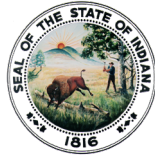





Indiana
Department
of
Health



Policies and Procedures

<p>Title: Council for DHH Connections Procedures</p>	<p>Policy #: IDOH-WCF-Center-DHH Council</p>
<p>Scope:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> All Staff</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Limited Staff:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education</p>	<p>Approvals:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____ Lindsay M. Weaver, MD, FACEP</p>
<p>Effective dates: 01-Jul-25 to 30-Jun-26</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">June 30, 2025</p> <p>_____ Date</p>

Purpose

The Center will act as convener in hosting the Council of DHH Connections with the following intent: to inform a wide variety of stakeholders about programs and services for deaf and hard of hearing children and their families; support seamless and collaborative process in the implementation of supports and services for deaf and hard of hearing children and their families; discuss and align a variety of stakeholders with regard to best practices in service and education for deaf and hard of hearing children and their families; collaborate, share perspectives, identify issues and provide input; facilitate and disseminate information about the Center throughout the state as a means to promote positive outcomes for deaf and hard of hearing children in Indiana.

Definitions

Convener: entity whose job it is to call people together

Council: an assembly for consultation and discussion

Policy Statement

The Center will invite organizations that are strongly focused on provision of information, services and/or supports to deaf and hard of hearing children, Indiana institutions with training programs in related fields, and their families as well as programs within systems children receive services (e.g. First Steps, IDOE) to make up this council, gathering this council quarterly.



Procedures and Responsibilities

Invitations are sent via written or electronic avenues to each organization biennially. Organizations agreeing to be on the council appoint a representative as the point person for council communications. The Center schedules quarterly meetings of this council for the biennium. Organizations commit to sending a representative to each council meeting to participate in information sharing from their organization and brainstorming with the group on filling gaps in resources and services. The Center plays the role of convener for this council and meetings.

Legal Authorities and References

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) year 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

(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

(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.