

2026 Advisor Biographies

NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ingrid Aasan

Department of Education regional low-incidence facilitator representative

Ms. Aasan has worked in the field of special education for over 34 years. She earned bachelor's degrees in Elementary Education and Special Education from Augustana University, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She also holds a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction; and administrative licensure from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Ms. Aasan is the director of special education at BrightWorks (formerly Metro Educational Cooperative Service Unit-ECSU). As such, she directs the Region 11 Help Me Grow Interagency Early Intervention Committee, Metro Regional Implementation Project of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Minnesota and is the Region 11 Low Incidence Facilitator (RLIF). She also directs the Minnesota Low Incidence Projects (MN LIP). As part of her work with the MN LIP, she supervises the statewide Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI) specialist, the statewide DeafBlind specialist, and the staff of the Minnesota DeafBlind Project. As the RLIF partner to the Minnesota Department of Education Deaf/Hard of Hearing state specialist, she works collaboratively on many state initiatives, state projects and with the Minnesota Collaborative Plan for the Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing. She serves on the legislated MN READ Act Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind Working Group.

Anne Barlow

A parent of a child with hearing loss representing a parent organization

Anne is a mother of two highly successful young adults, the older of whom is a son who was born with a profound bilateral sensorineural hearing loss. Anne is currently part of the Minnesota Commission of the Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing serving on the Birth – 5 Collaborative Workgroup and the Language Acquisition Workgroup. She participated in a national learning community to develop an evaluation survey to assess family outcomes. She was part of the development of Metro Deaf School (public charter); her son was in the first class in its inaugural year and the first high school graduating class. Her journey exemplifies how goals and paths may change over time as parents learn more about their child and their unique needs. She has a passion for ensuring that all families with children that are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH) feel confident and empowered when making choices for their child. Anne has been involved with Minnesota (MN) Hands & Voices for over 10 years and currently serves as the director of MN Hands & Voices at Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. The primary focus of MN Hands & Voices is to provide support and unbiased information by trained Parent Guides and DHH Adult Role Models to families just learning their child is deaf or hard of hearing, as well as supporting families with children of all ages.

Joan Boddicker

Consumer from an organization representing cued speech communication options

Joan is the parent of a child who was diagnosed as being deaf at 10 months and received her first cochlear implant at 18 months. The difficulties arising from the late diagnosis were compounded by her daughter's additional learning disabilities. Believing that literacy was going to be her daughter's main challenge, Joan and her husband researched multiple communication methods before deciding to use Cued Speech. She is a strong advocate of early hearing loss detection and supports intervention to assist families in assessing the communication options available. Joan joined the board of the Cued Speech Association of Minnesota (CSAM) in 2004. CSAM works to educate families about the literacy benefits of using cued speech and to provide training to families and school professionals.

Kirsten Coverstone

Department of Health early hearing detection and intervention coordinator

Kirsten is an audiologist specializing in early hearing detection and intervention. Kirsten has worked at the local, state, and national levels to promote universal newborn screening, timely follow-up for hearing, and early access to intervention. As part of the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) EHDl program, she works directly with birth facilities to establish and maintain effective hearing screening programs; audiologists for timely follow-up and confirmation of hearing status; provides education and guidance to primary care provider clinics; leads quality improvement initiatives; and actively supports outreach to improve early hearing detection and intervention systems. In addition, Kirsten implemented a statewide hearing instrument loaner program for infants and young children in Minnesota. She serves as a member of the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing, a member of the Directors of Speech and Hearing Programs in State Health and Welfare Agencies and is co-chair of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) EHDl Data Committee. She is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of children and their families as an MDH EHDl screening program coordinator.

Darcia Dierking

Department of Health early hearing detection and intervention coordinator

Darcia is a pediatric audiologist and MDH EHDl co-coordinator. Darcia has 25 years of experience as a clinical and research audiologist, with research projects primarily focusing on otoacoustic emissions and hearing devices. Darcia has worked in four states and has experience teaching hospital staff and Early Head Start staff about hearing screening. As a part of the MDH EHDl program, she works in longitudinal follow-up after identification. She works with many partners in government, healthcare, education, and family organizations to make EHDl system improvements.

