

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

ZOOM Meeting Minutes  
October 17, 2024  
12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>	<b>Guests</b>
Thomas Horejcs, Ph.D.	Jamie Perry	Jen Willis
Amy Gaskin		Connely Leis
Marny Helfrich		
Carolyn Mulvey Jenks, MD	<b>Maryland Department of Health (MDH)</b>	
Joe Kelleher	Stacy Taylor	
Usherla DeBerry (Diamon Halliburton)	Noadya Legrand	
Mara Clement	Beverly Amofah	
Danielle Previ , Ph.D.	Tatum Cox	
Jennifer Bissett	Lauren Whiteman	
Patricia Muldowney	<b>ASL Interpreters</b>	
Julie Steinberg	Patty Plummer	
	Jason Chang	

### **Welcome**

Chair Dr.Thomas Horejcs, called the meeting to order and started with the Welcome.

### **Roll Call**

Noadya Legrand conducted the meeting roll call.

### **Approval of Previous Minutes**

Council members received meeting minutes from the July 18th, 2024 meeting in advance and they were shared on the screen for review. Marny Helfrich made the motion to approve the minutes and Joe Kelleher seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the minutes were approved.

### **Announcements**

Noadya Legrand announced that Maryland Technology Assistance Program (MDTAP), a program of the Maryland Department of Disabilities(MDoD), was awarded an ACL Grant to ensure Marylanders who are deaf or hard of hearing have access to affordable funding for hearing aids and technologies. The Council suggested inviting a MDTAP representative to an upcoming meeting to further discuss the grant. Additionally, Marny Helfrich shared information about the Maryland hearing aid, language and communication loan banks as well.

Noadya thanked Council members for their valuable feedback on the EHDI diagnostic letter actively being revised to send to families.

New members Julie Steinberg, Alexander Graham Bell Association of Maryland Representative and Dr. Carolyn Jenks, Pediatric Otolaryngologist, were introduced to the Committee and they introduced themselves.

### **Continued Business**

#### **Nominations for Chair**

- The Council proceeded from the last meeting with Chair and Vice Chair nominations.
- A voting form was sent out to Council members and a vote was conducted.
- Thomas Horejes was elected Council Chairperson and Danielle Previ was elected Council Co Chair.

MD Department of Health (MDH) Updates

- Tatum Cox, the new Council Administrator, introduced herself to the Council.

### **MD EHDI Program Updates**

#### **Statistics**

- Program data from the calendar year 2023 was shared and discussed.

### **New Business**

Stacy Taylor presented an in-depth slide show of the grant and procurement process in relation to The Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program (EHDI) grants. All slides from the presentation will be shared with Council members for further review.

Council members shared updates from their organizations:

- Carolyn Mulvey Jenks that she is also a member of the Mid Atlantic CMV (Cytomegalovirus) consortium and would like to recirculate a drafted statement to the EHDI Council regarding universal screening for CMV.
- Patricia Muldowney shared that new MSD (Maryland School for the Deaf) birth to pre-K families visited the pumpkin patch to show the importance of community.
- Marny Helfrich informed the Council that the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has a new brochure for the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program (MITP).
- Jen Willis shared that the MD/DC Deaf Blind Project, Maryland School of the Blind, and the Maryland School for the Deaf will be hosting a free event at Port Discovery on November 25<sup>th</sup> for . Flyers will be sent out soon.
- Chair Thomas Horejes shared that Apple has just released Apple AirPods with hearing aid capability.

### **Legislative Information/Updates**

Chair Thomas Horejes informed the Committee that the FCC (Federal Communications

Commission) was meeting regarding hearing aid capability.

Chair Horejes also informed the Council that the LEAD K bill was reintroduced to Legislation. A town hall meeting will take place to discuss the bill.

**Next MD EHDI Advisory Council meeting**

January 16, 2025, 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM; meeting will be virtual.

**Adjournment**

Marny Helfrich moved to adjourn the meeting. Carolyn Jenks seconded the motion. Motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned.