

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

Virtual Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2021

12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>	<b>Guests</b>
Patty Muldowney, Chair	Brian Reilly, MD	Jennifer Willis
Robyn Miller, AuD	Allison Balsley	Nina DeSell, MS, RN, CRNP
Marny Helfrich	<b>Maryland Department of Health (MDH)</b>	Dawn Marsiglia, AuD
Kelby Brick, Esq., CDI	Jed L. Miller, MD, MPH	Cheri Dowling
Tina Backe	Tanya D. Green	Ben Dubin
Catherine Paige (Cate Fontaine)	Florence Harvey	Louise Colodzin
Margaret Hargrove	<b>ASL Interpreters</b>	Ruth Marin
Mara Clement	Becky Frey	Karen Brennhofer
Danielle Previ, PhD	Rebecca Mitchell	

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Patty Muldowney at 12:33 pm.

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

Chairperson Muldowney shared meeting etiquette reminders.

### **Approval of Previous Minutes**

The October, 2020 meeting minutes were approved with the following changes:

- Page 3 under COVID-19 impacts, first sentence: MDS should be MSD.
- Page 4 Vice Chair nominations: Add that Margaret Hargrove also accepted her nomination for Vice Chair during the meeting.

### **Old Business**

#### ***MD Dept. of Health Updates***

There were no MDH updates.

#### ***Membership Updates***

Former parent member, Meagan Ackerman has resigned leaving 1 vacancy. All other board member positions are filled. Dr. Brian Reilly's final term of eligibility will expire on June 30, 2021. Council members are asked to send recommendations for the physician with expertise in caring for children who are deaf or hard of hearing to Tanya Green. The terms of Margaret Hargrove and Dr. Robyn Miller will expire on June 30, 2021 and are eligible for renewal.

Dr. Debbie Badawi has a new position within the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and has resigned as the MD EHDI AAP Chapter Champion. This position serves as a link between the EHDI program, EHDI stakeholders and the medical community. Council members are asked to provide recommendations for the MD EHDI AAP Chapter Champion position to Tanya Green.

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

#### ***Statistics***

Program statistics for January, 2021 were provided and discussed. During the pandemic, the number of infants in process due to a miss or refer newborn hearing screening result cases has risen and remains higher than normal. A third full-time follow up coordinator was hired during the pandemic and changes to follow up protocols have led to some improvement.

#### ***Grants***

HRSA – A major focus of the HRSA grant is family support and engagement. The process has been initiated to hire a family support and engagement coordinator. This position will provide resource information to families and connect families to mentors. Additionally, supplemental funds from HRSA have been provided for COVID-19 related items.

CDC – CDC funds are utilized to enhance the MD EHDI data system in ways that will allow the data to be analyzed and shared with stakeholders in more meaningful ways.

#### **New Business**

##### **National EHDI Virtual Conference (March 2-4, 2021)**

The 2021 National EHDI Conference will be held virtually from March 2 - 5, 2021. Registration and conference information is available at [www.ehdimeeting.org](http://www.ehdimeeting.org). Early registration ends February 12<sup>th</sup>. Regular registration ends February 26<sup>th</sup>. This conference is for anyone who has an interest in EHDI, i.e., parents, educators, health care providers, educators, speech-language pathologists and audiologists. All are welcome to attend this conference. The MD EHDI Program will provide funding for one parent of child who is deaf or hard of hearing to attend the conference.

##### **COVID-19 Impacts Discussion**

Chairperson Muldowney shared that the Maryland School for the Deaf is 100% virtual. Services are being provided to infants, toddlers and school age children virtually. Screening and diagnostic follow ups are on hold until Phase 3 of the school's plan is reached.

Dr. Robyn Miller (Montgomery County Public Schools) shared that CARES tutoring funding has allowed them to reach some families to provide American Sign Language (ASL) and cued speech exposure and practice for families to learn or develop their skills. Families are attending virtual classes offered throughout the week.

Marny Helfrich (Maryland State Department of Education) shared that she thinks many school systems are still operating virtually while some school systems resumed in-person learning to some degree in the fall. Marny further stated that because the emphasis on the Infants and Toddlers Program is on family support and family coaching, many have made the transition to the virtual format easier than the school aged children have. The Infants and Toddlers Program is continuing to remind everyone that since March, there has been no change to the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and that Individualized Family Service Plans and Individualized Education Programs are still in effect. Families are still able to access services and are encouraged to still reach out for services. While services look different, they are still being delivered.

Dr. Danielle Previ (Kennedy Krieger Institute) shared that they are still doing a lot of virtual work and also bringing in patients on site for services.

It was emphasized by all that there should be no hesitation in reaching out for services.

### **Legislative updates**

No legislative updates

### **Announcements**

Tanya shared that Maryland Open Meetings Act training is offered by the State at no charge. Online training is available and is recommended for council board members. The MD EHDI Advisory Council meeting calendar invite which is provided to board members will be updated; be on the lookout for a new invite. The meeting invite for the virtual meetings allows logging on as early as 12:00 pm, however the meeting start time is still 12:30 pm.

The possibility of continuing to offer the virtual meeting format once in-person meetings are allowed will be explored by MD EHDI/MDH. It was noted that attendance and participation has been good during the period that the virtual meeting format has been in place.

### **Vice Chair Vote**

Tanya Green informed Council members that Margaret Hargrove withdrew her nomination. Bios for Dr. Robyn Miller and Dr. Danielle Previ were provided to board members in advance of the meeting.

There was a brief discussion and explanation regarding the voting process, which was conducted via an electronic ballot ~~which was~~ emailed to each board member. Tanya Green explained that, according to Maryland Open Meeting Act guidance, disclosure of each member's vote is not indicated or required.

Each candidate was given an opportunity to address the council prior to the vote. There were ten board members present and one board member absent. All ten board members received the electronic ballot via email. One vote was cast by each member and votes were tallied by Tanya Green. Dr. Robyn Miller was elected as the new Vice Chair.

**Next MD EHD Advisory Council meeting:** Thursday, April 15, 2021, 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM; meeting format - Virtual

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:54 pm by Chairperson Muldowney.