Kathleen Geraghty (she/her/hers)

Representative from the early hearing detection and intervention teams

Kathleen is a speech-language pathologist (SLP) specializing in pediatrics. She currently provides Birth to Three (Part C) early intervention screening, evaluation, and services through Stillwater Area Public Schools. In this role, she supports families who are seeking additional support for suspected hearing concerns, as well as service coordination for children and families navigating early identified hearing loss. Her areas of clinical specialty include child language development, pediatric speech sound disorders, pediatric feeding and swallowing, evidence-based practice, and routines-based intervention. She has worked in outpatient clinics, early intervention, school settings, and academic research. She holds an MS in Speech-Language Pathology from Northwestern University, and an MSc in Developmental Linguistics from University of Edinburgh. She currently supervises SLP graduate students and has taught English as a second language for adult learners from a variety of world language backgrounds.

Danelle Gournaris

Representative of the Minnesota Commission of the Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing

Danelle is the Collaborative Plan program director with the Minnesota Commission of the Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing. As the program director, Danelle manages the Collaborative Plan goals, responsibilities, and workflow established by the stakeholders. The Collaborative Plan is a network of agencies, schools, and organizations that work together to create positive, systemic changes to achieve better education and career outcomes for students who are deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing. Previously, Danelle served as the Deaf Mentor Family Program (DMFP) manager at Lifetrack, Inc. DMFP is a statewide program that provides Deaf Mentors who are language role models to hearing families with DHH children. Deaf Mentors and Teachers of the DHH have worked together in several instances to track their students' language milestone benchmarks. Danelle has been working in the EHD system for 18 years. Danelle is passionate about the collaborative work necessary to further advance EHD for children and families.

Hannah Herd

Audiologist with experience in evaluation and intervention of infants and young children

Hannah is a pediatric audiologist at M Health Fairview – Lions Children's Hearing and Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) Clinic. She received her doctor of audiology degree from the University of Minnesota and completed her clinical externship at Boys Town National Research Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska. While in graduate school, she worked as a research assistant for the multi-disciplinary Lions Children's Hearing Center, where she was able to observe complex cases and explore the wide range of outcomes for children with varying degrees and etiologies of hearing loss. As an audiologist, she engages daily with patients and families, applying evidenced based practices and providing family centered care through newborn hearing screenings; diagnostic

testing of infants and children; and evaluation and fitting for hearing aids and cochlear implants. Additionally, she has dedicated time to collaborate on research projects exploring the identification, management, and outcomes of childhood hearing loss.

Tina Huang Otolaryngologist

Tina is a neurotologist, an ear subspecialty of Otolaryngology, at the University of Minnesota, who works with both adult and pediatric patients with hearing loss. She completed her fellowship at New York University. She is the director of the Lions Children's Hearing and ENT Center which focuses on children with all degrees and types of hearing loss. She has been part of EHDI since the beginning and is honored to continue serving on the committee, working to improve identification and treatment of pediatric hearing loss.

Calla Kevan Representative from the Department of Human Services Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing Services Division

Calla Kevan is the regional services supervisor for Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing State Services Division. Calla supports deaf and hard of hearing specialists across Minnesota, leading programs, services, and outreach initiatives that advance access and equity for the communities served. Prior to this role, she served as a deaf and hard of hearing specialist, bringing firsthand experience to her current role. Calla has a master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling for the Deaf. Calla also previously worked as a vocational rehabilitation counselor and in various roles working with families who have children with hearing loss.

Joscelyn Martin Audiologist with experience in evaluation and intervention of infants and young children

Joscelyn Martin is a pediatric audiologist and assistant professor of audiology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. She received her master's degree from Northwestern University and her doctor of audiology degree from Central Michigan University. Dr. Martin holds Board Certification in Pediatric Audiology from the American Board of Audiology and has been coordinator of the Mayo Clinic EHDI program since its inception. 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. She also enjoys conducting clinical research and quality improvement projects.

