

**Early Hearing Detection and Intervention
Hearing Screening and Follow-up Survey**

Reinstatement with Change

Marcus Gaffney
Project Officer
1600 Clifton Rd. MS E-88
Atlanta, GA 30333
(404) 498-3031
Mgaffney@cdc.gov

Attachment 7:

Colorado Letter of Support

STATE OF COLORADO

Bill Owens, Governor
Dennis E. Ellis, Executive Director

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

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Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

January 26, 2006

Marcus Gaffney, MPH
National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, MS E-88
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Marcus,

This is a letter of support for the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to coordinate, develop and disseminate surveys to State EHDI Programs for surveillance purposes. As a State EHDI Coordinator it has been extremely important to document the EHDI statistics and outcomes for the purpose of program sustainability. CDC has been instrumental in working with the Directors of Speech and Hearing Programs in State Health and Welfare Agencies (DSHPSHWA) and EHDI Coordinators to identify the critical goals and objectives that State EHDI programs should be measuring for outcome purposes. The DSHPSHWA membership realized in the early 1990's, as newborn screening programs were being developed, that this was not simply a numbers game about how many babies were being screened but more importantly how many infants and families were receiving timely, appropriate and comprehensive services to assure that children ultimately developed normal speech and language. Many programs then changed their names from 'newborn hearing screening' to EHDI to convey the importance of screening through early intervention.

The new survey also reflects the work of the Data Committee headed by CDC, which has worked diligently for the past 5 years to identify those important data fields for states to collect. Without the dedication and support of the CDC EHDI staff we would not have the comprehensive programs that are being developed today. I fully support CDC in continuing this important work that includes surveillance data analysis and tracking. If you have any further questions I can be reached at 303-692-2458 or by email at Vickie.Thomson@state.co.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vickie Thomson".
Vickie Thomson, MA, CCC-A
State EHDI Coordinator