

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

Minutes October 19, 2017

## **Members Present**

Claire Buxton, AuD, Vice Chair  
Judith Black  
Lori Moers (on the phone)  
Jessica Thornton (on the phone)  
Sue Burnes  
Kelby Brick  
Olga Polites  
Tina Backe

## **Members Absent**

Jennifer Reesman, PhD, Chair  
Bridgetta Bourne-Firl  
Brian Reilly, MD  
Marsye Kaplan

## **MDH Staff**

Jed Miller, MD, Acting Director,  
OGPSHCN  
Tanya D. Green

## **Guests**

Ben Dubin, Past Chair  
Sue Griebler, Past Chair  
Marny Helfrich  
Lisalee Egbert, PhD  
Shee Newman  
Keithia Harding  
Cheri Dowling  
Sara Groff  
Louise Colodzin  
Dawn Marsiglia

**Called to Order** - 12:45 pm

## **I. Welcome and Introductions**

### **II. Previous Minutes**

Board members received the minutes for review prior to today's meeting. Minutes from the July 20, 2017 meeting were voted on and approved as circulated.

### **III. Old Business**

#### **Parent Connections Update** (Cheri Dowling)

Upcoming Events:

Nov 9, 2017 - Family Fun Night in conjunction with *Talking Hands, Incorporated* "Pump it Up" indoor bounce house, Lanham, MD  
Social/networking event for children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families

November 16, 2017 - Supporting Deaf Children with Autism: A Hands-on Workshop  
Maryland School for the Deaf, Frederick campus  
Event for families of children who are deaf and have autism

January 20, 2018 – Organizing Your Records  
Maryland School for the Deaf, Columbia campus  
limited to 25 -30 families

There will be a brief presentation about organizing school & medical records. Families will bring their boxes and bags of papers and will be provided with the tools needed to get organized and start 2018 off on the right foot.

March, 2018 – Serving on Group (date and location to be determined)  
Families will learn about the importance of having a presence on statewide, national, and school system committees and organizations and how they can serve.

May 3, 2018 - Annual MD EHDI Stakeholders Conference  
Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH)  
100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD  
This year the conference will be moved to the ODHH facility in Crownsville, MD. This will allow the conference capacity to exceed the past maximum 100 participants. Thanks to Kelby Brick and the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH), for the use of the conference space. The conference theme for this year is Systems Change. This topic is based on the goals of the new grant to the Parents' Place of Maryland from the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Office for Genetics and People with Special Health Care Needs (OGPSHCN). A morning session will focus on systems change and potential improvements to the statewide EHDI system. The afternoon session will focus on cultural competency and self-awareness.

May 19-20, 2018 – Annual Family Learning Weekend  
Sheraton Lakefront, Columbia, MD

*Parent Connections*, in conjunction with the Maryland School for the Deaf Family Support & Resource Center, Connections Beyond Sight and Sound, the Maryland and DC Deaf-Blind Project, and the Parents' Place of Maryland will host the annual Family Learning Weekend. The conference theme is, "Empowering Parents". Sessions will include creating a care map, understanding care coordination, navigating health insurance, the medical home, and stress management.

**Newborn Hearing Screening Protocols/Best Practices Workgroup Update** (Claire Buxton)

The current draft has been condensed to make it more appealing to the reader. The final version will be accessible online.

Section 1 – Introduction and overview of the MD EHDI Program (program goals, statute, role of the advisory council)

Section 2 – Roles and responsibilities of stakeholders

Section 3 – Screening and diagnostic protocols

Section 4 – Early Intervention recommendations

Section 5 – Resources and references

This section includes website links to various resources including the National Center on Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM) EHDI E-Book and the American Academy of Audiology guidelines.