Abby Meyer Otolaryngologist

Abby is a pediatric otolaryngologist with Children's Minnesota. She also serves in a leadership role at Children's Minnesota as the senior medical director of surgical services. She completed residency training in otolaryngology-head and neck surgery at the University of Minnesota followed by a fellowship in pediatric otolaryngology at Seattle Children's Hospital and the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington. She also earned a Master of Public Health degree in Epidemiology at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. In her practice at Children's Minnesota, she cares for many children who are deaf or hard of hearing and is one of the cochlear implant surgeons at Children's Minnesota. She has a special interest in optimizing the care of infants and children who have been identified as being deaf or hard or hearing.

Jess Moen Department of Education regional low-incidence facilitator representative

Jess serves as the Minnesota EHDI statewide specialist, supporting educators working with young children with hearing differences and their families, helping to build inclusive and effective learning environments across the state. Previously, she worked as a teacher of the deaf/hard of hearing in rural, Northern Minnesota, with particular interest and expertise in early childhood and students with additional disabilities.

Gloria Nathanson Representative from a consumer organization representing culturally Deaf persons

Gloria 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 from Gallaudet University. She is employed as an educational audiologist at Minnesota State Academies. She is a Certified Deaf Interpreter and a professor at Saint Catherine University's ASL and Interpreting department. She is also an adjunct faculty member at Gallaudet and McDaniel College. Her passion for teaching and advocacy is reflected in her long-term goals of continuing to work with the state's EHDI program and promoting more culturally sensitive practices in the general field of audiology. She also supports families as a mentor through Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota's Deaf Mentor Family Program.

Jessica (Jesi) Novak Audiologist with experience in evaluation and intervention of infants and young children

Jesi is the audiology supervisor and a pediatric audiologist at Children's Minnesota. She has been involved with the hearing screening process in many different aspects. While in graduate school in the Houston, Texas area, she worked as a newborn hearing screener at two of the area's largest

birthing hospitals. Here in Minnesota, she continues to see infants for follow-up newborn hearing screenings. She also completes diagnostic testing, fitting and evaluation for hearing aids and cochlear implants, and provides re/habilitation services for children of all ages. Jesi strives to be family and child-centered, focusing her treatment to meet the family's goals, no matter what they may be.

Sara Oberg

Speech-language pathologist with experience in evaluation and intervention of infants and young children

Sara achieved a bachelor's degree in music in Vocal Performance and Vocal Music Education and a master's degree in Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. She is a speech-language pathologist; clinical voice and aural rehabilitation specialist; received a Certificate in Vocology (from the National Center for Voice and Speech, through the University of Iowa) and a Certificate in Vocal Pedagogy (from the University of Minnesota); singer; and musician. Most of her time is spent giving aural rehabilitation, voice, and upper airway disorders speech-language therapy at HealthPartners Rehabilitation. She has been a clinical aural rehabilitation specialist and speech-language pathologist for 19 years. She is extremely passionate about working with children and adults who are deaf or hard of hearing, making a positive difference and helping them speak, hear, and communicate with their full potential with their hearing aids and/or cochlear implants and not letting it stop them from pursuing their dreams! She passed the proficiency exam in American Sign Language (ASL) at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities and considers herself proficient, not fluent in ASL. For over five years, she evaluated children to see if they were cochlear implant candidates for the Lions Children's Hearing Center at M Health (University of Minnesota, Fairview). In 2010/2011, Sara founded and leads as a volunteer for the Minnesota 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. Sara has personally been immersed in the Deaf culture since she was born, as her grandparents were born hearing and lost all their hearing at ages five and 14 years old. She is very passionate about this community and making a positive difference in helping everyone reach their full potential.

Garrett Petrie

Interim representative from the Minnesota Department of Education Resource Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Garrett is the supervisor of the Workforce and Low Incidence Disabilities Unit at the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), where he coordinates statewide efforts to address special education workforce shortages, recruitment and retention planning and the provision of services for students with low incidence disabilities. He has served at MDE since 2014, previously working as an Education Specialist for Developmental Cognitive Disabilities, providing leadership in statewide assessment, access to instruction based on academic standards and implementing evidence-based practices including positive behavior supports and person-centered practices.

Prior to joining MDE, Garrett had experience as a teacher, a paraprofessional and in home and community supports for youth and young adults with disabilities.

