Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MECDHH): Needs Assessment

Hamda Ahmed
University of Maine

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/ccids_posters

Recommended Citation

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Poster Presentations by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.
MECDHH/GBSD has formed a collaborative partnership with several statewide agencies in Maine that serves children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families. Early screening for children is necessary to provide them the right services. Based on research done in 2018, approximately one in three children did not receive any follow up testing and received no diagnosis. In addition, the social determinants of health plays a big role when it comes to service delivery knowing that Maine is mostly a rural area. In this presentation, we will focus on the activities and the needed priorities identified in the community.

Increased access to newborn hearing screening equipment and/or secondary machine
Increased access to specialized services and providers in urban areas (case management)
Creation of a single point of contact for families during the newborn hearing screening
Improved follow-up system to ensure PCPs receive updates from CDS about early intervention enrollment status
Improved and updated information on all services and providers available for deaf and hard of hearing children
Increased access to technology and high-speed internet for families
Standardized training for primary care providers and OB/GYNs on the newborn hearing screening process across the state
Standardized training for newborn hearing screening providers on the newborn hearing screening across the state
Improved collaboration opportunities for families and deaf and hard of hearing children during the COVID-19 pandemic
Improved cultural sensitivity training for state agencies and community organizations that work with families with a deaf or hard of hearing child
Increased access to technology and high-speed internet for families
Improved follow-up system to access FCFS receive updates from CDS about early intervention enrollment status
Improved and updated information on all services and providers available for deaf and hard of hearing children for FALMOUTH
Creation of a single point of contact for families during the newborn hearing screening through early intervention enrollment process (A, C, D, E, N)
Improved access to newborn hearing screening equipment and/or secondary machine for small community hospitals
Increased access to specialized services and providers in urban areas

The main goal for my leadership placement was to understand how the system works in one of the biggest institutions for children who are deaf and hard of hearing. MECDHH has many divisions and different services, however, it is difficult for families to navigate within the system and find the right resources. For this reason, the needs assessment will offer some solutions to the barriers families face and will orient them to the right paths. Having in mind that Maine is home for many immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers a cultural shift collaboration has been created to minimize the health disparities by integrating the cultural sensitivity into our tasks from the needs assessment. A project of five different goals has been established and a weekly meeting is now hosted to implement the tasks needed. A panel will be hosted in September for all staff to understand the cultural and background experience of New Mainers and invite culturally competent professionals and community members with lived experience. There is also a survey for staff created to identify a feeling of oppression from the individual, interpersonal, institutional, and structural level perspective. The team will also raise awareness within the institution by adding into the calendar historical events such as the black history month. Finally, the purpose of hiring a consultant will be to provide new skills working with a diverse community and having a clear understanding of the cultural challenges and disparities.

Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MECDHH): Needs Assessment
Hamda Ahmed, BA, Political Science, Community/Public Health, Maine

NH-ME LEND, Institute on Disability, University of New Hampshire

NH-ME LEND is supported by a grant (#T73MC33246) from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and administered by the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD).