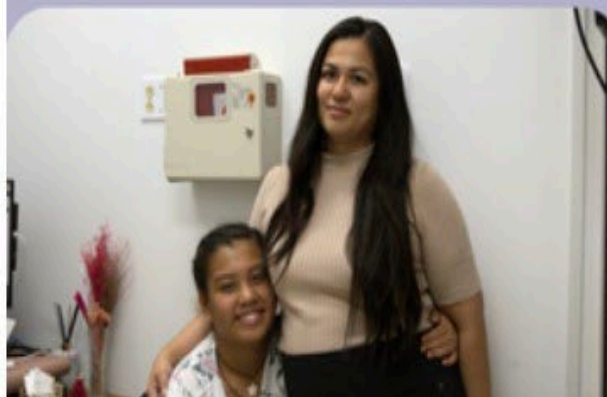
Teach your child about their health condition and care needs.

4 Identify Adult Health Care Providers

Find suitable adult healthcare providers and make introductions.

5 Transfer Medical Records

Ensure all medical records are transferred to the new providers.



CONTACT INFORMATION



We're here to help!

Family 2 Family Health Information Center

(670) 664-8700

E-mail Address

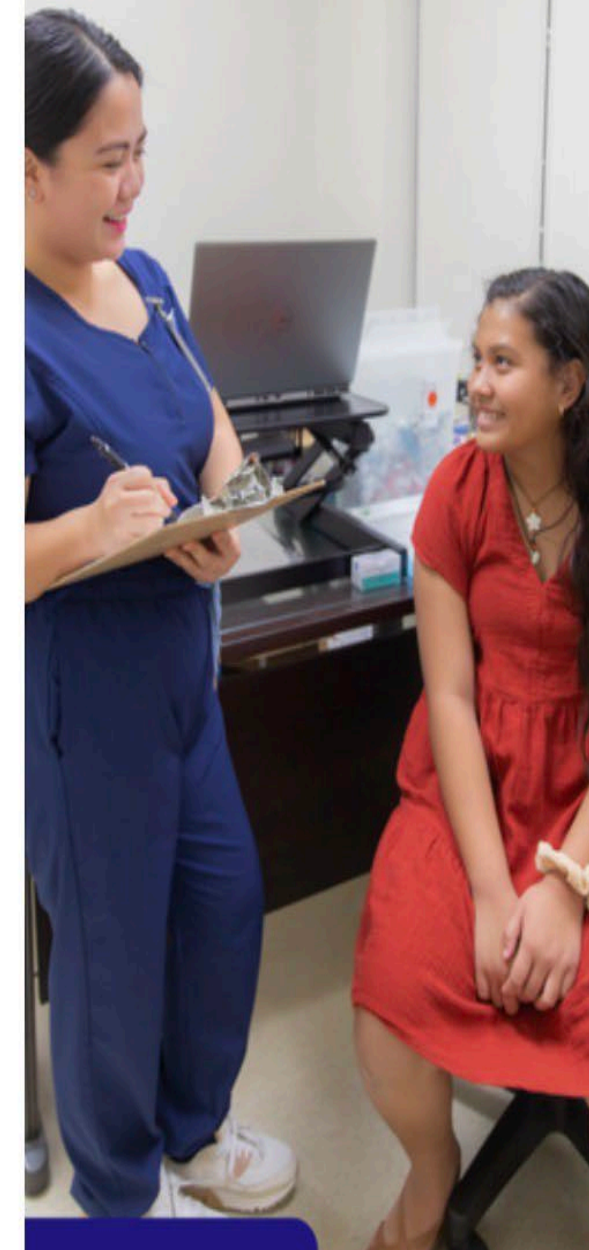
f2fhic@chcc.health

Marianas Business Plaza, 5th Floor

Susupe, Saipan



Empowering youth to take charge of their healthcare journey.



SCHEDULE YOUR VISIT TODAY!

