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

**DRAFT**

ZOOM Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2024

12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

| **Members Present** | **Members Absent** | **Guests** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Robyn Miller, Au.D. | Jamie Perry, MD | Noadya Legrand |
| Patty Muldowney | Danielle Previ , Ph.D. | Laura Lugar |
| Jonathan Walsh, MD | Margaret Hargrove | Claire Buxton |
| Thomas Horejes, Ph.D. |  | Cheri Dowling |
| Mara Clement |  |  |
| Joe Kelleher | **Maryland Department of Health (MDH)** |  |
| Marny Helfrich | Tameka Thomas |  |
| Usherla Deberry | Stacy Taylor |  |
| Jennifer Bissett | Lauren Whiteman |  |
|  |  |  |
|  | **ASL Interpreters** |  |
|  | Anna Rose |  |
|  | Pat McKenny-Benjamin |  |

**Call to Order**

Chairperson Robyn Miller called the meeting to order.

**Welcome, Meeting Etiquette Reminders and Introductions**

Chairperson Miller shared meeting etiquette reminders with the Council.

**Approval of Previous Minutes**

Council members received the meeting minutes from the last October 19th advisory meeting via email for their review, and Tameka Thomas also shared them on the screen. She asked if there were any edits to those minutes. Chairperson Robyn Miller made the motion to approve the minutes, Marny Helfrich seconded the motion, and there were no opposed motions. The minutes were approved.

**Announcements**

Tameka Thomas thanked everyone who attended the State Stakeholders Conference in person and virtually. The consensus received was great.

Tameka announced to the Council an upcoming conference in May that she will be sharing some more information in the next couple of weeks.

Tameka shared some information in the chat with the Committee regarding the upcoming National EHDI Conference that will be held on March 17-19th in Denver, CO. The Conference was discussed, and an Eastern Shore parent who attended last year’s meeting funded through Hands and Voices gave a great detailing testimonial to the Conference.

Tameka discussed with the Council the OSS (Office of Support Services) training. She gave a brief overview of the legislation and the upcoming session when it is set to conclude and what that will mean for the Council. The legislative session began on January 10th and will conclude on April 18th. Tameka also gave the Committee an overview of the bill distribution and the decision-making process. Dr. Horejes added that if the Council as a whole decided not to vote or in the event of a vote, the Committee also doesn’t personally agree with the consensus of the Councill (the majority), recusing is an option and deciding as a personal citizen or a representative of another organization outside of the Council to testify with own positions, the Committee is not opposed to that type of opportunities.

**Continued Business**

**Self-Share**

* Usherla Deberry introduced himself to the Council and mentioned he is the new Acting Director for The Governor’s Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (GODHH). He explained his appointment and gave an overview of some of their office staff.
* Dr. Horejes introduced himself and expressed looking forward to work with GODHH.
* Chairperson Miller shared Dr. Horejes's sentiments.

**EHDI Advisory Work Plan**

* Chairperson Miller explained the advisory work plan to those who were unfamiliar with it. A list of areas that the Council wanted addressed was created, and the top two areas were chosen to be worked on. Work groups were formed. Dr. Horejes is in charge of one group he will report on, and Chairperson Miller was working with two non-Chair members on the other she will report on.
* Dr. Horejes's group was charged with providing standardized, unbiased, and comprehensive information at the time of diagnosis to support parents as they begin their journey. He presented to the Council who his group members were as well as what they had been working on. Their areas of concern and main focuses were outlined. Strategies for those concerns were shared with the Council. The group's information shared will be available and can be accessed via link. Group members added to the discussion. A few suggestions were added, questions asked and discussed.
* Chairperson Miller's group was charged with the identification of late-onset hearing loss in children. After meeting several times and discussing the cons, it was agreed that while knowing the problem, they don’t know how to fix it. Unfortunately, without funding this is something they cannot tackle at this time. Hopefully, things will change.

***MD EHDI Program Updates***

Membership Updates

* Tameka Thomas informed the Council that the membership appointments are up to date. She also introduced Usherla Deberry, the Acting Director of The Governor’s Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and Jennifer Bissett, a parent interested in contributing to the Council.

Statistics

* Tameka Thomas shared the statistics on the screen with the Council. She will also send them out as needed. Tameka acknowledged there is a significant amount of work ahead, but with a new additional follow-up coordinator joining to assist and seeking some internal help to improve the follow-up and family support engagement, things will get better.

HRSA grant

* As of now, Tameka Thomas reported no significant updates.

CDC grant

* As of now, Tameka Thomas reported no significant updates to share regarding the existing CDC grant. However, they are working on their CDC grant extension application and are looking forward to continued work toward the EHDI goals.

2024 Maryland Early Hearing Detection Intervention Conference

* Tameka Thomas shared with the Committee that the date for the conference is Thursday, May 9th, from 9 am-4:30 pm. Ten Oaks Ballroom. Information will be sent out as soon as available for registration. The conference will be hybrid.

**New Business**

Tameka Thomas shared some cCMV updates with the Council that were sent over. She informed the Committee the group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 11:30 am. She shared contact information in the chat so Council members who are interested in attending any meetings can sign up. Tameka mentioned that more states are adding legislation for CMV testing. That makes 21 states that have some sort of legislation in place.

**Legislative**

Dr. Horejes shared with the Council that he, Tameka, and Robyn met, and spoke about whether or not they should present to the Council a vote on behalf of the Council on the current Lead K (Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids) legislation. It was agreed that it was not a good idea at this time because they continue to make revisions on the bill, the bill is a moving target, and there is no final bill even to have the opportunity to review even to consider voting on as a Council. The Lead K bill will be tabled, and it will not be brought to the Council for a vote. However, Council members are encouraged to testify written or orally on behalf of themselves as an individuals or on behalf of another organization they represent outside of the Council. Dr. Horejes mentioned the Lead K bill is moving forward quickly through the process. He shared his Lead K role and efforts with the Committee. He also briefly explained the bill to some not familiar. The Council discussed the bill.

Tameka Thomas shared with the Committee a few bills outside the scope of the EHDI Advisory Council that may be of personal interest. She added that she shared the link to these bills in the chat.

**Next Meeting**

Thursday, April 18, 2024, 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM; the meeting will be virtual.

**Adjournment**

Marny Helfrich moved to adjourn the meeting, and Margaret Hargrove seconded the motion. The motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned.