

# Texas Newborn Screening News

## ATTENTION: Audiologists



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Did you know that the Department of State Health Services offers health care professionals **free** continuing education (CE) modules online that are convenient and user friendly? The Texas Health Steps program offers this training to you and can be found at: <http://txhealthsteps.com>.

What makes these trainings so convenient and easy to use? You have many modules to choose from and can complete them at your own pace in order to fit it in your hectic schedule. Specifically, you can earn CE credit with the online Newborn Hearing Screening module which is aimed at

introducing best practices for newborn hearing screening. Additionally, it provides guidance on explaining screening services and results to parents and other service providers.

All you need to do is register at the Texas Health Steps website and you will be given access to the extensive course listing of health care related modules.

If you have any questions regarding the online modules, feel free to contact *Wendy Beathard* at 512-458-7111 ext. 2682 and she will be happy to assist getting you started with these training opportunities.

## The Texas Newborn Screening Benefits Program Announces New Benefits for Cystic Fibrosis

For eligible clients who have a confirmed diagnosis of cystic fibrosis (CF), the Newborn Screening Benefits Program covers clinical evaluations, follow-up care, and confirmatory laboratory testing that are similar to services provided for other approved diagnosed disorders.

The approved items for the treatment and care of CF are:

- CF specific vitamins
- CF specific oral and enteral supplements

- CF specific medications such as pancreatic enzymes and reflux medications
- CF specific modular/additives
- Hypertonic Saline

If you have any questions regarding these or other items, please refer to the NBS Benefits Program Contractor Procedures Manual at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/newborn/pdf/ProvManual.pdf>, or you may contact Sharon Newcomb-Kase by phone at (512) 458-7111 ext. 3237, or by email at [Sharon.Newcomb-Kase@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:Sharon.Newcomb-Kase@dshs.state.tx.us).

## Meet Our Newborn Screening Educators

Jill Maughan started with the Newborn Screening Program in May of 2009. Jill is currently pursuing her Masters in Health Education and is scheduled to graduate from Texas State University– San Marcos in May of 2010. Jill is passionate about public health and plans to dedicate her life to helping others lead healthier lives.

As one of the Newborn Screening educators, Jill is responsible for the creation and distribution of the quarterly newsletter, maintaining the web-site, as well as reviewing and modifying educational materials and brochures.

In her spare time, Jill enjoys running, hiking and lifting weights. She is a huge travel bug and has had the opportunity to visit exciting places such as Australia, Europe, Hawaii, and the Caribbean. She looks forward to a long and exciting career serving the public health needs of this country.



Wendy Beathard started with the Newborn Screening Program in December of 2009. Wendy completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of Texas at Austin in 1991 and a Masters of Science in Maternal Child Nursing from Texas Women's University in 1996.

Wendy previously worked as a pediatric nurse and pediatric nurse practitioner in for-and non-profit clinics, home health agencies, and hospitals, including a cystic fibrosis center and a pediatric hospital. Her true love was caring for chronically-ill children and has seen the effects of some of the illnesses the program screens for, and the toll the disorders take on children and families. Wendy's background has given her a passion for newborn screening and the work performed by the Newborn Screening Program.

As an educator with the Newborn Screening Program, Wendy will be traveling statewide presenting on-site education related to newborn screening to providers. Three education modules that she has prepared include an overview of the Newborn Screening Program, Cystic Fibrosis, and Sickle Cell Trait. Wendy can also provide education on the TEHDI (Texas Early Hearing Detection and Intervention) Program.

## Share Your Story with Texas

The Texas Newborn Screening Program is looking for your touching stories to feature in our newsletter.

How has the Newborn Screening Program touched the lives of your patients? Is there a particular story you would like to share with other health care professionals across Texas? Do you have a patient that would like to share their experience with the Newborn Screening Program?

If you would like us to share your story, please send to [jill.maughan@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:jill.maughan@dshs.state.tx.us). We also welcome any pictures to give your story that much more of a personal touch.

We look forward to hearing how newborn screening has touched the lives of you and your patients!



## The Texas Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program Flies With Pilot Training Sites

The Texas Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (TEHDI) program has taken off with its newly developed training curriculum designed to create awareness of follow-up needs in children with hearing loss. Jetting into the new year, TEHDI started with its first “train the trainers” session, held at the Department of State Health Service’s central office, preparing new trainers to present information on prenatal services, Universal Newborn Hearing Screening, and introducing the pilot trainings to stakeholders. Additional pilot trainings are on course for the near future.

In 2010, the program’s first year of pilot trainings, emphasis will be on sessions in Austin, San Antonio, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, Tyler, and McAllen. The TEHDI pilot trainings are designed to get the message out about early hearing detection and intervention, and to gather data needed to improve future trainings. If you are interested in learning more about the TEHDI pilot trainings, please contact Mary Gwyn Allen at [MaryGwyn.Allen@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:MaryGwyn.Allen@dshs.state.tx.us).



## Spotlight on Newborn Screening Program Staff

The Texas Newborn Screening Unit is fortunate to have Adrianna Rodriguez as part of the Newborn Screening team! Adrianna is a Public Health Technician on the Endocrine Team where she follows the Congenital Hypothyroidism disorder. This requires her to perform follow up on abnormal T4 newborn screens. Adrianna works closely with hospitals, physicians, and nurses around the state to ensure the proper and timely care of each of her cases.

Adrianna possesses an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement and is currently pursuing a Bachelors degree from Texas State University— Round Rock.

Adrianna started her career by serving our country in the United States Army. She spent five years in the army and had the fortune of being stationed in Germany. While on tour in Germany, she was able to visit many countries and experience life in diverse cultures.

Adrianna brings a wealth of state experience to the Newborn Screening Program. She began her state

service with the Department of Assistive and Disability Services. She worked at the Austin State School with mentally challenged clients. From there she went on to work as an administrative assistant for the Fair and Fraud Hearings section of the Health and Human Services Commission. Her last stopping point prior to the Newborn Screening Program was with the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services working in Determination Services.



In her spare time, you can find Adrianna playing in softball tournaments and exercising. Her future aspirations include obtaining a Bachelors degree in Criminal Justice and dedicating her life to helping those children abused and most in need in Texas. She would eventually

like to become part of the Lubbock police department and help keep citizens safe in the town in which she grew up.

We are excited to have Adrianna on board and look forward to many exciting experiences to come!

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**It is the *mission* of the Newborn Screening Program to decrease the morbidity and mortality of infants born in Texas through customer oriented, high-quality newborn screening follow-up, case management and outreach education.**

**NBS Ombudsman: For Newborn Screening questions, comments and concerns, please contact Sharon Newcomb-Kase at:  
Sharon.Newcomb-Kase@dshs.state.tx.us or (512) 458-7111 ext. 3237**

**For all other questions regarding follow-up of an abnormal screen, feel free to contact the Newborn Screening Case Management Team at (512) 458-7111 ext. 3957**