Tips for Parents and Caregivers

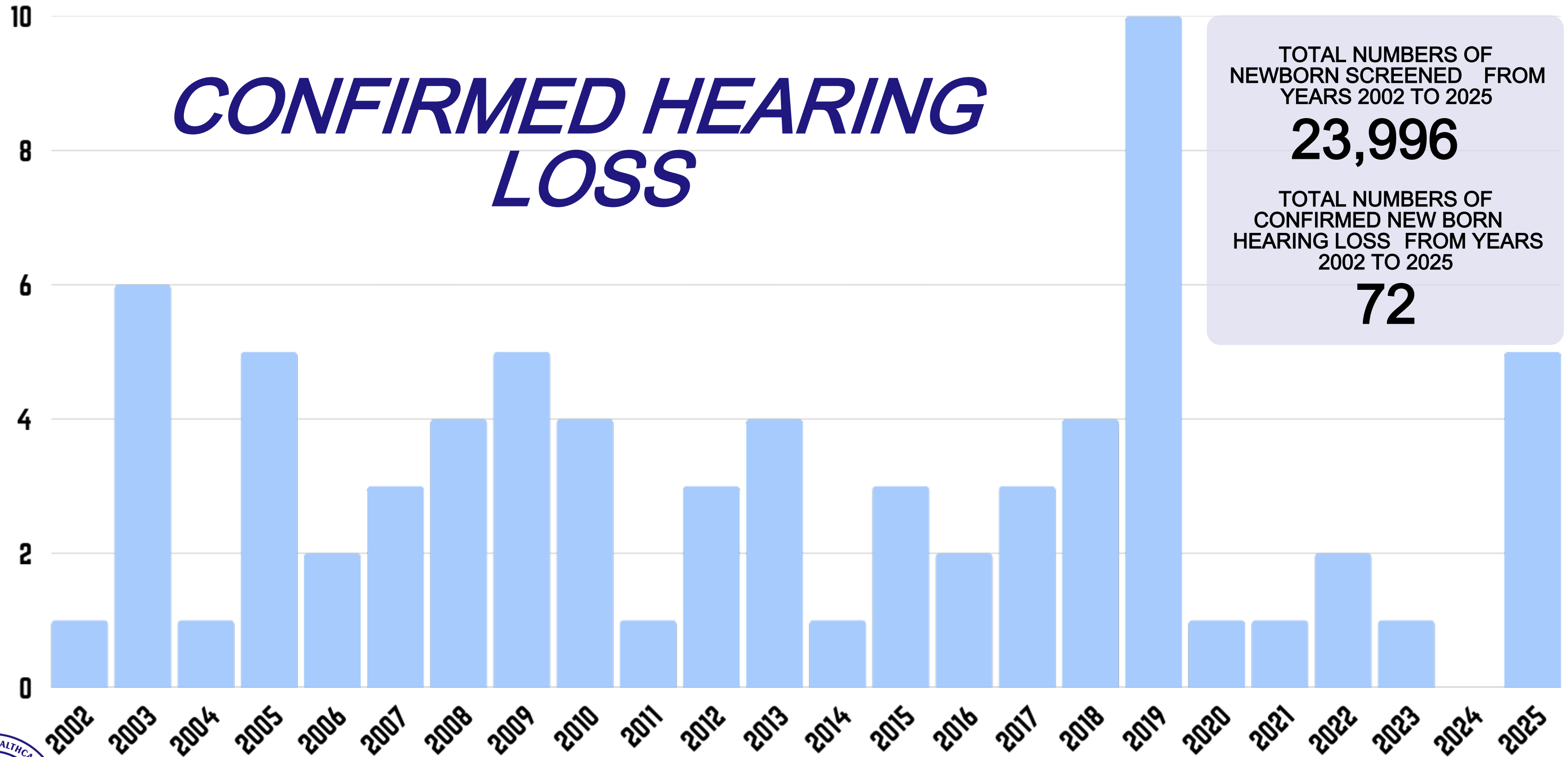
- Stay involved and supportive throughout the transition process.
- Encourage your child to take an active role in their health care.
- Communicate openly with health care providers about any concerns.

