# LISTEN FROM EAR TO EAR

# TIPS OF THE MONTH

***May 2013***

***Better Hearing And Speech Month***

The Newborn Hearing Screening Program (NHSP)

debbiee@health.ok.gov

## Oklahoma Audiology Taskforce (OKAT) Update

- OKAT was established in 2000 through the Oklahoma Newborn Hearing Screening Program and was a key ingredient in implementing newborn hearing screening in the state.
- In 2009, the Oklahoma NHSP and OKAT developed a vision and mission statement with guiding principles and core values and reorganized with five subcommittees (Protocols, Pediatric Audiology, Family Support, Genetics, and Childhood Provider Outreach).

**Vision Statement**

Improving opportunities for Oklahoma infants, toddlers, and children

**Mission Statement**

OKAT is dedicated to establishing the gold standard of hearing healthcare for the early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of childhood hearing loss through implementation of newborn hearing screening, family-centered support and outreach education.

### OKAT Subcommittees: Purpose Statements & Activities

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| **Protocols Subcommittee** | |
| To develop and disseminate consistent recommendations and resources aligned with national guidelines to assist Oklahoma audiologists in completing best practices when serving children within the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) process. This includes screenings, diagnostics, amplification, and linkages with early intervention services. | Current Activities:<br>1) Central Auditory Processing Disorder (CAPD) Protocols<br>2) Early Intervention Screening Guidelines<br>3) Bound Book of State Audiology Protocol/Resources |
| **Pediatric Audiology** | |
| To promote and educate regarding the field of pediatric audiology in Oklahoma. This includes ensuring that audiologists seeing children know appropriate guidelines to meet nationwide best practices. This subcommittee is also devoted to creating and maintaining a list of statewide pediatric audiology services. | Current Activities:<br>1) Updating 2011 *Guide to Pediatric Audiologists in Oklahoma* regarding providers and services for birth to 3 years<br>2) Developing a survey for all Oklahoma licensed audiologists |
| **Family Support** | |
| To enhance family-centered practices within the Oklahoma EHDI process. This includes educating, connecting, and supporting families in the areas of hearing screenings, diagnostic testing, and linkages with early intervention services. | Current Activities:<br>1) Development of a Family Advisory Board<br>2) Development of Parent Fact Sheets for Hearing Loss |
| **Genetics** | |
| To raise awareness within the Oklahoma speech pathology, audiology, and Deaf communities regarding the utility of Genetic education and evaluation for families of children with hearing loss. | Current Activities:<br>1) Updating Oklahoma Genetic Directory<br>2) Creating Roadmap to Genetic Services in Oklahoma<br>3) Developing Genetic resources for the Primary Care Providers packet to be sent to the provider upon a child's diagnosis |
| **Childhood Provider Outreach** | |
| To educate providers working with infants and children regarding the importance of early identification of hearing loss and immediate intervention. This includes increasing professional and public awareness through training materials and workshops to link medical providers, educators, and other professionals serving children with hearing impairment. | Current Activities:<br>1) Development of a Follow-up PCP Packet- to be sent to providers upon a child's diagnosis of hearing loss<br>2) Development of a Medical Consultative Board |

Three ways you can participate in the Oklahoma Audiology Taskforce:

- Receive email updates from OKAT and related programs
- Join a subcommittee, Meet via phone monthly
- Attend OKAT Quarterly Meetings face-to-face, videoconferencing at Tulsa City County Health Department, and teleconferencing via phone

## OKAT Membership

- Audiologists
- Speech-language pathologists
- Deaf educators
- Early interventionists
- Hospital screening staff
- Parents/family members
- Physicians
- Genetics community
- Consumers
- Indian Health System
- Oklahoma Hands and Voices
- Oklahoma Family Network

**Upcoming Meetings**

July 26, 2013

October 25, 2013

Interested in participating?

Please contact Newborn Screen@health.ok.gov