

# HEARING LOSS IN EARLY INTERVENTION

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# 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.<sup>1</sup>
- Hearing loss is currently the most common congenital condition in the country.<sup>2</sup>
- It is estimated that around 40% of children with hearing loss have a co-occurring disability.<sup>3</sup>
- 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.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>(NIDCD, 2016) <sup>2</sup>(American Academy of Pediatrics, 2018) <sup>3</sup>(Gallaudet Research Institute, 2013) <sup>4</sup>(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/>
- IDEA Part C Statute:  
<http://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title20/chapter33/subchapter3&edition=prelim>

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# QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

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

Please email me with any questions or comments:

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Thank you to Maria for advancing the presentation slides!