Overview of the AAP Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program

Since 2001 the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has worked to improve the effectiveness of newborn hearing screening, diagnosis, and intervention through the Medical Home—focused on increasing the involvement of primary care pediatricians and other pediatric health care providers in early hearing detection and intervention (EHDI) programs in states. Currently, efforts are underway to establish a regionally-based mentorship structure geared toward supporting EHDI initiatives at the state, community, and practice level(s).

Key Components of the AAP EHDI Program

• Create and sustain a network of EHDI Chapter Champions in states.
• Develop professional education materials and programs for pediatricians and other pediatric health care providers to conduct hearing screenings, identify hearing loss in infants and young children, and provide hearing loss diagnoses.
• Lead policy efforts and collaborate with professional medical organizations, their constituents, and other EHDI stakeholders at the state and federal levels on EHDI activities.

Roles and Responsibilities of AAP EHDI Regional Network Liaisons

The role of the AAP EHDI Regional Network Liaison (RNL) is voluntary and the responsibilities are diverse. The RNLs will do the following:

• Provide leadership and support for EHDI Chapter Champions
  ° Mentor and provide technical assistance and guidance to EHDI Chapter Champions in their efforts to advance the EHDI agenda in states—based on established EHDI Chapter Champion work plans and other identified priorities
  ° Support EHDI Chapter Champions in their efforts to collaborate with the state's department of human services and/or public health staff and others in state agencies and organizations on EHDI activities, initiatives, and policies
  ° Support EHDI Chapter Champions in their efforts to provide leadership, guidance and education to pediatricians and other pediatric health care providers in the state on EHDI issues and activities
  ° Communicate periodically with EHDI Chapter Champions via email and telephone

• Act as a liaison between the EHDI Leadership Team and EHDI Chapter Champions
  ° Participate in calls with the EHDI Leadership Team 2 times per year to provide updates on activities in which EHDI Chapter Champions are engaging and to strategize on how best to support their efforts
  ° Prepare a brief annual report summarizing EHDI activities in the chapters that are part of their AAP district

• Attend the annual EHDI meeting to further EHDI education and knowledge
  ° Participate in an orientation/training workshop for RNLs at the annual EHDI meeting (NOTE: Funding is available to support the travel/expenses and registration for Regional Network Liaisons to attend the 2015 meeting.)
  ° Utilize this meeting as an opportunity to meet, mentor, and network with EHDI Chapter Champions and others in the states that are part of their district

• Provide education to members of their respective AAP districts on EHDI

Regional Network Liaisons must be members of their AAP chapter and need experience and expertise in the area of hearing loss in children to serve in this role. Both current EHDI Chapter Champions and those individuals who have not been part of the AAP EHDI program, to date, are encouraged to apply. Regional Network Liaisons should be dedicated, eager, and energetic; they should be committed to improving systems and outcomes related to children with hearing loss at the chapter and district levels, respectively.

Appointments and reappointments will be made through an application process. The AAP EHDI Leadership Team and staff will use a standardized scoring process to assess applications and make appointments. The length of term is in accordance with AAP national committee structure—up to 2 terms of 3 years per term, for a total of 6 years. This is dependent upon continuation and availability of grant funding. One RNL from each AAP district will be selected.

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