

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

Approved

Virtual Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2022
12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Patty Muldowney, Chair	Allison Balsley	Katie Huray
Robyn Miller, Au.D.	Danielle Previ, Ph.D.	Cheri Dowling
Marny Helfrich		Nina DeSell
Kelby Brick, Esq., CDI		Janney Townsend
Tina Backe		Shee Newman
Margaret Hargrove	Maryland Department of Health (MDH)	Jocelyn Leung, MD EHDI AAP Chapter Champion
Jonathan Walsh, MD	Stacy Taylor	Benjamin Dubin
Mara Clement	Erin Filippone	Jennifer Willis
Catherine Paige		
Emily Kelleher	ASL Interpreters	
	Pat McKenny-Benjamin	
	Jacqueline Duff	

Call to Order

Chairperson Patty Muldowney called the meeting to order.

Welcome and Meeting Etiquette Reminders

Chairperson Muldowney shared meeting etiquette reminders.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Council members were given October 2021 meeting minutes in advance for review. Chairperson Muldowney asked for any feedback or suggested edits. There were none. Marny Helfrich moved to approve minutes. Tina Backe seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was approved.

Continued Business

MD Department of Health (MDH) Updates

Membership Updates

- Stacy Taylor substituting for Tanya Green. The only membership update is there is a new parent member Emily Kelleher. Membership is full at this time. Stacy opened the floor up for Emily to introduce herself.

MD EHDI Program Updates

Statistics

- Infant Hearing Program follow up statistics were shared on screen on the ZOOM platform. Erin Filippone introduced herself and asked were there any questions regarding the statistics. Kelby Brick asked that statistics be sent to the Council. Dr. Walsh asked if L2 percentage was better or worse? Dr. Walsh also asked whether it was one or two counties or hospitals that had issues or is it across the whole state? Erin responded it is not getting better at this point. There are a number of problems going on at the same time.
- *Meeting was paused to turn on Zoom platform automatic captioning, which was not possible. Meeting resumed using Google Meet platform, with automatic captioning activated.*
- While the meeting was being transferred to the Google Meet platform, Council members received a copy of the statistics.
- Kelby Brick asked if screenings are not being done or not being added to the system? Response: inpatient screenings are being done at all hospitals with the exception of 3 hospitals who are screening non Covid patients but are not screening babies whose mothers are presumed to have Covid. Inpatient hospital standards are pretty much normal, the difference is they are happening at the outpatient level.
- Kelby Brick indicated that at the last meeting, MDH was asked to create a strategic plan to close the gap and report at this meeting. Stacy responded MDH is working very hard to ensure every baby born is screened and the numbers are brought up. Specifics cannot be shared at this time because nothing has been finalized. Kelby believes an action plan is needed ASAP; concern because Maryland is behind in identifying DHH babies. Everyone shares that concern.
- Dr. Walsh wanted to know if the State has a need assessment on Audiologist needs to close the gap? Stacy responded that a survey is being prepared to be sent out to Audiology practices asking their current status to get concrete information. Stacy asked that if Council members had suggested questions they contact Tanya Green or herself.

HRSA grant

- Recently submitted the Non-Compete Continuation (NCC) application for the HRSA grant which was accepted. Have not heard back yet about funding for the next funding period. The work continues. The internal team that meets bi-weekly reviews the work plan for that grant.

CDC grant

- The CDC grant is on track. The internal team meets biweekly to discuss the work plan and insures task are being completed on schedule

New Business

National EHDI Conference

Cheri Dowling gave an update on the upcoming National EHDI Conference which will be held March 13-15, 2022 in Cincinnati, OH in person. A virtual component will be available as well. Quite a few participants are expected in person and safety protocols will be in place. Stacy Taylor announced the MD EHDI program has funding available to send a parent to the National EHDI Conference. If there is a parent on the Council or if any Council member knows of a parent that would like to attend, let Tanya Green or Stacy know.

Feedback on Virtual State Stakeholders Meeting

Cheri Dowling gave details of the State Stakeholders meeting held in November. NCHAM provided the conference platform. Because the meeting was co-hosted by NCHAM, we were able to open it up to a national audience. A total of 403 people registered for all three sessions. People registered from 48 states, PR and Canada. The meeting was recorded and recordings have been posted on the NCHAM website and also the MD EHDI website. Chairperson Patty Muldowney opened the meeting and Tanya Green provided a Program update. The three session presentations were "Coaching Families for the Win" presented by Mary Ann Stefko, "Engaging Fathers of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing in Early Intervention" presented by K. Todd Houston and "Critical Consciousness in Early Intervention" presented by Nia Lazarus. Attendance, topics, evaluations and comments were all very good.

Discussion: Identify Council Objective for Calendar Year 2022

Chairperson Muldowney opened the discussion for Council members to identify Council objectives for 2022. After open discussion, two distinct ideas presented themselves: A needs assessment to look at staffing and infrastructure system-wide; and putting an equity and diversity lens on the data we have versus the data we want. Chairperson Muldowney proposed discussing with Tanya Green for her input and further discussion/decision at the next meeting. The Council agreed.

Announcements

Kelby Brick shared that there are several Bills on the table that need to be reviewed. Ben Dubin mentioned a Bill being introduced by Delegate Lisa Belcastro to make playgrounds accessible for children that have cochlear implants.

Next MD EHDI Advisory Council meeting: Thursday, April 21, 2022, 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM; meeting will be virtual.

Adjournment

Tina Backe moved to adjourn the meeting. Robyn Miller seconded the motion. Motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned.