

## **Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Meeting March 8-10, 2020**

It is with extreme gratitude that I participated in the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Meeting in early March of this year. A grant was provided by Nevada Hands & Voices, which allowed me to attend the meeting. This by far has been the best learning experience I have had in a very long time. My eyes were opened to the many reasons why it is very important first that early hearing detection takes place and then options for the family are addressed. I was able to meet with and learn from professionals in the field and then actual family members and their decisions to the paths they chose. I can clearly see this is an area of extreme importance and the need for early detection is required so that the child can begin the learning process early on.

It was also an area of self-discovery on my part. By taking part in the meeting I can clearly see now why I strategically placed myself in the front of classrooms and meetings. Also, it became clear that it was the reason my college education suffered. I was diagnosed with mild hearing loss in high school and never looked further into options. The auditorium classroom in college is where I can see why I suffered. When I brought it up to my counselor, I was told I needed to study more. While in fact, I was recording the lectures and listening to audio tapes and still unable to completely comprehend the courses. When it became clear I was no longer a good student I stopped the higher education process. For some reason, it never clicked that I could not hear, I thought it was my lack of ability intellectually. I then became part of the workforce and my dreams and aspirations were modified to limit me.

It is during this meeting that I discovered, the hidden reason for my passion to help others with hearing loss in whatever their goals are. There were so many learning options available to me yet somehow, I ended up in the perfect sessions to learn, connect, and network with others.

### **Meetings Attended:**

#### EHDI 101

First time participants gave information and an introduction about the history, accomplishments and resources for EHDI.

#### State Stakeholders Meeting

Attached is the handout of information given to us. Very informative, really felt connected and that Nevada participants are dedicated professionals that go above and beyond as they are passionate about Early Hearing Detection and Intervention.

- Intervention doesn't mean forcing into a hearing world or left in a deaf rather what works best for the family and getting them the support and resources, they need for the best interests of the child.
- Roles of EHDI Staff and our connections
- Received data and information for the purposes of the EHDI goals
- What's next, how can the Commission and I assist in this important role
  - Screenings

- Legislative requirements reporting challenges with inconsistencies

Opening Plenary 1: HRSA's Vision for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Programs

Developing one Coordinated Statewide System of Services and Supports

ASL: It Is Easier Than It Seams

How Smooth is Your Ride?

How to Use EHDI Data Analysis to Inform Quality Improvement and Outreach Strategies

EHDI Collaboration: Everyone Has a Piece in the Success!

Mind Matters: Fostering Theory of Mind in Young Children with Hearing Loss

Thank you, again for allowing me this experience. It will not be forgotten, and it will definitely assist me in the role of Commissioner.

Respectfully,  
Susan Beckett