Emily Smith-Lundberg

Representative for the deaf mentor program

Emily serves as the director of Deaf Mentor Family Services at Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. Prior to becoming director, Emily was a Deaf Mentor in the same services for nine years. Emily also has been a camp director for the last two decades and is currently running Camp UBU - You Be You, a youth camp for campers who are deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing in the Midwest. Emily has a bachelor's degree in Deaf Studies and a master's degree in Sign Language Education, both from Gallaudet University in Washington, DC.

Cat Tamminga Flores

Part C Coordinator

Cat is Minnesota's Part C Coordinator. Cat supports infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families, as well as the providers and whole-family systems that support them. Prior to moving to Minnesota in 2016, Cat served children and families in natural and tele-environments as lead early intervention specialist for St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf and helped collaborate into law the Indiana statewide Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education, working to ensure that each and every child has access to quality supports that align with their and their families' communication wants and needs. Cat is a Listening and Spoken Language Specialist, LSLS Cert AVEd, and serves on the AGBell Academy board for mentors. She is also on the planning team for the Family Outcomes community of practice with the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center and the Center for IDEA Early Childhood Data Systems (DaSy). Cat is a member of various professional and community organizations, an avid reader, a textile artist, and a native plants caretaker.

Colleen Vitzthum

Birth hospital representative from a rural hospital

Colleen is a pediatric audiologist at Mankato Clinic in Mankato. She earned her undergraduate degree from Minnesota State University in Mankato and earned her doctorate from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She holds the Pediatric Audiology Specialty Certification from the American Board of Audiology. She developed an interest in pediatric audiology while fulfilling her externship at Mayo Clinic. She completes diagnostic testing, including auditory brainstem response, as well as fitting hearing aids and bone conduction aids for children of all ages. Colleen delivers evidence-based care and focuses on the child's and family's needs for treatment and management.

Katie Warne

Speech-language pathologist with experience in evaluation and intervention of infants and young children

Katie is a speech-language pathologist who works full time with infants and young children with hearing loss and their families. She is also a certified Listening and Spoken Language Specialist (LSLS Cert. AVT), which allows her to provide specialized support to children who are learning to listen and use spoken language. Katie has dedicated her career to delivering high-quality, specialized services to young children with hearing loss, and she looks forward to continuing to support children and families as a member of the EHDI Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Committee.

Terrence (Terry) Wilding

Representative of the Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf from the Minnesota State Academies staff

Terry is the 14th superintendent of the Minnesota State Academies, overseeing two campuses – the Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf and the Minnesota State Academy for the Blind. Both campuses are located in Faribault, Minnesota and serve a total of about 150 students from different parts of the state. Superintendent Wilding was born into a large deaf family, consisting of nine deaf siblings. Both of his parents are also deaf, and he has numerous deaf relatives on both sides of his family tree. Mr. Wilding attended the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind from kindergarten through his graduation with honors in 1986. Afterwards, he acquired degrees from Gallaudet University, Western Maryland College, and Northern Arizona University. Mr. Wilding’s career in education began in 1991, teaching transition skills at the Texas School for the Deaf, and prior to his start at the Minnesota State Academies, he also worked as a teacher and administrator at Gallaudet University, the Arizona Schools for the Deaf and Blind, and the New Mexico School for the Deaf. His passion lies in incorporating his life experiences with full language access, encouragement, and high expectations into educational programming, ensuring that all students have full access to learning, language, and communication in all aspects of their lives, allowing them to reach their goals in life. Mr. Wilding has presented on deaf education, language, learning, and full inclusion, both in the USA and internationally. Mr. Wilding is married to Lisa Boren-Wilding and they have three deaf children. In his spare time, Mr. Wilding enjoys outdoor activities, woodworking, and reading.

Jay Wyant

Consumer from an organization representing oral communication options

Jay has served on multiple nonprofit boards including the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (AG Bell), Northern Voices, and the Hearing Society, a non-profit audiology clinic. For over a decade, he wrote a monthly technology column for AG Bell’s national magazine, *Volta Voices*. Passionate about accessibility and maximizing opportunities for people with disabilities, Jay has presented on self-advocacy and communications technology, among

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other topics. Since 2012, Jay has served as the State's first chief information accessibility officer, or CIAO! Profoundly deaf since birth, Wyant was mainstreamed in first grade and wishes CART had been around when he was in college.

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