



Quarterly Report



Indiana
Department
of
Health



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Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education

Vision

Deaf and hard of hearing children will have the resources and support to reach their full potential.

Mission

To promote positive outcomes for all deaf and hard of hearing children through information, services, and education.

Values

- Families as decision-makers
- Self-advocacy
- Unlimited potential
- Collaborative relationships
- Quality services

Guiding Principles

The Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education will:

1. Provide information regarding all communication opportunities to support parents in making informed decisions based on the child/student's unique needs and their family's priorities and values
2. Honor the child/student as an integral part of any decision-making process
3. Respect, welcome, and support children and their families across geographic locations, communication preferences, languages, and cultures
4. Honor each child's right to acquire optimal language skills and academic abilities
5. Demonstrate a seamless collaborative model when working with families, schools, other agencies, and providers including the deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing communities
6. Provide comprehensive, evidence-based, and objective information, resources, and services for auditory, visual, and instructional best practices to all deaf and hard of hearing children, families, professionals, and programs
7. Provide expert leaders who embrace and practice the tenets of cultural and linguistic diversity
8. Manage the use of tracking and monitoring systems for individual child/student and program performance to guide state, local, and individual services, programs, resources, and professional training as a priority of the Center



Observe and Follow

IC 20-35-11-4 (1) Observe and follow children who are deaf and hard of hearing from:

- (A) Birth through three (3) years of age, in collaboration with the early hearing detection and intervention program and the office of the secretary of family and social services; and
- (B) Three (3) years of age through twenty-one (21) years of age and who are enrolled or preparing to enroll in early intervention services, preschool, elementary, or secondary school, in collaboration with the department

Memorandum of Understanding

The Indiana Department of Health's Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education (Center) has Memoranda of Understanding in place with the following state agencies/programs that includes data sharing in accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)/Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

- Indiana Department of Education – Office of Special Education
- Indiana Department of Health – Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program
- Indiana Family and Social Services Administration – First Steps
- Indiana School for the Deaf

The Center maintains a database to collect and analyze information regarding identification, intervention and outcomes for deaf and hard of hearing children as a guide for Center programming and initiatives.



Family Support

IC 20-35-11-4 (2) Provide family support from birth through twenty-one (21) years of age by any of the following:

- (A) Connecting families to existing public and private resources for information and services, which may include any of the following:
- i. First Steps agencies
 - ii. Deaf mentors
 - iii. Interpreting agencies
 - iv. Hearing health care professionals
 - v. Educational professionals

Diagnostic Audiology Evaluations (DAE) Referral and Follow-Up

Per our data sharing agreement, Indiana Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program provides DAE forms for all children to the Center to support timely support and services. During April and May 2025, 31 DAE forms were received by the Center from EHDI.

Age at DAE	Age when Center received the DAE	Number of days between DAE and Center receipt	Number of days between DAE date and Center referral to First Steps
Range: 1.2 months – 32 months	Range: 1.2 months – 32 months	Range: 1-57 days	Range: 1-57 days <i>* all referrals to First Steps sent on same day DAE received</i>
Median: 3.3 months	Median: 3.7 months	Median: 7 days	Median: 7 days

First Steps Referrals

When notice of an infant or toddler who is deaf or hard of hearing in Indiana is received, typically through a DAE form, the Center refers that child and family to Indiana's First Steps early intervention program. Of the 31 DAE forms received during this reporting period, 29 referrals were made to First Steps. The Center was already in connection with First Steps regarding the additional two children for whom a DAE form was received, so referrals were not warranted.

As part of their referral processing, First Steps system points of entry (SPOEs) reach back to the Center to refer families to the CDHHE Network and referrals are processed by the CDHHE Network administration team, including Center and St. Joseph Hearing + Speech staff. The CDHHE Network Roles & Service form is shared with the SPOE to support a family's awareness and understanding of all CDHHE Network services and additional supports specifically for families of deaf and hard of hearing infants and toddlers.



