**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- Project Title: *Early Intervention in Selected Northeastern States for Children with Hearing Loss and Co-Occurring Disabilities*

- Why did I choose to focus on Early Intervention?

- Lack of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary family-centered care

- Lack of comprehensive review of information for the early intervention enrollment process and services within different states
EARLY INTERVENTION & HEARING LOSS

• 2 to 3 out of every 1,000 infants in the United States are born with a hearing loss.¹

• Hearing loss is currently the most common congenital condition in the country.²

• It is estimated that around 40% of children with hearing loss have a co-occurring disability.³

• And for children who have hearing loss and autism spectrum disorder, there is a trend for one diagnosis to lead to a delay in the other.⁴

¹(NIDCD, 2016) ²(American Academy of Pediatrics, 2018) ³(Gallaudet Research Institute, 2013) ⁴(Beers et al, 2013)
THE ISSUE
WHAT EXACTLY DO WE KNOW?
W1: WHAT

- Part C Coordinators are housed in various agencies and departments, depending on the state (Office of Early Childhood, Department of Public Health, Department of Education, etc.)

- Referral and enrollment can be a confusing process for both families and providers. How does each state define developmental delay?

- How do states support families with children who have hearing loss and co-occurring disabilities? What is the initial enrollment process like for a parent or caregiver?
W3: WHO

- Connecticut: Office of Early Childhood
- Maine: Department of Education, Child Development Services
- Massachusetts: State Department of Public Health, Executive Office of Health and Human Services
- New Hampshire: Department of Health and Human Services
- New Jersey: Department of Health
- New York: Department of Health
- Rhode Island: Executive Office of Health and Human Services
- Vermont: Department for Children and Families & Department of Education
W2: WHY

• This project is the first step towards further research that will look at what services are provided to these families and who is providing the services. First, we need to understand how the families get there.

• This research may shed light on barriers that families and/or providers face during the early intervention enrollment process.

• Importance of walking in another’s shoes...if we better understand what our families are going through, we will be better qualified family-centered providers.
HOW: METHODS

• Internet search for who are the first points of contact for referring a child to early intervention and asking for more information about early intervention
• Phone call script
• Identify differences and similarities across states
• Identify barriers to culturally competent and family-centered communication
• Identify successful networks and systems of care
HOW: TIMELINE

• Literature review of best practices for the early intervention of children with hearing loss and co-occurring disabilities and research proposal were submitted February 25, 2018

• Research question and methods were reconstructed in March 2018

• All phone calls and communication with early intervention programs will be completed by June 9, 2018

• Results will be compiled by June 16, 2018

• Final paper will be submitted by June 23, 2018
MID-PROJECT UPDATE

WHAT HAVE I LEARNED SO FAR?
UPDATES

• So far, I have initiated contact with two states’ early intervention systems and have not yet been able to find the answers to the questions I am asking.

• Providers need to know who to contact and families need support so that they can also know who to contact.

• This process would look very different if I did not own a computer, or if I did not read/write English, or if…

• Families are multidimensional and have unique needs. We need to ensure accessibility to this important information.
A FEW RESOURCES

- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): https://sites.ed.gov/idea/about-idea/
- Center for Parent Information & Resources: http://www.parentcenterhub.org/find-your-center/
- Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center: http://ectacenter.org/families.asp
- Military Parent Technical Assistance Center: https://branchta.org/
REFERENCES


REFERENCES CONT.


QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

I’m sorry I couldn’t be here in person today!

Please email me with any questions or comments:

juliagarrick@gmail.com

Thank you to Maria for advancing the presentation slides!