Suzanne Foley is the Lead Regional Audiology Consultant for EHDI. In addition to being the EHDI audiology consultant in the central and north central Indiana regions, she assists the Director and Follow-Up coordinator with EHDI projects and supports the efforts of the six other regional audiology consultants in the state. Suzanne has been in private practice in Indianapolis for more than 20 years providing a variety of audiology services to children and adults and supervising audiology doctoral students as externs in her practice. She received her degrees from Purdue University. She enjoys spending time with her family, her husband and three children.

Guide by Your Side (GBYS) is a Hands and Voices Program for Parent to Parent support. The Program embodies strong values of direct peer connections and networking. It promotes self-efficacy and hinders isolation by exploring the common bond, shared experiences, challenges, wisdom and insight. Indiana has Guide by Your Side Parent Guides who work with more than 200 families to provide family support in many ways. For more information, please contact Lisa Condes at lcondes@isdh.in.gov or at 317.233.7686 or 855.875.5193.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **October 24-25**
  Purdue University Crossroads Conference  
  [https://www.conf.purdue.edu/Crossroads/register.html](https://www.conf.purdue.edu/Crossroads/register.html)

- **April 5-8, 2017**
  American Academy of Audiology National Conference-in-INDIANAPOLIS  
  [www.audiology.org/conferences/audiologynow](www.audiology.org/conferences/audiologynow)
Dear Colleagues,

I’d like to take this opportunity to provide some information regarding EHDI, Federal Privacy Rules and your organization. We all understand the critical importance of protecting the Protected Health Information (PHI) of the children and families we serve.

EHDI has been asked recently by several entities if a release of information is needed from a family, or if they are allowed to share hearing screening or diagnostic evaluation data. The answer is that no release of information is needed and not only are facilities/professionals allowed to share, we are required to share with EHDI.

**Federal:**

Pursuant to 45 CFR 164.512(b) of the Privacy Rule, covered entities (such as birthing facilities and audiologists) may disclose, without individual authorization, PHI to public health authorities


**State:**

410 IAC 3-7 Follow-up of positive results, recommendations, Authority: IC 16-19-3-4; IC 16-41-17-9, Affected: IC 16-41-17

All physicians and audiologists making an initial diagnosis of a treatable disorder for which testing is required under IC 16-41-17 shall report such diagnosis and the information necessary for follow-up to the department. The reporting is mandatory for physicians and audiologists making the initial diagnosis and should be reported in the format and media approved by the department. Physicians and audiologists caring for Indiana newborns, infants, or children who have been diagnosed outside the state of Indiana with a disorder for which testing is required under IC 16-41-17 shall report in a similar manner.

http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/iac_title?iact=410&iaca=3

I sincerely hope that this information is useful to each of you. If you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Most respectfully,

Rebekah

REBEKAH F. CUNNINGHAM, Ph.D.
Director
Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI) Program
Indiana State Department of Health

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October is **National Audiology Awareness Month and National Protect Your Hearing Month**

Check out these resources to promote public awareness! Great activities for kids!

www.audiology.org/publications-resources/consumer-information/october

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**Want the ability to enter DAE forms electronically?**

Gain access to the EHDI Alert Response System (EARS) by emailing Dr. Alyssa Rex (arex@isdh.in.gov) for further instructions.
HOSPITAL STAFF: HOW TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS REGARDING HEARING SCREENING RESULTS

Do:

- Use the term “refer” or “not pass” to indicate the results to parents
- Try saying: “Do not stress about this right now; wait until you have the results of the hearing test—this is only a screening.”
- If the family asks further questions, respond with “This is a screening only. It does not tell us any more information, but you will get that information at the follow up hearing test.”

Don’t:

- Use the word “fail” as it gives a negative connotation to the results and can cause panic in parents receiving the news
- Say that the result is “likely fluid in the ear” or that the “equipment is faulty”.
- Minimize the importance of referring in one ear only. In Indiana, 35% of the babies identified with hearing loss after newborn hearing screening had hearing loss only in one ear. It is important to encourage families to pursue appropriate follow up even if only one ear does not pass
Indiana State Department of Health
Division of Maternal and Child Health
- Genomics and Newborn Screening
Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI Program)

2 North Meridian
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

IMPORTANT LINKS

Joint Commission on Infant Hearing
www.jcih.org

National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management
http://www.infanthearing.org

For more information:
www.hearing.in.gov

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Debbie Force, M.A.
Nancy Nelson, Au.D.
Mandi Crishon, Au.D.

Guide By Your Side Parent Guides:
Stacy Allgeier
Sandra Lerman
Joanna Sichts
Jenny Scheiderer
Amy Weilbaker
Shireen Hafeez
Toni Harpster
Sara MacGregor
Jamie Donsbach
Erin Fallat