The protocols document draft that was distributed at today's meeting was missing sections 4 and 5. The full draft will be emailed to the members of the protocols workgroup with a November 19<sup>th</sup> deadline to provide feedback. The goal is for the protocols workgroup to present the document for a council board member vote of approval to present to MDH board members at the January 18, 2018 meeting. The board members will receive the document electronically for review prior to the January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Membership Update** (Tanya Green)

All board member positions are currently filled. The following board members' positions expired on June 30, 2017: Kelby Brick, Dr. Jennifer Reesman, Lori Moers, Jessica Thornton. All of these members have agreed to continue serving until reappointed or their position is filled. Four additional members' positions will expire on June 30, 2018. Those members are: Dr. Brian Reilly, Sue Burnes, Claire Buxton and Olga Polites. All are eligible for a subsequent term except Olga, who is currently completing her second consecutive, three-year term. The governor and secretary of MDH are seeking diversity in all department councils. Because of this, council members are asked to share this knowledge with their colleagues, networks and any other contacts who may be

interested in applying for appointment to this council. This council is seeking diversity in ethnicity, geographic location of residency, etc. Assistance is requested from the council in seeking potential board members who will add diversity to the council in the positions which have recently expired as well as those positions expiring in 2018. If there are questions regarding this, email Tanya at [Tanya.green@maryland.gov](mailto:Tanya.green@maryland.gov).

### **MD EHD Program Update** (Tanya Green)

#### **MD EHD Program Follow Up Statistics**

Follow up statistics dated October 13, 2017 were provided.

Kelby stated that the statistics provided show 39 babies identified with a confirmed permanent hearing status that affects speech-language skills. Kelby stated that this number is low for this time of year compared to the number of babies identified last year. Kelby asked if there is a reason why the number is low.

**Note:** After the meeting, the October 17, 2016 statistics report was checked for comparison. The October report indicated 40 babies with a confirmed permanent hearing status that affects speech-language skills.

Marny stated that the statistics show 9 babies referred to EI but eligibility status is unknown. Marny stated that if a baby has a diagnosis, then they are eligible for early intervention services. Tanya clarified that the EI eligibility status of the 9 babies is unknown to the program.

**Note:** Eligibility unknown does not mean eligibility denied. This category includes new referrals and re-referrals as indicated in the statistics report.

### **HRSA Grant Update** (Tanya Green)

The current HRSA grant is for a three-year period from 2017 – 2020. The grant requires the forming of an advisory committee which is similar in make-up to the MD EHD Advisory Council to assist with the implementation of the grant objectives. The first meeting of the newly formed advisory committee will be held next week on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Learning communities will be formed in which primary care practices, nurses, and EI providers will be among the partners to be recruited. More information will be shared at the next council meeting.

### **MD EHD Brochure Revision** (Tanya Green)

Board members were provided with an MD EHD Program brochure to provide feedback on proposed revisions and to suggest edits. Feedback is requested by November 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Deaf Parent Role Model** (Tina Backe)

At the previous council meeting on July 20<sup>th</sup>, there was discussion about the possibility of a Deaf role model mentoring program in Maryland in which deaf adults are matched with parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. MDH representative, Tina Backe checked into possible funding sources for such a program. Tina learned that in

New Mexico, there is a Deaf mentoring program that is funded with through Medicaid billing. A memorandum of understanding has been established between Medicaid and the New Mexico Department of Health allowing billing under Medicaid when the services are written into the Individualized Family Service Plan. The Maryland Department of Health is unable to establish this type of agreement at this time because Maryland Medicaid does not currently accept billing codes for mentoring.

#### **MD EHDI AAP Chapter Champion Update**

No report. Dr. Badawi was unable to attend today's meeting.

#### **New Business**

Update from ODHH (Kelby)

Kelby stated that his office has asked MSDE to talk with the local Infants and Toddlers Programs to develop a local guidance for the local programs to provide more consistent information to families to ensure that children are not entering the program with a language delay.

The federal EHDI Reauthorization bill was signed into law yesterday. It is hoped that this will result in more grant programs, the strengthening of existing programs, and the forming of new programs.

#### **Announcements**

Next MD EHDI Advisory Council meeting – Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM, Hearing and Speech Agency, park in the rear lot

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:44 PM.