

November 8, 2016

Dear Family Infant Toddler (FIT) and Children's Medical Services (CMS) staff:

The New Mexico School for the Deaf (NMSD) and the New Mexico Department of Health (DOH) are pleased to re-issue an updated protocol regarding consultation and services for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. This protocol has been in place since 2001 and has ensured that an array of services is available to children and families along with specific expertise necessary to serve children who are deaf and hard of hearing and their families.

This process assists the FIT and CMS Program providers in accessing in-depth information and resources by connecting them to expert consultants from NMSD. NMSD services are provided at no charge to families or DOH providers and are available regionally.

We are enclosing a copy of the protocol with this letter. Please use the protocol to support your capacity to meet the needs of children you serve who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families.

Questions on the protocol or related matters can be addressed:

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Sincerely,



Lynn Gallagher
Cabinet Secretary
New Mexico Department of Health



Rosemary Gallegos, EdD
Superintendent
New Mexico School for the Deaf

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**PROTOCOL FOR ACCESSING SPECIALIZED EARLY INTERVENTION AND/OR
CONSULTATION RESOURCES
FROM
THE NEW MEXICO SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF (NMSD)
FOR
CHILDREN BIRTH-3 WHO ARE AT RISK FOR OR IDENTIFIED WITH A
HEARING LOSS**

The intent of this protocol is to support early intervention providers of the Family Infant Toddler (FIT) Program and Children’s Medical Services (CMS) in accessing timely and appropriate services for young children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

In order to assure appropriate services, a referral should be made to the NMSD Early Intervention and Involvement Division (EIID) as soon as possible for any child with a confirmed or suspected hearing loss. Suspected hearing loss can include children who have failed hearing screening through either the newborn hearing screening process, screening at a FIT provider agency, or whose family has concerns. In this way the family will have developmental services and/or consultation from NMSD personnel with specific training in working with children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families. Access to specific training is endorsed by the national Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) system, the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing (JCIH), and is recognized in IDEA Early Intervention Services regulation §303.13 (12). The NMSD EIID personnel, who are Developmental Specialists as well, will continue to work collaboratively with the FIT provider agencies on the identification process, evaluations, consultation, IFSPs, and can provide service coordination at family request.

To make a referral to the NMSD EII Department, please contact the main office in Santa Fe at 505-476-6402 or the Regional Supervisor in your area of the state.

NMSD REGIONAL CONSULTANT CONTACTS:

Region	Regional Consultant	Telephone	E-mail
Northeast	Kristi Halus	(505) 690-3517 cell	kristi.halus@nmsd.k12.nm.us
Metro	Lorraine Crespin	(505) 231-7962 cell	lorraine.crespin@nmsd.k12.nm.us
Northwest	Wendy Prouse	(505) 860-4615 cell	wendy.prouse@nmsd.k12.nm.us
South Central and Southeast	Karla Sanchez	(505) 469-7455 cell	karla.sanchez@nmsd.k12.nm.us
Southwest	Bert Goldblatt	(505) 690-9233	bertha.goldblatt@nmsd.k12.nm.us

For information or help in contacting a Regional Consultant:

Joanne Corwin, Early Intervention and Involvement Division Director at (505) 275-5433 or joanne.corwin@nmsd.k12.nm.us

**Services from NMSD are Free of Charge*