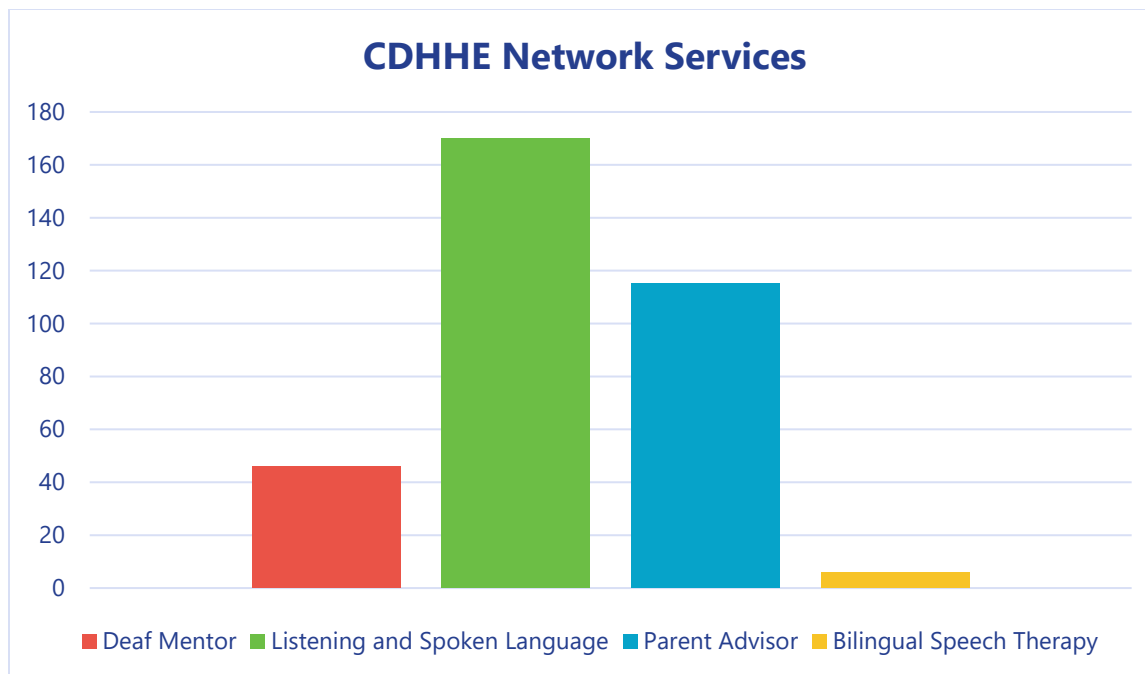
Within this reporting period, of the 31 referrals made to First Steps, 14 referrals to the CDHHE Network were received, 11 IFSPs were in place at the end of this reporting period, with eight of those IFSPs including at least one service from the CDHHE Network. Other referrals are still in process. The Center follows up with both the First Steps SPOE and Indiana EHDl program for families not referred back to the CDHHE Network.

Age at time of referral to First Steps	Age at First Steps referral to the CDHHE Network	Number of days between referral to FS and referral to CDHHE Network	Age at IFSP date	Number of days between referral to FS and IFSP with CDHHE Network service
Range: 1.2-32 months	Range: 1.3-30.1 months	Range: 2-41 days	Range: 2.2 – 30 months	Range: 18 to 41 days
Median: 3.7 months	Median: 3.5 months	Median: 10 days	Median: 4.3 months	Median: 30 days

CDHHE Network services

Services offered through the CDHHE Network during this reporting period include deaf mentor, listening and spoken language, parent advisor, and bilingual speech therapy services. As of the end of this reporting period, at least one CDHHE Network service was included on 215 individual family service plans (IFSPs). Of those IFSPs, 21% included deaf mentor services, 79% included listening and spoken language services, 53% included parent advisor services and less than 3% included bilingual speech therapy services.





Audiology Services

Center audiology services include comprehensive diagnostic hearing assessments, newborn hearing screenings, behavioral hearing assessments, First Steps managing audiology services, educationally relevant hearing assessments, hearing aid and DM system consultation and verification, functional listening assessments and HAAPI audiological management services.