Resources and Support

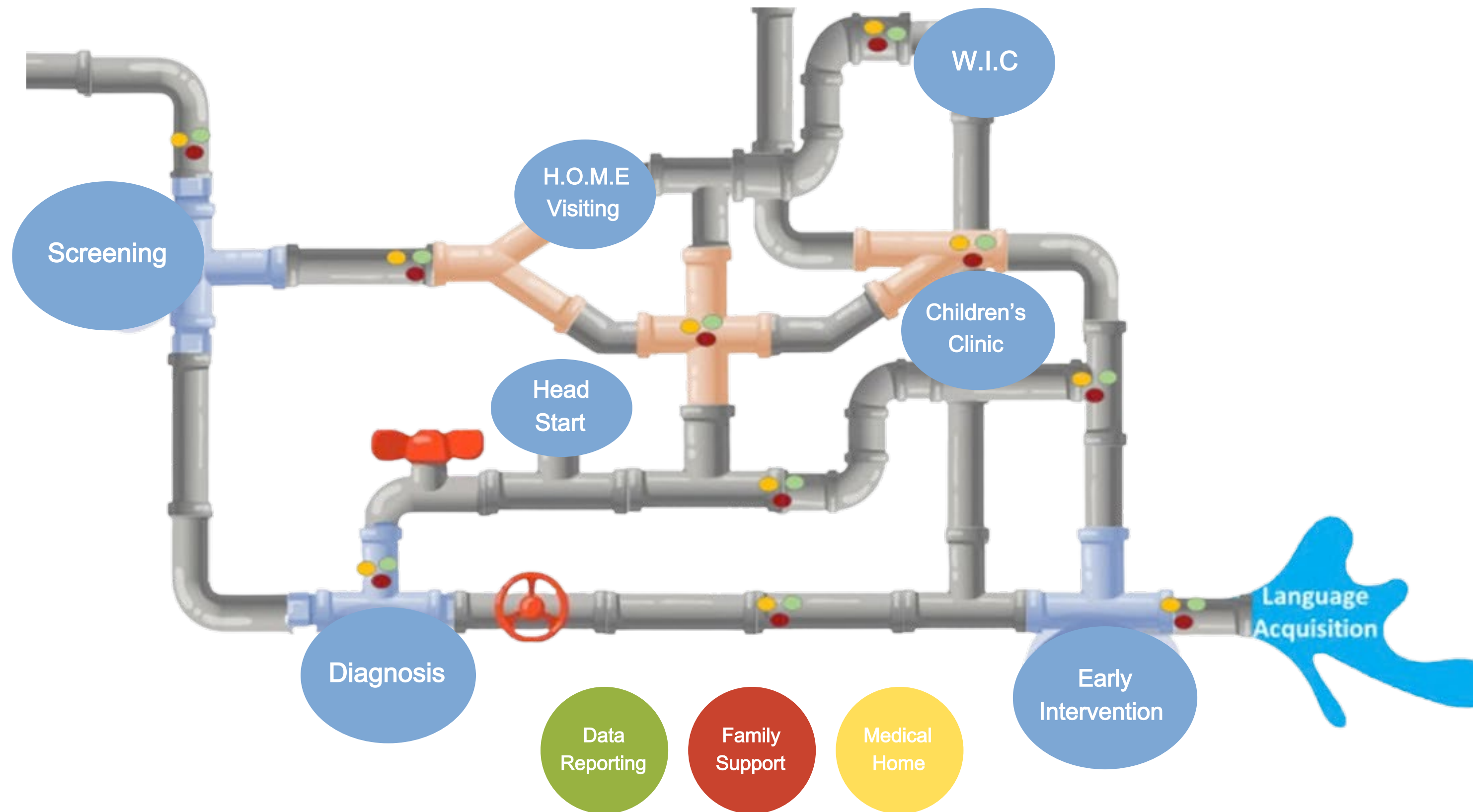
- Family 2 Family HIC
 - Visit Marianas Business Plaza, 5th Flr., Susupe
 - Call: (670)664-8700
 - Email: f2fhic@chcc.health
- Got Transition®
 - Visit www.gottransition.org
 - Email: info@GotTransition.org
 - Call: (202)769-0486
- Local Health Care Providers



CONFIRMED HEARING LOSS



COORDINATED SYSTEMS OF CARE



CNMI EHDI SYSTEM MAP

Characteristics	Example
A set of interconnected components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •HRSA & CDC Benchmarks •Providers & Hospitals •Partners (federal, state & local) •Program Staff
With a definable boundary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •EHDI – Standard of Care •1-3-6 Benchmarks
That interact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Referral processes •Stakeholder relationships •Data sharing
And produce a set of outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Timely screening, diagnosis and intervention •Enrollment into Early Intervention and F2F HIC
By accepting inputs, collectively and producing outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Health for all
Through a transformation process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Supporting DHH children and their families to ensure they receive the services they need





THE KIDS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR SUCCESSES ARE WHAT MATTERS



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation: Saipan, Tinian and Rota

CNMI CYSHCN TEAM



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation: Saipan, Tinian and Rota



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands



Providing quality comprehensive health services and promoting healthy environments for a resilient community.



THANK YOU!

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands

Division of Public Health Services

Tel: (670) 234 -8950 ext. 2025

 chcc.health

 [/cnmipublichealth](https://www.facebook.com/cnmipublichealth)

  [@cnmichcc](https://www.instagram.com/cnmichcc)

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation: Saipan, Tinian and Rota

