

Nebraska Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Advisory Committee Charter

NAME

Nebraska Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program Advisory Committee

MISSION

The Nebraska Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program develops, promotes, and supports systems to ensure all newborns in Nebraska receive hearing screenings, family-centered evaluations, and early intervention as appropriate.

PURPOSE

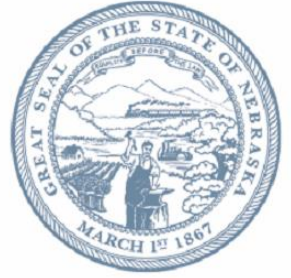
The purpose of the Nebraska Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (NE-EHDI) Advisory Committee is to provide direction and guidance to the NE-EHDI Program regarding the newborn hearing screening system. Specific Advisory Committee activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- To discuss and advise on the goals for the NE-EHDI Program.
- To advise on the improvement of reporting, tracking, and follow-up protocols to effectively link the NE-EHDI Program and the early intervention systems.
- To assist in increasing the program's responsiveness to the expanding cultural and linguistic communities in the state.
- To guide the long-term planning and evaluation of the NE-EHDI system in the state.
- To review the bi-annual newborn screening statistics and make recommendations for program improvements.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Advisory Committee shall be culturally and geographically representative of stakeholders with an interest in and concern for newborn hearing screening. The Advisory Committee shall consist of not more than 20 voting members and the NE-EHDI Program Manager who is a non-voting member. Membership will include representatives from the following areas:

- Audiology
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing Community
- Early Intervention Services (e.g. teacher, Speech-Language Pathologist) & Early Intervention Coordination
- Ears, Nose and Throat Specialist/Otorhinolaryngologists or Otologist
- Family Support



- Hospitals (preferably hearing screening coordinator)
- Parents
- Pediatrics
- Public Health

Each member is requested to serve a term of two years but may continue to serve at their discretion for longer periods, unless their absence at meetings exceeds attendance. Specifically, any member who does not attend at least one meeting per year for two years in a row will be removed from the Advisory Committee. Terms for existing members will begin at the first of the year, or as positions vacate.

The terms of the Chair and Vice-Chair will be two years. Their terms will begin at the first meeting of the calendar year. Nominations for chair and vice chair will be made at the last Advisory Committee meeting of the term.

The Chair, and in the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair will be responsible for the following:

- Leading the Advisory Committee meetings with the NE-EHDI Program Manager.
- Approval of meeting agendas and minutes.
- Representing (or designate) the Advisory Committee as appropriate.
- Chair may call a meeting of the Advisory Committee at his/her discretion.

ADVISORY BOARD VACANCIES

Vacancies will be filled within six months. Terms will begin when the vacancy is filled. The Program Manager will work with the Chair and other Advisory Committee members to identify new members.

Officer Vacancies: If the Chair resigns, the Vice-Chair will finish the term of the Chair. The Committee will nominate and vote on a new Chair-Elect. If the Chair-Elect resigns, the Committee will nominate and vote on a new Chair-Elect.

MEETINGS

The Advisory Committee will meet bi-annually as needed. A member who is unable to attend may send a non-voting representative. The Chair may call for emergency/interim meetings at his/her discretion.

The Advisory Committee will generally make its recommendations by consensus. In the event that consensus cannot be reached within a reasonable timeframe, there will be a majority rule, as in a simple majority of those present or more than 50 percent. However, at least 50 percent of the members must be present.

CHARTER CHANGES

This Charter may be amended, altered, or repealed, and a new one adopted by a majority vote of the Advisory Board membership.