

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

Virtual Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2020
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	Cate Fontaine
Marny Helfrich	Maryland Department of Health (MDH)	Dawn Marsiglia, Au.D.
Kelby Brick, Esq., CDI	Stacy Taylor	Cheri Dowling
Tina Backe	Tanya D. Green	Ben Dubin
Margaret Hargrove	ASL Interpreters	Lisalee Egbert, Ph.D.
Mara Clement	Anna Rose	David Sabala
Danielle Previ, Ph.D.	David Sabala	Louis Colodzin
		Jennifer Willis
		Angela Prudhomme

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Patty Muldowney at 12:30 pm.

Welcome and Meeting Etiquette Reminders

Chairperson Muldowney shared meeting etiquette reminders.

Vice Chair Update

Megan Ackerman was voted in at the last meeting as the Vice Chair. Since that last meeting, Megan resigned her position as parent member on the council and because of that, there is a vacancy for her position as well as Vice Chair position. Tanya Green received guidance from The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) on how to proceed. A new election must be held for the Vice Chair position. Nominations are needed for that position and will be accepted during this meeting.

Approval of Previous Minutes

January 2020 (revised), May 2020 and July 2020 meeting minutes presented for review and vote. Kelby Brick moved for a postponement of the vote on the meeting minutes to have more time to review. Margaret Hargrove stated that she had not received the minutes prior to this meeting. Tanya Green re-sent meeting minutes via email and

ensured that all Council members had them. Chairperson Muldowney held this item until later in the meeting.

Old Business

MD Dept. of Health Updates

Membership Updates

Currently, there is one vacancy on the council for 1 of 2 parent member positions. New parent member Catherine Page was welcomed to the Council. Ms. Page introduced herself to the Council.

MD EHDl Program Updates

Statistics

Program statistics were provided. Tanya Green gave a background on the current statistics. The EHDl program is working towards closing 2019 cases. An extensive survey done for the CDC every year is normally due in February but this year it's due in November. They are diligently working because that is the CDC protocol for closing cases. Some closed cases are periodically reviewed and even opened back up for various reasons. When reviewing data, you will see calendar year 2019 numbers low but that impacted the current year numbers which are also impacted by the pandemic. Statistics are not posted on the website. Upon request, Tanya Green can provide the statistics.

Grants

CDC - EHDl was awarded the CDC cooperative agreement which is a 4-year award.

The primary goal of that funding is to enhance data system to improve evaluation and analysis of data. Most of that funding goes towards the data system and its upgrades.

HRSA - The HRSA grant will also involve partnership between EHDl and MSDE as well as working with families more and offering family support. Those funds will help focus on families that decline early intervention services which has been a concern of the council. Moving forward, you will hear more about the efforts and may likely be asked for your assistance.

HRSA Supplemental Fund - HRSA offered an opportunity to apply for a smaller amount of supplemental funding to help with the impacts of the current pandemic. Maryland applied and was awarded those funds.

MD EHDl Annual Stakeholders Conference

Cheri Dowling provided updates on the 2020 MD EHDl Annual Stakeholders Virtual Conference. In partnership with NCHAM (National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management), the conference was held in three sessions, September 10th, 17th and the 24th, and was well attended. There were over 100 participants each session. Forty-one

states and Canada were represented (British Columbia and Ontario). The conference evaluations provided feedback that the conference was amazing. Attendees loved that the conference was open for everyone and ended up being a national audience, rather than just a Maryland conference. The entire virtual conference is available on the MD EHDI website as well as the NCHAM website. Kudos were given to Cheri for a successful conference as well as Dr. Danielle Previ for an amazing presentation. Cheri also mentioned that the Maryland attendees received a box of goodies/giveaways for attending the conference thanks to extra funds.

New Business

Covid-19 Impacts Discussion

Chairperson Muldowney shared that at the moment, all Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD) services are being provided virtually. Infant and toddler home visits are being provided virtually at the frequency that they were being provided prior to the pandemic. All classroom services are being provided virtually as well. A big impact for the State as a whole is that the Diagnostic Audiology Center at MSD is closed at this time. Currently in Phase 1 of re-opening. New referrals are slower due to identification of infants because of the pandemic. Mara Clement shared Montgomery County Infants and Toddlers is having similar experiences. They are having slightly lower referral numbers and existing families to the program are not going to follow up appointments. Some technology and a few platforms have been offered to families. Some families have withdrawn. A plus side is more families have been attending the virtual parent groups and attending online ASL classes. Marny Helfrich shared Special Education Services experiences are consistent with what is seen across the State. All of their programs are continuing to provide services to families virtually. They have found compared to school age children, it has been an easier transition to shift to a virtual model with parent coaching as primary mode of service delivery. Areas where public health numbers are improving quickly, they are beginning to reinstate in-person visits as needed but most systems are primarily virtual. Tina Backe asked council members for feedback on face coverings for their population and thoughts on how to most safely conduct hearing screening for school age children. Kelby Brick asked the council what are some things being done for that birth through age 3 population in terms of language exposure and development. Margaret Hargrove shared that they are using the parent coaching model as well. They are lucky to be able to continue to use that practice. Using different regulations with being able to increase time in between families only having children come into the center that really benefit from in person instructions. Margaret said they are meeting the needs of their families in their settings. Older students who are successful online, continue with those appointments. The parent coaching model is really working very well. Council members gave feedback to Tina and Kelby on their questions they had for the members.

Vice Chair Nominations

Danielle Previ, Ph.D., Margaret Hargrove and Robyn Miller, Au.D. were nominated for the Vice Chair position. Dr. Previ, Margaret and Dr. Miller accepted their nomination. Voting will take place at the next council meeting, which is currently scheduled for January 21, 2021. Nominees are asked to provide written information to be shared with Council members by November 5th. Each nominee will have the opportunity to speak briefly at the next meeting, prior to the vote being taken.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Chairperson Muldowney revisited the review of previous meeting minutes. Kelby Brick moved to postpone review. There were no seconds to his motion. Council members were given time to review each set of meeting minutes separately prior to voting on the that set only. One correction was needed for the January minutes; Patty Muldowney nominated both Allyson and Meagan for the Vice Chair position, rather than Kelby Brick as noted in the draft minutes. January minutes were voted on and approved with that correction. May and July 2020 meeting minutes were reviewed, voted on, and approved with no corrections.

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

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 pm by Chairperson Muldowney.