

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

# Approved

ZOOM Meeting Minutes  
October 19, 2023  
12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

| <b>Members Present</b> | <b>Members Absent</b>                      | <b>Guests</b>         |
|------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Robyn Miller, Au.D.    | Catherine Paige                            | Allison McGrath       |
| Thomas Horejcs, Ph.D.  | Emily Kelleher                             | Claire Buxton         |
| Jamie Perry, MD        |  | Noadya Legrand        |
| Jonathan Walsh, MD     |  | Carolyn Horton, Au.D. |
| Margaret Hargrove      | <b>Maryland Department of Health (MDH)</b> | Nina Desell           |
| Marny Helfrich         | Tameka Thomas                              | Connely Leis          |
| Mara Clement           | Stacy Taylor                               | Kate Breen            |
| Patricia Muldowney     | Barbara Balazek                            | Jacob Leffler         |
| Danielle Previ, Ph.D.  |  | Ruth Marin, Ph.D.     |
|                        | <b>ASL Interpreters</b>                    | Tina Joyner           |
|                        | Anessa Hughes                              | Carolyn Jenks, MD     |
|                        | Angela Reel                                |                       |

### **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**

Tameka Thomas shared the July 20, 2023 meeting minutes with the Council. She asked if there were any questions for those minutes. Dr. Jonathan Walsh made the motion to approve the minutes, Dr. Thomas Horejcs seconded the motion, and no opposed motions. The minutes were approved.

### **Announcements**

No announcements currently.

### **Continued Business**

#### **Self-Share**

- Mara Clement introduced herself to the Committee and gave a brief description of her works within the Infants and Toddlers Program and her family. She is excited to be a part of the Council and looking forward to further interactions and professional relationships.

### **EHDI Advisory Work Plan**

- Tameka Thomas shared the top three selections from the poll that was sent out to Council members. She explained that the goal is for she, Robyn and Dr. Horejcs to split up and meet with Council members who have shown interest in the top three areas of concern (1. standardizing resources and ensuring accessibility at birth hospitals, 2. identification of late onset hearing loss in children and 3. Children with care for Kids insurance or without insurance that can't get hearing screening covered).

- Council members noted which topic they were interested in working on. It was agreed to open this up to non Council members if they were interested. The Committee will concentrate on the first two topics at this time.
- Chairperson Miller let the Council know to expect an email from herself, Dr. Horejes, or Tameka to meet as groups to discuss the goals.

### ***MD Department of Health (MDH) Updates***

#### Membership Updates

- No updates currently.

### ***MD EHDI Program Updates***

#### Statistics

- Tameka Thomas shared the stats with the Committee. She acknowledged the significant amount of work in front of the EHDI program and mentioned steps that have been taken to work on that. There are three dedicated f/u coordinators who are on board now working on enhancing outreach efforts and boosting the stats.

#### HRSA grant

- As of now, Tameka Thomas reported no significant updates to share regarding the existing HRSA and CDC grants. However, they are working on the new grant application and looking forward to continuing to partner with other organizations to meet the EHDI goals. The MD Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Conference is coming up on December 6, 2023, at Ten Oaks Ballroom. The Conference this year will be a hybrid event which will give you some flexibility to choose in-person or virtual attendance. Tameka let the Council know she will send registration details after the meeting and asked that it be shared with any stakeholders who may be interested.

#### CDC grant

- No grant updates.

### ***Committee Discussion***

- Because of the provided time, the Council discussed two presentation items not on the agenda.

### ***EHDI Stats/Data***

- Chairperson Miller shared 2022- present MCITP data with the Committee. She explained the numbers of the services and statuses listed. The floor was open for any questions.

### ***New Business***

Ruth Marin, Ph.D., Carolyn Jenks, MD and Carolyn Horton, Au.D. of The Mid Atlantic CMV Consortium, Maryland Chapter presented to the Committee "Screening for Congenital Cytomegalovirus (cCMV)".

Slides were shared with the Council explaining what cCMV is and how it is transmitted.

Statistics of cCMV were displayed, and it was mentioned how common cCMV is. Most children will have disabilities due to congenital cCMV than other well known disorders. Potential cCMV complications were discussed, and a large percentage is hearing differences. Hearing screenings are being missed, and screening methods were discussed.

It was explained why targeted screening is inadequate and the value of universal screening. The Consortium believes Universal NBS for cCMV is necessary for Maryland babies. Studies were shared with the Committee.

In conclusion, it was said that cCMV screening is important and needed, meets the criteria, is cost-effective and other States have screening requirements. Support to bring universal cCMV screening to Maryland was asked of the Committee. A letter of support was asked to be written by the Council in support of cCMV screening in Maryland. After a discussion between the Council and the Consortium, the Council agreed to table as a priority and discuss the next meeting.

Tameka informed the Council she will email them the slides of the presentation after the meeting.

### **Legislative Information/Updates**

Tina Joyner and Jacob Leffler of the Maryland Association of the Deaf gave a presentation on Lead K (Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids).

The project was explained to the Council and having it added to the Legislature this January. A bill being developed is important. Three Maryland stakeholders were shared with the Committee that are in support. Several organizations have been reached out to.

### **Next MD EHD Advisory Council meeting**

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

### **Adjournment**

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

