**Performance Measure 12**: Percentage of newborns who have been screened for hearing before hospital discharge.

**Plan for the Coming Year**
A. Monitor and provide technical assistance to birthing hospitals, children's hospitals, free-standing birthing centers and health departments to assure that infants receive hearing screenings and that referral rates are acceptable (4% or less statewide).

   Key activities:
   1. Assure continual hospital data input and regular report extractions (IPHIS and/or HI-Track);
   2. Review each hospital's UNHS data at least monthly;
   3. Provide targeted technical assistance to hospitals with identified issues -- i.e., lack of reporting, missed babies, high or exceptionally low referral rates;
   4. Create quarterly UNHS reports for individual hospitals in relation to statewide data;
   5. Make focused monitoring site visits to hospitals based on data or other issues to observe UNHS process and identify areas for improvement; and
   6. Work with local health departments on their legal obligations regarding EHDI and on identifying hearing screening sites for infants born at home.

B. Connect auditory diagnostic evaluation information received by ODH with non-pass UNHS results to identify infants receiving hearing evaluations by three months of age; monitor tracking and follow-up of UNHS results to reduce the rate of loss to follow-up.

   Key activities:
   1. Enter data from diagnostic audiology reports received by ODH into HI-Track;
   2. Send audiology report data to RIHPs;
   3. Monitor tracking and follow-up process within ODH and RIHPs; and
   4. Provide TA to RIHPs: include site visits following uniform protocol.

C. Increase diagnostic audiology services for infants: by updating a directory of audiologists and audiology services; and by working collaboratively with audiology educators and providers to enhance/increase diagnostic sites and opportunities for mentored experience with infants.

   Key activities:
   1. Update Audiology Directory from survey data;
   2. Update geo-map of Ohio audiologists working with infants, and;
   3. Approach faculties of Au.D. programs/medical schools in Ohio about opportunities to educate on EHDI.

D. Increase public and professional awareness of early hearing detection and intervention (EHDI) by distributing educational materials to physicians, preparing/disseminating reports for legislators and others, identifying potential areas for collaboration with the ODH Genetics Program.
Key activities:
1. Prepare and disseminate Annual Report to Legislature and UNHS Newsletter;
2. Work with ODH Genetics Program to identify areas for collaborative efforts.