Kathy Anderson currently works as the Statewide EHDI Specialist under the MN Low Incidence Projects in addition to providing early intervention services to children with hearing loss and their families through Intermediate District 287. Together with the MN Department of Education Part C Coordinator and MDE State DHH Specialist, Kathy provides support for early intervention services statewide, program and staff development activities. She has worked with young Minnesota children with hearing loss and their families through the public school system for 32 years as a Teacher-Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Speech Language Pathologist and LSLS Certified Auditory Verbal Therapist. Kathy has been a member/leader of Minnesota’s Regional EHDI Team(s) since 1999 and is currently participating in the MN Centers of Excellence CLD Master Cadre training initiative.

Nicole Brown is a certified pediatric nurse practitioner and has worked in Minnesota’s Maternal and Child Health/Public Health field for over 15 years at both the state and local level. She has coordinated the Maternal Child Health Bureau’s Universal Newborn Hearing Screening and Intervention grant at the Minnesota Department of Health since 2005. She is the MDH EHDI Follow-up Coordinator, facilitating ongoing supports and services for infants and children with hearing loss and their families. Nicole is also the parent of three young daughters; two of her daughters have a profound hearing loss.

Mary Cashman-Bakken has been involved in EHDI since she started her current job in 1992. At that time she worked with an informal group and feels MN has come a long way since then. Minnesota now has mandated screening, reporting and Regional EHDI teams but there still is much to do! Mary loves the way many people from inside and outside have come together to make this work. Early Hearing Detection and Intervention continues to be one of the highlights of her job.

Denny Ceminski, represents the eight Regional Low Incidence Facilitators (R-LIF) who direct the eight Low Incidence Projects in Minnesota funded by grants from the Minnesota Department of Education. He is a licensed Director of Special Education and Educational Speech Language Pathologist holding a Masters Degree in Public School Administration as well as Early Childhood / Family Studies. As the Regional Low Incidence Facilitator for Region IV he supervises the activities of the region wide low incidence project, supervises 13 staff / consultants, including two audiologists who are members of an active EHDI team.

Kirsten Coverstone is an audiologist with many years of service dedicated to early hearing detection and intervention. She grew up in southern Minnesota, earned her masters degree from the Univ. of Northern Iowa and her doctorate from Salus University. Kirsten has actively worked at the local state and national levels to promote universal newborn screening for hearing. As coordinator of the Lions Infant Hearing Program at the University of Minnesota she worked directly with hospitals to establish effective hearing screening programs and audiologists to confirm hearing loss. In addition, Kirsten implemented a statewide hearing instrument loaner program for infants and young children in Minnesota. She is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of children and their families as the MDH EHDI Screening Program Coordinator.

Mary Deling is a Public Health Nurse (PHN) at Olmsted County Public Health Services. She is the local public health follow up contact for EHDI and coordinated the development of the EHDI Olmsted County Collaborative in
2010. Over the course of her 20 year career at Olmsted County Public Health Services she has worked in a variety of program areas including: current work in the Healthy Children and Families Division as coordinator for newborn/postpartum program referrals and scheduling home visits for PHNs, provides home visiting PHN services to pregnant and parenting clients, and the follow-up contact for Early Childhood Screening referrals from local school districts; and past work in the Healthy Children and Families Division as coordinator for the Bright Futures teen pregnancy and parenting program and Follow-Along-Program services, and eight years working as a School Public Health Nurse. Mary looks forward to expanding the EHDI Collaborative to Region 10 (Southeast MN) members. She has a strong commitment and passion for early intervention in children with special needs.

Karen Doenges (DEN JIS) is a Speech-Language Pathologist in the Program for Deaf/Hard of Hearing Learners at Intermediate School District #917 in Dakota County. Her professional interests include: Assessing and developing auditory-oral skills in young children with hearing loss, Helping parents of Deaf/Hard of Hearing children promote listening and language development in the home environment, Cued Speech and its potential role in the development of oral language skills and literacy, Bilingualism through American Sign Language and cued English. She has presented numerous times on these topics for the Minnesota Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Lifetrack Resources, Mankato State University, the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, St. Paul College, and the D/HH Teachers State Conference. Currently, Karen serves Deaf/Hard of Hearing learners, ages 2-6 years old, and their parents. She finds her work extremely rewarding. On a daily basis, she sees the tremendously positive impact early identification has made on children and their families. Karen welcomes the opportunity to contribute her perspective to the Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Committee.

