

**Irene Forsman** has been in the Maternal and Child Health Bureau for more than 2 decades in a number of positions focusing on children with special health needs and their families. She has been responsible for HRSA/MCHB's universal newborn hearing screening and intervention program since passage of the legislation. Critical components of the program are screening of newborn infants for hearing loss prior to hospital discharge, audiologic diagnosis before three months of age, linkage to a medical home, enrollment in a program of early intervention before 6 months of age and linkage to a family support system. That program is now operational through out the United States, Puerto Rico and two Pacific Rim Territories.

Ms. Forsman did her undergraduate work at Hunter College in New York City and formal graduate study at California State University in Los Angeles. Prior to joining the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, she was Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in Genetics at the University of Southern California School of Medicine and also held an adjunct appointment in the Department of Nursing at California State College at Los Angeles.