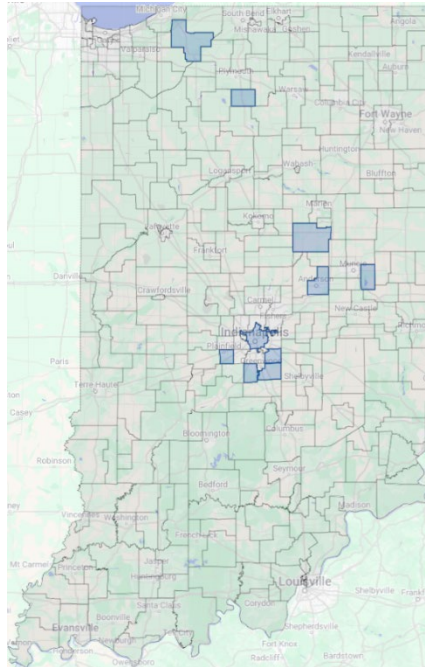
General audiology appointments- outside of First Steps and HAAPI management	First Steps audiology appointments - evaluations, hearing aid fittings, management	Hearing Aid Assistance Program of Indiana (HAAPI) Appointments – evaluations, hearing aid fittings, annual follow-up
60	22	20

Educational Audiology Outreach

Center audiologists saw more than 20 students on-site in 11 school districts, as shown on the map below. The primary role was to complete audiologic testing to verify hearing levels. Almost 20% of students who received audiologic testing were newly identified as being deaf or hard of hearing. The team also provided HAAPI hearing technology, fittings, and consultation.



Locations of Educational Audiology Outreach



Family Navigator Services

Planning has occurred to ensure this service is in place beginning July 1. The CDHHE Network Roles & Services and Example IFSP Outcomes documents were updated to reflect the addition of this service and discontinuation of parent advisor and speech therapy services through the Center as a First Steps agency. The Center's website also reflects these changes.

The two ASL-English bilingual speech therapists are transitioning to another First Steps agency to continue serving families requesting their services through First Steps. First Steps credentialed providers serving as parent advisors have been informed of this change and directed to review IFSP outcomes with families on their caseload to ensure the outcome is appropriate for family navigator services and continues to reflect the needs and goals of the family. The First Steps state office has communicated to SPOEs, agencies, and providers through a memo documenting this change. They are working to update their policies and data systems to reflect this new role.



Educational Evaluations

IC 20-35-11-4 (3) Develop and ensure comprehensive educational evaluations that:

(A) Consider the full continuum of communication options

(B) Make available the following professionals licensed under the IC 25-35.6-3

- i. A speech-language pathologist licensed under IC 25-35.6-3
- ii. A school psychologist licensed under the department
- iii. An occupational therapist licensed under IC 25-23.5
- iv. A physical therapist licensed under IC 25-27
- v. A certified listening and spoken language specialist
- vi. An American Sign Language specialist, as defined by the National Association of State Directors of Special Education
- vii. An audiologist licensed under IC 25-35.6-3
- viii. A deaf educator licensed under IC 20-28-5

Domains Assessed

Domain	Percentage of Center evaluations in this reporting period that include each domain
Academic	75%
Adaptive Behavior	93.8%
Articulation	68.8%
Audiology	93.8%
Cognitive	56.2%
Developmental	43.8%
Functional Listening	68.75%
Motor and Sensory	31.3%
Emotional/Behavioral	37.5%
Spoken Communication	81.3%
Visual Communication	37.55%
Visual Perceptual	1.8%



Evaluations by Grade Level

Grade Level	Percentage of Center evaluations of students within each grade level
Pre-Kindergarten	47.1%
Kindergarten through 6 th Grade	41.2%
7 th Grade – High School Exit	11.28%

Referral Sources

Source	Percentage of Center evaluations from each type of referral source
Families	6.3%
Direct Service Providers	18.8%
Schools	11.28%
Not Reported	12.5 %



Educational Assistance and Consultations

IC 20-35-11-4 (4) Assist professionals who provide students with sign language interpreting services.

(5) Provide consultation by qualified professionals concerning students who are deaf and students who are hard of hearing, including classroom accommodations, instruction, acoustics, and other environmental aspects.

Assistance to Sign Language Interpreters

Educational Interpreting Round Table (EIRT)

Professionals in Attendance: 37

Topics discussed and resources shared:

April focused on voicing American Sign Language (ASL) to English using grammatically correct and natural-sounding English. May focused on creating an ASL interpretation of children's literature. Training opportunities from the Center, PASS Project, and the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf were shared. Resources highlighted: IDEAL, Visually Speaking, Nationwide Interpreter Resource Inc., Creative ASL Teaching.

