

Submitted on Thu, 02/10/2022 - 10:43

Name

Danielle Howes

Affiliation, if applicable

Child Development Division Children's Integrated Services

Topic

Other

Comment

I am writing in relation to the question of covering hearing aids in the Vt Benchmark Plans. As an administrator for services for infants and toddlers with disabilities, I believe it is important for Vermont to support all children have their health needs met to ensure optimal health and development. Equitable access to hearing aids should be part of the Board's consideration of covering hearing aids in the Vt Benchmark Plans. The inability to hear well can affect children's social, emotional, language and communication, and broader foundations of development. More long term impacts can include delays in reading and other academic benchmarks, putting children with hearing loss both developmentally and educationally behind their hearing peers.

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Yes