

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

Virtual Meeting Minutes  
April 15, 2021  
12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>	<b>Guests</b>
Patty Muldowney, Chair	Allison Balsley	Jennifer Willis
Robyn Miller, AuD	<b>Maryland Department of Health (MDH)</b>	Barbara Raimondo
Marny Helfrich	Jed Miller, MD, MPH	Bethany Yance
Kelby Brick, Esq., CDI	Tanya D. Green	Cheri Dowling
Tina Backe	Stacy Taylor	Susan Russell
Catherine Paige (Cate Fontaine)	<b>ASL Interpreters</b>	Karina Baker
Margaret Hargrove	Sherry Atkinson	Angela Prudhomme
Mara Clement	Anessa Hughes	Karen Brennhofer
Danielle Previ, PhD		Shee' Newman
Brian Reilly, MD		Jennifer Mertes AuD
		Jocelyn Leung, MD
		Lisalee Egbert, MD
		Ben Dubin

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Patty Muldowney at 12:38 pm.

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

Chairperson Muldowney shared meeting etiquette reminders.

### **Approval of Previous Minutes**

The minutes of the January, 2021 meeting were reviewed by council members in advance of the meeting. Edits to punctuation, grammar and clarification of the process used for the Vice Chair vote were discussed during the meeting. Tina Backe moved to approve the minutes. Marny Helfrich seconded the motion. Motion approved.

### **Continued Business**

#### ***Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Updates***

Stacy Taylor, Deputy Director for the Office for Genetics and People with Special Health Care Needs, announced that Secretary Dennis Schrader has officially been confirmed as Secretary, no longer acting.

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

Tanya Green shared the following membership updates:

- One of the two parent positions is vacant. There is a potential applicant for this position.
- Dr. Brian Reilly's final term as the physician member with expertise in the care of children who are deaf or hard of hearing will end on June 30, 2021. It was requested that recommendations for this position be submitted to Tanya or Chairperson Muldowney.
- The terms of Robyn Miller, AuD (audiologist with expertise in the care of children who are deaf or hard of hearing) and Margaret Hargrove, (Alexander Graham Bell, Maryland Chapter representative) will end on June 30, 2021. Both are eligible for renewal. It was requested that both members email Tanya to indicate their intentions to serve another term.
- Tanya welcomed Jocelyn Leung, MD, who is the new Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP) EHDI Chapter Champion. Dr. Leung introduced herself. Dr. Leung is a faculty member at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

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

### ***Statistics***

The April 9, 2021 statistics were provided and discussed. As indicated in previous meetings, due to the pandemic, the numbers remain higher than usual. As things are slowly opening up, appointment slots are more readily available and follow up strategies have been more aggressive for open cases.

### ***Grants***

#### **HRSA**

- One focus area of the HRSA grant is to improve meeting the three and six month benchmarks of the EHDI process.
- Additional emphasis is being placed on family support and engagement, early intervention and early language access.
- The hiring process for a family support and engagement coordinator was initiated. The position has been reposted with a closing date April 30, 2021.
  - A link to the job posting will be emailed to council members and other stakeholders.
- Through HRSA funds, the MD EHDI Program assisted pediatric practices and birthing centers with equipment needs, supplies and training for new staff.

#### **CDC**

- The current focus of the CDC grant is drafting a data use agreement with the MDH Vital Statistics Administration.

Throughout the project, MD EHDI will continue to collaborate with the Vital Statistics Administration, the Maryland State Department of Education, Part C Program, and health care providers to strengthen data sharing and analysis capabilities.

## **New Business**

### **Cogswell-Macy Act discussion**

Barbara Raimondo Esq., Executive Director of the Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf (CEASD), presented information on the federal Cogswell-Macy Act. [The Cogswell-Macy Act was introduced to Congress on March 17, 2021 and will be ongoing for two years. “This bill would amend the Individuals with Disabilities Act to require a state to identify, evaluate, and provide special education and related services to children who have visual or hearing disabilities (or both) and also are, or may be, classified in another disability category. A state must ensure that it has enough qualified personnel to serve children who have such disabilities and that a full continuum of alternative placements is available to meet the needs of disabled children for special education and related services.”] Reference: <https://cogswellmacyact.org/> Ms. Raimondo answered questions from council members.

### **Capstone Project Video Presentation and Request for Feedback**

Angela Prudhomme, Gallaudet University graduate certificate candidate, introduced herself and presented her Capstone project entitled, “Reframing Professional to Parent Communication: Best Practices in Initial Family Support”. The intention of the project is to begin a collaborative discussion of best practices used by professionals in their interactions with deaf or hard of hearing children and their families. One of her goals is to obtain ongoing feedback from the medical and the deaf communities. A question and answer segment followed the presentation and council members were provided with a link to a feedback form.

### **Recap - National EHDI Virtual Conference**

For those who attended the 2021 National EHDI Virtual Conference, presentation recording will be available until May 5<sup>th</sup>. Cheri Dowling shared her conference experience and others shared that they enjoyed the virtual conference.

## **Announcements**

### **Legislative Updates**

Margaret Hargrove stated that support is requested for continued funding of the Federal Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act. She encouraged council members to contact their congress representative and offered to provide a sample letter to send to the representative upon email request.

Margaret Hargrove announced the AG Bell Leadership Education and Adventure Program (LEAP) which is an opportunity for 50 teens who are deaf or hard of hearing to attend a free online, summer leadership program. The program will consist of three sessions. Those interested in additional information may contact Margaret or email [LEAP@agbell.org](mailto:LEAP@agbell.org).

Chairperson Muldowney provided a brief update on Maryland SB183/HB288 which would allow Maryland audiologists and speech-language pathologists to enter into an interstate licensure contract to practice in a member state within that interstate contract. Maryland would be one of the ten states currently involved. The bill passed the Senate and the House and will become effective October 1, 2021.

### **Use of Zoom for Future Meetings**

The Zoom virtual meeting platform has been approved for future MD EHDI Advisory Council meetings. Beginning July, 2021, Zoom will be used for MD EHDI Advisory Council meetings until further notice.

**Next MD EHDI Advisory Council meeting:** Thursday, July 15, 2021, 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM; Virtual format (Zoom)

### **Adjournment**

Tina Backe moved to adjourn the meeting. Cate Paige seconded the motion. Motion voted and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 PM.