

Maryland Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (MD EHDI) Advisory Council

Virtual Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2021
12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Patty Muldowney, Chair	Brian Reilly, MD	Jennifer Willis
Robyn Miller, Au.D.	Allison Balsley	Ruth Marin
Marny Helfrich	Maryland Department of Health (MDH)	Dawn Marsiglia, Au.D.
Kelby Brick, Esq., CDI	Jed Miller, MD, MPH	Jocelyn Leung
Tina Backe	Tanya D. Green	
Margaret Hargrove	ASL Interpreters	
Danielle Previ, Ph.D.	Sherry Atkinson	
Catherine Paige	Pat McKenny-Benjamin	

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Patty Muldowney.

Welcome and Meeting Etiquette Reminders

Chairperson Muldowney shared meeting etiquette reminders.

Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the April, 2021 meeting were reviewed by council members in advance. Chairperson Muldowney asked members for any feedback and/or edits. Tina Backe moved to approve minutes. Marny Helfrich seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was approved.

Continued Business

MD Dept. of Health Updates

- Tanya Green asked Dr. Jed Miller, Director for the Office for Genetics and People with Special Health Care Needs for MDH updates. No MDH updates provided.

Membership Updates

- Ms. Green shared that the council is almost full with the exception of one of two parent positions. Council assistance is needed to recommend potential applicants for the parent position.
- Two appointments were due to expire on June 30th and those candidates sent in applications to continue serving. Dr. Robyn Miller and Margaret Hargrove have received their appointment letters and are at the beginning of a new three-year term.
- Dr. Brian Reilly's appointment expired June 30th. He is ineligible to renew, however members are able to continue serving until the position is filled. Dr. Reilly indicated he is willing to continue serving until that position can be filled. It would be most helpful that any Council members interested in the position with expertise apply.

MD EHDI Program Updates

Grants

HRSA grant

- Seeking a family support and engagement position. Two rounds of interviews were done for the position. Not filled at this time. Looking into other options to fulfill the requirements of the grant with regards to family support and engagement. An alternate plan is being worked on to prevent losing time on recruitment.

CDC grant

- Funds the data system used to support MD EHDI functions.
- Has supported a modification to the contract with data system vendor to upgrade the system in ways to make it more user friendly and to make it more helpful with regards to follow up purposes.
- Working on a data sharing agreement with the Vital Statistics Administration, which is a big part of what the CDC wants to see with regards to their funding opportunity.

Statistics

The July 13, 2021 statistics were previously sent to board members. Tanya Green presented the statistics. Kelby Brick indicated he would expect to see the calendar year 2021 numbers approximately half or close to the previous year. Ms. Green explained that the 2021 statistics on infants in the follow up process are higher than usual due to the pandemic year and a reduction in available appointments. The council has discussed pandemic related issues. In-process follow up numbers for both calendar year 2020 and 2021 are higher than what is normally seen. Marny Helfrich indicated it looked as if the births are lower than the year before. Ms. Green reviewed and thought birth numbers were about the same. Mr. Brick asked what strategies MDH is implementing to reduce

delays in follow up and identification of DHH infants related to the pandemic. Ms. Green shared that the Program has instituted different follow up methods, and is working with outside partners for awareness and assistance. Dr. Robyn Miller shared that there have been two referrals from Montgomery County for 2021 and that Early Intervention has many pending still from 2020. She agreed with Ms. Green that it is taking longer for appointments and also noted families are reluctant to go into the offices.

New Business

Open Discussion

Chairperson Muldowney opened the discussion on possible presenters for future meetings. It was said presenters at the last meeting were enjoyable and informative. Chairperson Muldowney asked the council for feedback on types of presentation, topics, ideas that would be helpful to the council, and frequency of presentations. Dr. Robyn Miller suggested inviting Ruth Marin to speak on her research with CMV (cytomegalovirus). Dr. Danielle Previ suggested a psychologist in Texas she knows that has done a lot of good work with CMV do a joint presentation with Ruth. Tina Backe suggested once a year presentations unless something timely emerges.

Diversity, equity and inclusion practices within the EHDI system

Tanya Green explained that part of the HRSA grant requires a plan for diversity, equity and inclusion practices. She shared a slide and led the discussion on HRSA goals such as leading MD EHDI Systems of Care to improve outcomes for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Each goal had clear objectives. Ms. Green asked that any council members with knowledge, ideas or who has already worked in the area of diversity, equity and inclusion provide feedback. Ms. Green presented plans, timelines and strategies.

Announcements

Legislative Updates

No updates or announcements.

Next MD EHDI Advisory Council meeting: Thursday, October 21, 2021, 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM; meeting format TBD

Adjournment

Tina Backe moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Robyn Miller seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned.