

## *Recommended Practices*

### **Initial Point of Entry for Parents of Young Children Identified with Permanent Hearing Loss**

#### *Nebraska Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program (NE-EHDI) Nebraska Early Development Network (EDN)*

***Desired Outcome:*** Families of newborns/infants identified with a permanent hearing loss will be able to access timely and appropriate early intervention services through a recognized point of entry that is knowledgeable about hearing loss, the effects on young children, and available resources (certified teachers of the deaf).

- Upon receiving a referral, the EDN Services Coordinator will immediately contact the appropriate school district to begin the MDT process.
- The Services Coordinator will contact the parent(s)/guardians to explain the importance of having a teacher of the deaf involved early and to obtain support for an initial joint meeting with the family.
- Upon receiving verbal permission from the parent, the Services Coordinator will contact the Regional Programs for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (see service area map for Regional Program contact persons). The Regional Program coordinator will contact the school district to determine the appropriate teacher of the deaf to attend the joint meeting with the family.
- Include specific language for the Authorization for Release of Information. On the “Other, specify” line of the Agency/Program section, include: “Nebraska Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program” (or “NE-EHDI”).
- If the family would like support from organizations for young children with hearing loss and their families, please include any of the following organizations on the “Release of Information” form to allow the parents’ contact information to be shared: Regional Programs for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, PTI-NE, and/or Hands and Voices.
- If NE-EHDI is included, fax the completed Authorization for Release of Information to Jeff Hoffman, NE-EHDI Program, at 402-471-1863.
- Provide a Health Portfolio/Resource Guide for parents.
- Create a cover letter/summary of the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) for child’s Primary Health Care Provider and NE-EHDI Program (if Authorization for Release of Information includes both) (see attached template).
- The NE-EHDI Annual Status Report will be sent to the Part C Services Coordinator. The Annual Status Report may be completed in collaboration with the child’s teacher of the deaf and then returned to NE-EHDI. For those families who have declined services coordination, the NE-EHDI Annual Status Report will be sent to the school district’s IFSP Case Manager or to the child’s Primary Health Care Provider.