



# NBDPN News

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## NBDPN Board of Directors

### NBDPN Board Elections

NBDPN is pleased to announce that Amanda Elmore, Brennan Martin, and Amy Nance have been elected to the [board of directors](#) effective January 2022.

- **Amanda Elmore (FL)**

To me, NBDPN is a community and network that supports birth defect research and surveillance not only through promotion and education but also by supporting the public health professionals who do the work.

- **Brennan Martin (VT)**

The NBDPN is the best vehicle for birth defect surveillance programs and researchers in that field to agree and disseminate best practices, cooperate to conduct research, and to develop the next generation of professionals in the field. Vermont is such a small state that participation in this organization is the best way for it to make a difference, but I believe that for all states participation in the NBDPN makes us all much more effective than operating in isolation.

- **Amy Nance (UT)**

NBDPN means collaboration. NBDPN has given me the opportunity to build relationships and work with so many amazing people in the field of birth defects that I just wouldn't have been able to without this organization

NBDPN offers our deepest appreciation to all candidates who were on the ballot this year. The network is privileged to have such a depth of knowledge and skill ready and willing to support our mission and our members.

### National Birth Defects Awareness Month 2022

The goal for National Birth Defects Prevention Month is to raise awareness of the impact of birth defects in our communities and to share tips for preventing birth defects. The [2022 theme "Healthy Babies Healthy, Communities"](#) expands the discussion beyond prevention and opens the door to building stronger partnerships with community-based systems and services. As such, the language and scope for the [5 Tips to Prevent Birth Defects](#) has been updated. The [2022 tips](#) shift from individual action to community aspects that can serve to accompany parents in the decisions they make to improve health outcomes for their family. A new [Tips Resource Map](#) allows birth defects programs and their partners to pin local resources with respect to each of the tips. [Submit your suggestions](#) for local resources to make a more comprehensive map.

## Watch the NBDPN Annual Membership Meeting

In case you missed it, [a recording of the November 17 Annual Membership Meeting](#) is available on YouTube. NBDPN Board and Committee chairs provided an overview of NBDPN activities over the past year and shared plans for the future. Note, there are separate files for [new member orientation](#) and [Birth Defects Awareness Month](#) topics.

## Announcements and Updates

### Newborn Screening for Critical Congenital Heart Disease (CCHD)

The National Birth Defects Prevention Network and the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) Newborn Screening Technical assistance and Evaluation Program (NewSTEPS) are pleased to continue a joint webinar series on Newborn Screening for Critical Congenital Heart Disease (CCHD). Recordings of the first 2 webinar are available through the NewSTEPS website. The next session is expected in February for Heart Month.

- [CCHD: Current Implementation Status and Future Webinar](#) (Recorded 9/9/2021)
- [CCHD: Clinical Aspects and Implications of Newborn Screening](#) (Recorded 12/2/2021)

### NBDPN National Conference (In-person)

NBDPN is looking forward to hosting its next in-person national conference in March of 2023. Location and dates will be announced in mid-2022. In the interim, please watch for announcements about upcoming NBDPN webinars.

### From Bench to Bedside and Back Again -- June 25-29, 2022

The Society for Birth Defects Research & Prevention will hold their 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting from June 25-29, 2022 in Vancouver, British Columbia. The robust scientific program represents active, timely research areas of high relevance to public health and significant usefulness to researchers in the fields of birth defects research and birth defects surveillance. Visit <https://birthdefectsresearch.org/meetings/2022/> to learn more

## Partner Corner

### Call for Innovative and Promising Practices for AAP EHDI Program

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program is now accepting applications for Innovative and Promising Practices featuring practical and innovative implementation strategies that contribute to the care of children who are deaf or hard of hearing (D/HH) and their families. Selected practices will be featured on the [AAP EHDI web page](#) and disseminated broadly to EHDI stakeholders, EHDI Chapter Champions and the AAP community. Complete this [application](#) for an opportunity to share strategies from your program or practice, along with challenges and lessons learned. Contact the AAP EHDI program [aapehdi@aap.org](mailto:aapehdi@aap.org) with any questions.

### March of Dimes Launches Campaign to end Health Disparities in Routine Immunizations

The March of Dimes recently launched a national campaign to close the gap on routine immunization in the United States, citing ongoing health disparities made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic. This effort will address differences in rates due to race/ethnicity, poverty and insurance coverage. Learn about the campaign at [www.MarchofDimes.org/vaccines](http://www.MarchofDimes.org/vaccines).

## CDC Updates

### National Birth Defects Awareness Month

CDC recognizes January as National Birth Defects Awareness Month. This is a time to

raise awareness about birth defects and highlight efforts to improve the health of people living with these conditions across their lifespan. Join the nationwide effort to raise awareness of birth defects and their impact on individuals, parents, and families. [Learn more about birth defects across the lifespan.](#)

### **Adults with Heart Defects Are More Likely to Have a Disability**

A study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that adults with heart defects are up to 8 times more likely to have a disability than adults without heart defects. People living with heart defects should visit a heart doctor regularly to prevent or manage problems related to their heart condition and make the best possible choices for their overall health and well-being. [Read the key findings.](#)

### **People with Sickle Cell Disease Who Developed COVID-19 Have High Rates of Hospitalization, Intensive Care Unit Admission, and Death**

A CDC study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that people with sickle cell disease (SCD) who have coronavirus disease have high rates of hospitalization, intensive care unit admission, & death. People with sickle cell should take measures to protect themselves against COVID-19, including vaccination. Read the key findings <https://bit.ly/3dFgGsV>.

## **Connections**

*Please edit and share birth defects prevention and awareness messages on behalf of NBDPN. The full complement daily of National Birth Defects [Awareness Month social media messages](#) and related images are available via Box. Please edit for your communities and share widely.*

*January is National Birth Defects Awareness Month! Join us throughout the month as we share information you might not know, tips you might try out, and resources you might find useful. #NBDAM #HealthyCommunitiesHealthyBabies*

*Free vitamins containing folic acid are available in most states. Zoom in on your state on our [Tip Resources Map](#) below to get more information.*

*#HealthyCommunitiesHealthyBabies #NBDAM*

*<https://www.nbdpn.org/bdam.php>*

*Don't see a resource on this map that you know about? Please let us know!*

*If you are pregnant or planning to be, talk with your healthcare provider about getting up to date on all your vaccines. The CDC recommends two vaccines during every pregnancy: the flu and the Tdap vaccines.*

*#HealthyCommunitiesHealthyBabies #NBDAM*

*Honoring and listening to your body by choosing nourishing foods that you enjoy, moving your body in ways that give you energy, and managing your stress are great habits to build before and throughout your pregnancy.*

*#HealthyCommunitiesHealthyBabies #NBDAM*

*Substance use (alcohol, drugs, cigarettes, marijuana, etc.) and or substance misuse can be harmful to a pregnancy and infants who are breastfeeding. If you are already pregnant, it's not too late to get help.*

*#HealthyCommunitiesHealthyBabies #NBDAM*

## **Connect With Us**



