

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

Minutes October 18, 2018

Members Present

Jennifer Reesman, Ph.D., Chair
Judith Black
Tina Backe
Bridgetta Bourne-Firl (phone)
Margaret Hargrove
Patty Muldowney
Kelby Brick
Robyn Miller, Au.D.
Brian Reilly, M.D. (phone)

Members Absent

Jessica Thornton

Vacant

MSDE
Parent Position

Maryland Department of Health (MDH)

Tanya D. Green
Jed Miller, M.D., M.P.H.

Guests

Cheri Dowling
Marny Helfrich
Michelle Morales, Ed.D.
Louise Colodzin
Kelly Pool
Richard Jeffries, Ph.D.
Kim Bennardi
Jacob Salem
Dawn Marsiglia
Danielle Previ, Ph.D.

Called to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Jennifer Reesman at 12:50 pm.

Welcome & Sharing of a Story

Chairperson Reesman welcomed everyone and shared a story about a child that had been in the foster care system, and the gaps that still exist in the system.

Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes from the July 19, 2018 meeting were voted on and approved with no recommended corrections.

Old Business

Parent Connections Update

During October, Parent Connections families participated in a fun day at the farm at Rock Hill Orchard in Montgomery County. There were approximately 60 attendees.

The Serving on Groups workshop will be rescheduled from this Fall, 2018 to next Spring, 2019.

Parent Connections and the Parents' Place of Maryland are working on drafting request to be submitted to the MDH Office for Genetics and People with Special Health Care

Needs. The purpose of the request is to determine whether a HIPAA compliant plan could allow Parent Connections to receive referrals of babies who the MD EHDI Program has documented as deaf or hard of hearing, to allow families to be connected with needed resources earlier and more seamlessly.

Kelby Brick stated that he would like to see one or more deaf staff members employed by the Parents' Place of Maryland and for the services that the Parents' Place of Maryland provides to be accessible to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Chairperson Reesman stated that some states have an active Guide By Your Side chapter which offers early and streamlined access to information and resources to families of newly identified children.

Newborn Hearing Screening Protocols/Best Practices Update

The protocols document draft has been submitted to the MDH Office for Genetics with People with Special Health Care Needs and is under review. During the review process, it will be important to ensure that best practices content in the protocols document is easily distinguishable from COMAR. Once the content is reviewed and finalized, the document will need to be formatted. It is anticipated that a revised draft will be made available at the January, 2019 meeting. Council members were thanked for their hard work on the document.

Membership Update

The council welcomes the following new board members:

- Patty Muldowney, Maryland School for the Deaf representative
- Robyn Miller, Au.D., audiologist representative

There are two vacancies:

- One of the two parent positions is vacant.
- Brian Morrison, Ph.D., MSDE representative submitted his resignation on October 17, 2018. He stated that he is no longer the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program Director. He has accepted a new position within MSDE as the Branch Chief of Policy and Accountability. Brian indicated that Marcella Franczkowski, Assistant State Superintendent of the Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services, will recommend Marny Helfrich, Low Incidence Specialist for this position.

Discussion:

Bridgetta stated that there is a need to recruit diverse board members (people of color and more people who are deaf) and asked how do we do that. Tanya responded that councils with diverse members is a priority and that current board members can assist by seeking potential members who would add diversity and inviting them to apply for council appointments.

MD EHDI/HRSA grant and ad hoc advisory committee Update

As previously requested, a list of the grant's ad hoc advisory committee members was provided to the Advisory Council members at this meeting. Mary Ann Richmond had filled a dual role on the ad hoc advisory committee as a member who is deaf or hard of hearing and also a representative of the Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD). Mary Ann was unable to continue to serve. That position is currently vacant. Patty Muldowney offered to assist with seeking someone to fill the MSD/Deaf or hard of hearing individual position. The goals of the grant were presented. Kelby strongly encouraged inclusion of individuals who are Deaf on the ad hoc advisory committee. The goals of the grant include improving the 3 and the 6 timelines in the 1-3-6 EHDI guidelines.

MD EHDI Program Update

- Program statistics were provided and related questions were answered.
- University of Maryland Medical System and MD EHDI/MDH Quality Improvement (QI) Project
 - A University of Maryland Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) student has chosen to work with the MD EHDI Program on her required QI Project which will end in mid-December, 2018. Because Prince George's County is an area of the state with a higher loss to follow up rate, Prince George's Hospital Center was selected as the site for this project.

The student is working with hospital staff who will provide verbal and printed educational materials to families prior to hospital discharge regarding their baby's newborn hearing screen results and recommended follow up. The printed materials were presented to the MD EHDI Advisory Council for review and feedback prior to finalization and approval for distribution. Educational materials are available in English and Spanish. Final copies of these materials were shared with Council members at the meeting.

The University of Maryland, College Park audiology department is also a part of this project and will provide newborn hearing screen follow up at no charge to families. If this project proves to be effective, it may be considered for use at other hospital sites. Some of the content of the educational materials may be considered for inclusion in a new MD EHDI Program brochure.

Note: The University of Maryland, College Park audiology department is not the only referral source for newborn hearing screen follow up for babies born at Prince George's Hospital Center.

New Business

Kim Bennardi, Administrator, Office of Appointments and Executive Nominations, MDH, spoke to the Council about the MDH council board member appointments process. Term limits for the MD EHDI Advisory Council are noted in the MD EHDI

statute. All appointments are vetted by the Governor's Office. If someone is not cleared by the vetting process, they will receive a letter thanking them for applying. If several people apply for the same position and are not accepted, they will also receive a letter thanking them for applying. Chairperson Reesman asked if MDH had any guidance to share on council member diversity. Ms. Bennardi responded that the goal is for the council to be diverse in all areas and that the Department does its best but it can be challenging. Ms. Bennardi stated that MDH staffs 80 boards. Anyone with questions about the MDH council member appointment process or who is interested in serving on a board or is welcome to contact Ms. Bennardi at (410) 767-4049 or kim.bennardi@maryland.gov.

18th Annual National EHDI Meeting

March 3-5, 2019 – Chicago, Illinois

Through the use of HRSA funds, the MD EHDI Program will seek to fund the conference attendance of one parent. In the past, the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM) has provided funding for 1 parent's attendance from each state. NCHAM usually provides guidance on their selection process during the month of November.

Announcements

Next MD EHDI Advisory Council meeting – Thursday, January 17th, 2019, 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM, Hearing and Speech Agency; park in the rear lot.

- Planning to have a Connections Beyond Sight and Sound representative present at this meeting

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:01 PM.