Brenda Freborg is the Manager of the OB/PEDS/GYN unit at Sanford Medical Center in Bemidji MN. SBMC delivers an average of 1100 births per year and has a level II nursery. Brenda has extensive experience working with the Native American population during her 28 years as an OB/NUR nurse. SBMC provides care to three Indian Reservations. Brenda is the mother of three married daughters and has five grandchildren. Brenda has a niece who was born with profound hearing loss.

John Gournaris is a Deaf licensed clinical psychologist, is the Mental Health Program Director with the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services Division. He is responsible for overseeing the statewide mental health delivery system for D/DB/HH children and adults living in Minnesota. He also serves as committee chair on the Mental Health Committee within the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) and composed several position papers for NAD addressing mental health services for deaf children and adults.

Mary Hartnett has served as the Executive Director of the Minnesota Commission Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing People for six years. In the past she worked as the executive director of DeafBlind Services Minnesota, Deafness Education and Advocacy Foundation which ran the telephone relay service for Minnesota, Arkansas, Louisiana and Florida and was the founder of the Minnesota Chemical Dependency Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People. She is the recipient of awards for public policy and advocacy from the Ramsey County Bar Association, the Department of Human Services, Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens, the Minnesota DeafBlind Association and Lifetrack Resources.

Tina Huang works as a neurotologist at the University of Minnesota, and often treats children with hearing loss. She is also part of the Lions’ efforts to provide care to those children identified with hearing loss during newborn screening. Additionally, at least half of the cochlear implant patients in her fellowship in New York were children. These experiences have impressed upon Dr. Huang the importance of newborn screening and early identification of hearing loss.

Yaoli Li is an audiologist with 15 year experience in Otolaryngology, Head & Neck Surgery practice. Her interest in newborn hearing screening was dated back in 1985 when she was a World Health Organization (WHO) fellow, involved in research on newborn hearing screening with ABR at the Department of Otolaryngology, University of Toronto, Canada. She also did a research on 1140 deaf children in rural China in 1987. She was a Research Associate studying on Distortion Product Otoacoustic Emissions (DPOAE) in the ENT Department, U of MN from
1992-95, then obtained her Master’s degree in audiology and was a clinical audiologist at the U of M ENT Department until 2001 when she joined the MDH EHDI team. She has been the CDC EHDI grant coordinator to develop an EHDI data tracking and follow-up surveillance system at the state level for the voluntary program for 6 years. She is looking forward to working on the refining of the existing system to include a system for long-term follow-up for children with a confirmed hearing loss and to improve the outcomes of a statewide EHDI system by following the national best practice guidelines, such as the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing (JCIH) position statement.

Candace Lindow-Davis is the mother of a son who is profoundly deaf, and has a personal interest in improving the lives of children who are deaf or hard of hearing and to the advancement of Early Hearing Detection and Intervention. She has developed and coordinated services for MN Hands & Voices at Lifetrack Resources. The primary focus of MN Hands & Voices is to provide comfort, support and unbiased information by trained Parent Guides to families just learning of their child’s hearing diagnosis, as well as supporting families with children of all ages. For 6 years, Candace served as a parent consultant for the MN Dept. of Health’s Newborn Hearing Screening Program, serving on the voluntary EHDI Advisory Committee, and attending annual national EHDI and related conferences. She also currently serves on the MN Dept. of Health’s Newborn Screening Advisory Committee, representing parents of children who are deaf and hard of hearing. She has been the past Co-Chair of the Center for Disease Control’s EHDI Parent-to-Parent Committee, as well as currently serving on the Board of National Hands & Voices.

Karleen Maeurer is a Care Management Specialist in the Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Children’s Hospital of Minnesota-St. Paul campus. She coordinates hearing screening and follow up for infants hospitalized in the NICU. Her interest in hearing screening began in elementary school. Miss Hemming, the school nurse at Lincoln school in Alexandria, Minnesota, was her inspiration for pursuing hearing follow up. Miss Hemming failed Karleen on every hearing test in the elementary grades. In her current role, Karleen enjoys her dialogue with parents about hearing technology, family histories of congenital hearing loss and sharing screening results.