The participant survey elicited an average rating of 4.75 out of 5 on participant satisfaction with the activity. These activities reached interpreters in 12 counties across Indiana.

Consultations on behalf of DHH Students

N'DEEP Meet Up

Combined with DHH Roundtable for April

DHH Roundtable

Professionals in attendance: 63

The combined DHH Roundtable and N'DEEP meeting during this reporting period hosted Dr. Kelsey Spurgin from Ball State University, Renea Semones from Vocational Rehabilitation, and Dr. Samantha Gustafson from Indiana University. Dr. Spurgin facilitated discussion on Word Recognition for Deaf Students through the Science of Reading Lense. Renea Semones gave an overview of processes as they relate to individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing. And Dr. Gustafson shared the opportunity for schools and students to get involved in her research opportunity. This roundtable group also discussed Good Cause Exception, changes to Indiana IEP, and upcoming professional development opportunities. Resources highlighted included the Indiana Department of Education's Individualized Education Program (IEP) memo and recent newsletter.

Other Professional Development Opportunities



Educational Audiology Review

Professionals in attendance: 14

The Center hosted professionals who are new to the field of deaf education and/or working on their DHH license add-on certificate for a review of educational audiology concepts, as a professional development opportunity. Topics covered during this review included audiology basics – what is contained in an audiogram, how to appropriately read an audiogram, types and configurations of hearing, types of testing. It also allowed opportunities to test their knowledge by reading audiologic reports, and various personal and assistive hearing technologies. Center staff reviewed how to verify device functioning and conduct listening checks. The group had hands-on demonstrations of various hearing technologies that they could listen to and pair to remote microphones. Educational audiology support available at the Center was also discussed.

Deaf Education Technical Assistance

- Deaf education staff continued to mentor new and aspiring DHH teachers at the local district level
- Center assessment staff conducted several on-site initial eligibility assessments and functional listening evaluations
- A variety of Center staff served as subject matter experts in case conferences
- The Center assisted school districts with end-of-school year procedures to ensure a smooth transition to the updated IEP platform
- The Center Deaf Education staff assisted school districts with logging school-purchased hearing assistive technology and shared information on summer repair services available by the manufacturer
- The Center served as an eight-week deaf education student teaching placement for two Ball State students
- The Center notified school districts currently contracting with the Center that due to the enactment of HB 473, all contractual services will be discontinued effective July 1, 2025



Liaison

IC 20-35-11-4 (6) Act as a liaison with all state agencies that provide services to individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing, including the department, the Indiana Department of Health, the Office of the Secretary of Family and Social Services, and Indiana School for the Deaf.

Council for DHH Connections

This council was created in early 2025 to bring together organizations within Indiana who support and/or serve deaf and hard of hearing children. The purpose of the council is to:

- **Inform** a wide variety of stakeholders about programs and services
- **Support** seamless and collaborative process in the implementation of support and services
- **Discuss and align** variety of stakeholders with regard to best practices in service and education
- **Collaborate**, share perspectives, identify issues, and provide input
- **Facilitate and disseminate** information about the Center throughout the state

This group of organizations will hold quarterly meetings. While each meeting includes a single representative from each organization, we are seeking ways to have open communication across time amongst these organizations – to be more inclusive of a variety of members of each organization. The vision is to have an open forum for communication and sharing resources and information.

The organizations currently participating in this council are:

- Ball State University
- Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education
- DHH Clinic, Riley Hospital/IU Health
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, FSSA
- Hear Indiana
- Indiana Association of the Deaf
- Indiana Chapter of Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
- Indiana Council of Administrators in Special Education
- Indiana Deaf-Blind Services Project
- Indiana Department of Education
- Indiana Department of Health – Women, Children, and Families Commission
- Indiana Early Hearing Detection and Intervention
- Indiana First Steps
- Indiana Hands & Voices
- Indiana School for the Deaf
- Indiana University
- PASS Project, Indiana State University



- Purdue University
- St. Joseph Hearing + Speech

Meeting minutes will be placed on the Center's website following each meeting.

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