

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

Virtual Meeting  
Minutes July 16, 2020  
12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>	<b>Guests</b>
Patty Muldowney	Meagan Ackerman	TraciAnn Hoglind
Allison Balsley	<b>Maryland Department of Health (MDH)</b>	Diane Perkins, Ph.D.
Marny Helfrich	Tanya D. Green	Dawn Marsiglia, Au.D.
Kelby Brick, Esq., CDI	Jed L. Miller, MD	Cheri Dowling
Danielle Previ, PhD	Stacy Taylor	Olga Polites
Robyn Miller, Au.D.	Shelly Choo, MD, MPH	Lisalee Egbert, Ph.D.
Mara Clement	Erin Filippone	Eleanor Jones
Margaret Hargrove	<b>ASL Interpreters</b>	Jacob Salem
Tina Backe	Becky Frey	Amy Crumrine
Brian Reilly, MD	Anna Rose	Ben Dubin
		Shee Newman
		Richard Jeffries, MDAD President
		Michelle Morales

### **Call to Order**

Due to the vacant chairperson position, the meeting was opened by Tanya Green of the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) at 12:36 pm.

### **Welcome and Meeting Etiquette Reminders**

Tanya welcomed attendees and shared meeting etiquette reminders.

### **Discussion**

Advisory council member, Dr. Robyn Miller shared concerns from a previous MD EHD Advisory Council meeting in which the Maryland Chapter of the Alexander Graham Bell Association (AG Bell) representative to this council was asked to disavow herself from the organization she represents. Dr. Miller stated that her position on this council is to represent AG Bell and their families. Dr. Miller expressed that the council should represent all different perspectives, not solely those who use or choose American Sign Language (ASL). Dr. Miller acknowledged that the council has discussed language deprivation and further stated that many families have chosen listening and spoken language. Dr. Miller stated that she fully supports having a council chairperson from the

Maryland School for the Deaf and feels that it is important to have a vice chairperson who represents another perspective of families.

Advisory council member, Kelby Brick responded in reference to the discussion about the AG Bell Association. Mr. Brick clarified that the question posed was, 'does Margaret Hargrove disavow the AG Bell Association's view that deaf people are an inferior species that need to be eradicated?' Kelby indicated that the response was, "no", and that was the end of the conversation.

Margaret Hargrove stated that she is happy to serve on the council and is happy to be at the table. Ms. Hargrove further clarified that she does not believe the AG Bell Association has made a statement about eradicating deaf people or that they are inferior.

### **Vote for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson**

Board members participated in an anonymous electronic vote for the positions of chairperson and vice chairperson. There were 10 voting members present. One voting member was absent: Meagan Ackerman. Candidates were nominated at a previous meeting. The sole candidate for the chairperson position was Patty Muldowney. Candidates for the vice chairperson position were Meagan Ackerman and Margaret Hargrove. Voting results indicate Patty Muldowney as the chairperson and Meagan Ackerman as the vice chairperson.

### **Old Business**

#### ***Membership Update***

Dr. Danielle Previ has been appointed to the council by the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health, replacing Dr. Jennifer Reesman as the mental health representative with expertise in the area of deafness. The terms of Patty Muldowney and Kelby Brick have been renewed effective July 1, 2020. One vacancy remains for second parent of a child who is deaf or hard of hearing.

#### ***MDH Update***

The MDH Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) is the bureau that oversees the Office for Genetics and People with Special Health Care Needs and the MD EHDI Program. The MCHB has a new director, Dr. Shelly Choo, who is in attendance at today's meeting. Dr. Choo previously served as the Chief Medical Officer for the Baltimore City Health Department.

Tina Backe, MDH representative to the council read a statement on behalf of MDH regarding Maryland's Early Hearing Detection and Intervention system and how the

system derives its strength and success from the coordinated efforts of a range of stakeholders. The message relayed by Ms. Backe reflected the Department's recognition of the value of the family voice, diverse backgrounds and perspectives, and its commitment to ensuring the integrity of Council processes and upholding the highest degree of professional conduct in council proceedings.

### ***MD EHDI Program Update***

#### ***Statistics***

Program statistics were provided and reviewed. There was discussion of the impact of the pandemic on the statistics. Earlier during the pandemic, audiology facilities were closed. While many offices have begun to reopen, pediatric appointments are being prioritized. Appointments for newborns and infants whose result was a bilateral referral are receiving higher priority for receiving appointments.

#### ***MD EHDI HRSA Grant***

The recently awarded HRSA grant will allow for expansion of family support efforts. An application is currently being prepared for submission to HRSA for supplemental COVID-19 related funding.

#### ***CDC Cooperative Agreement***

The MD EHDI Program was recently awarded a four-year cooperative agreement for the purpose of data system enhancements to improve evaluation and analysis capabilities.

#### ***When Families Decline Early Intervention Services***

During previous meetings there were discussions surrounding when families decline early intervention services. Current HRSA grant initiatives involve collaboration between the MD EHDI Program and the Maryland State Department of Education to work closely to develop and implement solutions that will improve outcomes for children whose families decline early intervention services.

#### ***Meeting turned over to newly elected chairperson, Patty Muldowney.***

#### **Approval of Previous Minutes**

The minutes from the January 16, 2020 meeting are undergoing additional revisions and will be presented at the next meeting. The minutes from the May 28, 2020 meeting will be presented for review to be voted on at the next meeting.

## **New Business**

### ***Annual MD EHDI Stakeholders Conference***

The 2020 MD EHDI Stakeholders Conference will be held virtually. A three-part webinar series will be conducted on September 10, 17 and 24 from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. The webinars will be co-hosted by the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM). The number of attendees will not be limited. Application is being made to offer American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) continuing education units.

## **Legislative updates**

There were no legislative updates. Kelby Brick stated that the State is facing a financial crisis and that the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will not be expanding staffing or any programs at this time but will continue to fund existing programs.

## **Announcements**

No announcements.

**Next MD EHDI Advisory Council meeting:** Thursday, October 15, 2020, 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM; Virtual Meeting

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 pm by Chairperson Muldowney.