Joselyn Martin is a pediatric audiologist at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester. She developed an interest in pediatric audiology while serving as a faculty member and preceptor at Northwestern University in the late 1990s. She has been coordinator of the newborn hearing screening program at Mayo Clinic since its inception in 1999. In addition to newborn hearing screening, she is passionate about child and family centered counseling, and the positive effect that it has on the diagnostic and re/habilitative process for the families with whom she works.

Linda Murrans is a pediatric audiologist at Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota in St. Paul. Dr. Noel Matkin, a wonderful pediatric audiologist, was her advisor in graduate school at Northwestern University and she has been intrigued by pediatric audiology since then. She has been involved in newborn hearing screening since use of the Cribogram and has seen technology improve as she has worked at other pediatric facilities, The Children's Hospital in Denver and Scottish Rite Hospital (now Children's Healthcare) in Atlanta. She along with the Children's neonatology and birth center staff initiated a universal newborn hearing screening program in the well baby nursery at United hospital in 2000. She provides diagnostic audiologic evaluation and follow-up services for infants/children and their families from Children's NICU, the well baby nursery from United, and from other hospitals and clinics.

Gloria Nathanson is a Deaf audiologist and a parent of four children, two of them Deaf. She obtained her self-directed B.S. degree in Language Development with Emphasis on Those with Hearing Loss from University of Minnesota and doctorate of audiology (Au.D) from Gallaudet University. She is an adjunct faculty member at Gallaudet. Her current Ph.D. research is linked to her interest in genetics by examining the vestibular function of those with Connexin 26/30 gene. Her passion for teaching and advocacy is reflected in her long-term goals of continuing to work with the state’s EHDI, promoting more culturally sensitive practices in the general field of audiology, and gaining employment as a faculty member in a university Audiology program. Additionally, she acts as a consultant for Clerc’s Children website, an online parent/educator resource.
Peggy Nelson is an audiologist and an associate professor of audiology at the University of Minnesota. She has served on task forces for early hearing detection and intervention in Minnesota, Maryland and Kansas. She has provided pediatric audiology diagnostic and intervention services to infants, toddlers, and children with hearing loss and their families. She has training in sign language interpreting and education of deaf children as well. She has been involved with research in clinical outcomes of hearing aids and cochlear implants, as well as educational research about children with hearing loss.

Sara Oberg is a certified speech-language pathologist at the University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview, University of Minnesota Amplatz Children’s Hospital, Regions Hospital, North Memorial Medical Center, and Park Nicollet Hospital. She is specialized in evaluating and providing aural rehabilitation and speech–language therapy to children and adults who are deaf or hard of hearing and have hearing aids and/or cochlear implants. She is further specialized in voice disorders and provides evaluations, laryngeal exams (with videoendoscopy and videostroboscopy), and therapy for individuals with voice disorders. She conducts evaluations and provides therapy for individuals who have had traumatic brain injuries, strokes, and dysphagia. The majority of her time is spent giving aural rehabilitation and speech–language therapy to children and adults who are deaf or hard of hearing and have hearing aids and/or cochlear implants at the University of Minnesota. She received her bachelor’s degrees in Vocal Performance and Music Education (grades K-12) from the University of Minnesota. She earned a master’s degree in Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences from the University of Minnesota. Sara has also earned a Certificate in Vocoly from the National Center for Voice and Speech in Denver, Colorado, through the University of Iowa as well as a Certificate in Vocal Pedagogy from the University of Minnesota. She evaluates children to see if they are cochlear implant candidates for the Lions Children’s Hearing Center. Last fall, Sara started an Adult Cochlear Implant Social Group, because many individuals expressed feeling isolated and/or the desire to connect with others who have hearing loss or have lost their hearing and have received a cochlear implant. They are now meeting on a monthly basis. Sara has personally been involved with the Deaf community since she was born, because her grandparents had accidents and lost their hearing at ages 5 and 14. She considers herself proficient, but not fluent in American Sign Language. Sara has been immersed in the Deaf culture her entire life and is very passionate about this community and making a positive difference in helping all of them reach their full potential.

