

I wanted to update you on activities in the SW region with families of D/HH kids:

++(45) people representing (12) families with Deaf/HH kids attended the annual picnic last Wednesday in Mankato. We have an excellent parent guide from LifeTracks, Kristen Hemstock, who does a fantastic job with these families. It's amazing how many families she's working with. I was there along with Tracy Koster and Sara Swanson. We had some good conversations with parents one on one and hopefully they now know more about what we do and how they can contact us.

++Kristen Hemstock has been working with families in Southern MN to film a public service announcement (PSA) aimed at families who need to follow up on their newborn screenings. Five families from Southern MN participated in the production of the PSA. An effort was made to show diversity with regard to communication strategies as well as ethnicity. The children ranged in age from 5 months to 2 years. The filming went well and should begin running on Mankato KEYC-TV soon. DVDs of the PSA will be distributed to other TV stations throughout Minnesota. The PSAs are 30-second and 60-second in duration.

Jeff

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