

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

Virtual Meeting
Minutes May 28, 2020
12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Jennifer Reesman, Ph.D., Chair	Meagan Ackerman	Nina DeSell
Allison Balsley	Brian Reilly, MD	Ruth Marin, Ph.D.
Marny Helfrich	Maryland Department of Health (MDH)	Dawn Marsiglia, Au.D.
Kelby Brick, Esq., CDI	Tanya D. Green	Cheri Dowling
Patty Muldowney	Jed L. Miller, MD	Olga Polites
Robyn Miller, Au.D.	Stacy Taylor	Lisalee Egbert, Ph.D.
Mara Clement	Florence Harvey	Eleanor Jones
Margaret Hargrove	ASL Interpreters	Jacob Salem
Tina Backe	Becky Frey	Jennifer Upperco
	Anna Rose	Ben Dubin
		Louise Colodzin
		Richard Jeffries, MDAD President
		Michelle Morales
		Pam Williams
		Diane Perkins, Ph.D.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Dr. Jennifer Reesman at 12:30 pm.

Welcome and Meeting Etiquette Reminders

Chairperson Reesman welcomed attendees and shared meeting etiquette reminders.

Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes from the January 16, 2020 meeting were reviewed. It was requested that more detail be included detailing the exchange between board members Hargrove and Brick during the vice chairperson nomination segment. The minutes will be edited and re-submitted to the council for review and approval.

Old Business

Newborn Hearing Screening Protocols/Best Practices Document Update

The Best Practices document was emailed to board members in April. It is a living document. The recently updated Joint Committee on Infant Hearing (JCIH) risk factors will be incorporated into the document. The document will be released to the public.

Membership Update

Dr. Jennifer Reesman will reach her final term limit on June 30th. Dr. Reesman has recommended Dr. Danielle Previ as her replacement whose application is being reviewed by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH). Patty Muldowney and Kelby Brick have terms that will end on June 30th. Both are eligible for renewal. One parent position remains vacant.

MD EHDI Program Update

Staff

Nichelle Davis, a 6-month temporary employee has been added to the MD EHDI Program staff. Ms. Davis began employment during the mandatory teleworking period.

Statistics

Program statistics were provided and reviewed.

MD EHDI HRSA Grant Update

A new HRSA grant was recently awarded with a start date of April 1, 2020. This project involves working more closely with MSDE and will involve mechanisms to address early intervention access concerns expressed by the MD EHDI Advisory Council.

Newborn hearing screening and follow up during the COVID-19 pandemic:

Hospitals are still screening newborns prior to discharge. Many audiology facilities are closed and some families are choosing not to take their babies for follow up appointments due to the pandemic. A Maryland military hospital has paused newborn screenings at this time. Some concerns that are impacting newborn hearing screening and follow up are lack of personal protective equipment, postponed screening of babies who are COVID-19 positive or under investigation for the virus. Johns Hopkins Hospital has begun to prioritize follow up screening appointments with bilateral referrals receiving highest priority. Follow up sedated ABRs are being performed at the Kennedy-Krieger Institute and the Children's National Medical Center. The Maryland School for the Deaf and its audiology diagnostic centers are closed.

New Business

ODHH Update

Kelby Brick announced that Governor Hogan has released an executive order recognizing interpreters and those who provide services to deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing individuals as essential personnel. ODHH has worked with the Maryland Department of Health Board of Examiners for Audiologists around the issue of audiological telehealth services during the pandemic. Kelby encouraged everyone to reach out to ODHH if they are aware of any barriers to access.

2019 Joint Committee on Infant Hearing (JCIH) Position Statement

The Joint Committee on Infant Hearing (JCIH) issued a new position statement at the end of 2019. The position statement will be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting.

Vote for Vice Chair

There are two nominees for vice chair: Margaret Hargrove and Meagan Ackerman. Chairperson Reesman announced that today's anticipated vote for vice chair would be postponed due to Meagan's absence at today's meeting.

Hearing Aid Loan Bank Status

MSDE staff is working from home during the pandemic. Marny Helfrich recommends that MSDE staff be contacted if any needs arise and they will do their best to meet those needs.

Recap of 2020 National EHDI Meeting (March 8-10, 2020 – Kansas City, MO)

Cheri Dowling provided an update on this year's National EHDI Meeting, noting that attendance was reduced. Out of approximately 1,100 registrants, 700 were in attendance. Patty Muldowney and Cheri Dowling presented on Parent Leadership using the Ready at Five curriculum. There were three main keynote presentations. Dr. Michael Warren, Association Administrator of the HRSA Maternal and Child Health Bureau. He spoke about the history of the EHDI Program and about the Medical Home model. He stated that a strategic plan will be developed and that community input will be solicited. The other two keynote presentation topics were on mental health and trauma which are currently trending as hot topics. The breakout session topics were consistent with past conferences.

MD EHDI Annual Stakeholders Conference

The MD EHDI Program is currently researching options for holding a virtual conference in the Fall, 2020. The conference theme will be related to trauma. Keynote speakers will be Dr. Danielle Previ from the Kennedy-Krieger Institute and Lora Matz, LICSW and Tanya Green will provide the annual MD EHDI Program update. The virtual conference will be recorded and made accessible via the MDH MD EHDI Program webpage. Application will be made for ASHA CEUs.

Legislative updates

Kelby Brick announced that the Maryland Legislature passed a bill that establishes the new position of Special Education Ombudsman within the Maryland Office of the Attorney General. The exact role and scope of work still needs to be defined.

Announcements

Chairperson Reesman was thanked for her service to the Council as this is her last meeting as chairperson. Chairperson Reesman thanked incoming Chairperson, Patty Muldowney for her willingness to serve.

Next MD EHD Advisory Council meeting: Thursday, July 16, 2020, 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM; Meeting format TBD

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:22pm by Chairperson Reesman.