Emilee Scheid is a Physician Assistant-Certified and has worked in Family Medicine for 5 years. She also has experience in NICU and Pediatrics both as a PA-C and EMT-B. In addition to her professional experience, she is a parent of 4 year old Elizabeth who has moderate-severe bilateral sensorineural hearing loss. She personally has experience with the healthcare system, school system and local resources that have helped her child grow. She is a strong advocate in Family Medicine to guide the providers to educate and promote follow up for the newborn hearing screen.

Lisa A. Schimmenti is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Genetics and Metabolism at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Schimmenti received her undergraduate degree from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. She received her medical degree from Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. She completed her pediatric residency at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, Torrance, California and her fellowship in Genetics and Metabolism at the University of Minnesota. She provides genetic services for children with hearing loss as well as inborn errors of metabolism and other genetic conditions. Dr. Schimmenti conducts research in understanding the genetic basis of neurosensory conditions with focus on childhood blindness, hearing loss and developmental disabilities. Her research efforts have been funded by the National Institutes of Health, the March of Dimes and the Minnesota Medical Foundation.

Geoffrey Service is a Neurotologist with Ear Nose and Throat Specialty Care in Saint Paul, Minnesota. He recently completed his residency in Otolaryngology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota and a fellowship in Neurotology at the California Ear Institute in Palo Alto, California. Dr. Service works frequently with children with conductive and sensorineural hearing loss as well as works on the Craniofacial team at Gillette Children’s Hospital. Having the opportunity to positively impact a child’s hearing has been extremely satisfying part of Dr. Service’s practice.
Michael Severson is a general pediatrician in Brainerd Minnesota. He was in solo practice for twenty-five years and now enjoys the help of three partners at Brainerd Medical Center, a 42 physician multi-specialty group. He completed medical school at the University of Minnesota and did his pediatric residency at the Mayo Clinic. Dr. Severson has had a strong interest in infectious disease, attention deficit disorder, asthma and diabetes. He is an Adjunct Professor of Clinical Pediatrics with the University of Minnesota and enjoys exposing residents to rural practice. Research is an active component to Dr. Severson’s practice and he is currently involved in three vaccine studies. He has enjoyed a long history of active leadership in child advocacy and currently serves on the Board of The American Academy of Pediatrics. He has four children and nine grandchildren.

Rhonda Sivarajah is the parent of a child who was diagnosed as being deaf at 2 years and 4 months of age. The late diagnosis presented many educational challenges prompting Rhonda to become actively involved in her community serving as the chair of the Anoka County Area Interagency Early Intervention Committee. She also began testifying for legislation for cochlear implant coverage, and follow-up services and throughout the years on issues from Classroom Acoustics to the need for greater coordination of services for children who are deaf and hard of hearing. Rhonda served on the Dept. of Health’s voluntary Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Committee. She is currently the President of the Northern Voices Board of Trustees and a member of AG Bell.

Emily Smith-Lundberg was born profoundly Deaf and raised in rural Northern Minnesota. Emily’s parents are hearing and went through the same experiences that many parents go through as they find out their baby is Deaf. Emily’s mom fought for equal education and access for all D/HH children in the school district. As Emily was growing up, she met with many different families and has learned to have an open –mind about all walks of life. Emily has founded and is running a new program called “Dreams and Inspirations –Deaf Camps and Retreats” at Confidence Learning Center (CLC). Dreams and Inspirations serves many different groups reflected in the D/HH community including Families with Hard of Hearing Children, Cue Family Retreat, D/HH ASL Family Retreat, DeafBlind Camp, Deaf Women with Breast Cancer Retreat, Wellness Camp, D/HH Youth Science Camp, Kids of Deaf Adults (Koda) and many more. The main focus of these retreats/camps is to allow people who share the same experience to meet – give each other support, and have an inspiring personal experience with nature. And, reminding us no one is alone in this big world!

Kara Hall Tempel is the Early Childhood Interagency Specialist at the MN Department of Education. She has a Master’s Degree in Early Childhood Special Education from the University of St. Thomas. Ms. Hall has worked with children with a range of disabilities from infants up to 18 years of age in the areas of mental health and developmental disabilities both within the private sector and County Social Services. She has policy development experience and expertise in state plan Medicaid, home- and community-based waiver and consumer directed services for individuals with disabilities up to age 65. She has a special interest in children with multiple and complex needs and those who would be considered medically fragile. She is energized by interagency collaboration and considers the Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Committee to be a perfect opportunity to encourage and facilitate this type of work.

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