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

APPROVED

ZOOM Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2023

12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

| **Members Present** | **Members Absent** | **Guests** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Patty Muldowney | Marny Helfrich | Julie Pierpont |
| Robyn Miller, Au.D. | Emily Kelleher | Isabella Goldberg |
| Jamie Perry, MD | Catherine Paige | Nina Desell |
| Thomas Horejes, Ph.D. |  | Charlene Augustine |
| Danielle Previ , Ph.D. | **Maryland Department of Health (MDH)** | Carolyn Brown-Kaiser |
| Margaret Hargrove | Tameka Thomas | Nicole Hutchinson |
| Mara Clement | Stacy Taylor |  |
| Jonathan Walsh, MD | Erin Filippone | Jennifer Willis |
|  | Noadya Legrand | Katie Huray |
| Kate Breen(Acting Director, ODHH) |  | Connely Leis |
|  | **ASL Interpreters** | Joe Kelleher |
|  | Imari Monter |  |
|  | Anessa Hughes |  |

# Call to Order

Chairperson Patty Muldowney called the meeting to order.

# Welcome and Meeting Etiquette Reminders

Chairperson Muldowney shared meeting etiquette reminders with the Council.

* New Business Chairperson Patty Muldowney introduced the new EHDI Program Manager, Tameka (Tammy)Thomas. Tammy introduced herself to the Committee.
* The Council discussed the existing virtual meeting etiquette preferences. Council requested resources be provided with Zoom screen pinning instructions for all future meetings.
* Dr. Tommy Horejes shared he attended the National EHDI Conference that took place last month. He stated it was an exciting opportunity to represent the State of Maryland. He was able to network and establish connections. Tommy stated that the presenters were good and the keynote speaker was terrific. He recommended Council members’ attendance at the upcoming 2024 conference in Denver, Colorado and suggested that Council hold a pre-conference meeting to strategize and ensure that all members have updated data for discussion with state stakeholders.
* *Katie Huray, guest, representing MD/DC Hands & Voices* also attended the National EHDI Conference and said it was a very lovely and informative event.

# Approval of Previous Minutes

Council members received meeting minutes from the January 19, 2023 meeting in advance for review. Chairperson Muldowney asked the Council if there were any edits for those minutes. Dr. Jamie Perry made the motion to approve the minutes, Robyn Miller seconded the motion, and no opposed motions. The minutes were approved.

# Continued Business

## MD Department of Health (MDH) Updates

* Stacy Taylor mentioned she will do the updates for now, and Tammy will begin the next meeting.

Membership Updates

* The MSDE representative position, currently Marny Helfrich, expired in June 2022. The Governor's Office of The Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) position, filled by Kelby Brick, who is no longer with ODHH, ) position is expiring June 30, 2023. Kate Breen, ODHH Acting Director, introduced herself to the Committee and said they hope to have a new Director appointed soon. The other membership terms expiring June 30, 2023, all of whom are eligible for re-appointment, are Patty Muldowney, Dr. Danielle Previ, and Catherine Paige.
* Stacy announced the Chair (Chairperson Muldowney and Robyn Miller) and Vice Chair (Dr. Thomas Horejes) nominations from the last meeting to begin the voting process. Each nominee presented, beginning with the Vice Chair nominee. A form for members to vote will be emailed to them.

## MD EHDI Program Updates

Statistics

* Statistics were shared on the screen with the Committee for discussion.

HRSA grant

* No specific HRSA grant updates at this time. Another new staff member joining the EHDI team Noadya Legrand was introduced to the Committee.

CDC grant

* No specific CDC grant updates at this time. Follow-Up: MD EHDI Advisory Council Work Plan
* Chairperson Muldowney followed up with Committee members on the two groups formed for the MD EHDI Advisory Council work plan.
  + One group is looking at cases where parents decline early intervention services.
  + The other group is looking at material that families are receiving at the hospital following a referral with the screen.
    - Chairperson Muldowney and Marny Helfrich met about the families declining early intervention services. They would like to follow up by looking at this issue from two different perspectives or two different angles

1. What information and materials families are receiving regarding Early Intervention services with infants and toddlers. They want to make sure that the information is current and robust. They want the families to know the benefits of early intervention for their child and family. How things are being explained to the families was a question as well. They would also like to see if any updates are needed and possibly linking in other organizations such as Hands and Voices and the Guide By Your Side program because all of this is meant as support for families and children.
2. Determine why families are declining Early Intervention services. Finding out the why may help to solve the problem. Considering updating the online IFSP(all counties use) by adding a field for families to add comments to explain why they chose to decline. Exploring “reach back out” notification option in the IFSP and a reach back out in 6 months; perhaps within those 6 months, parents would be in a different space and ready to accept.
   1. Dr. Previ noted an increasing number of deaf and hard of hearing kids in her office and not enrolled in Early Intervention. Dr. Previ asked to join this group.
   2. Chairperson Muldowney asked the Committee if there were any other thoughts or input.
   * Members discussed inconsistent resources
   * Montgomery County’s developmental tracking option.

* No updates at this time on the other work group.

Announcements:

* The Legislative Session ended on April 10, 2023.
  + No bills related explicitly to the EHDI System.
  + Kate Breen informed the Committee that the Interpreter Licensure Bill, which will license interpreters and have ODHH handle the oversight, was passed in both the House and Senate. Currently waiting for the Governor to sign. They are House Bill 260 and Senate Bill 346.
* Danielle Previ announced as of May, she will be leaving Kennedy Krieger and will be working at Gallaudet University in the Psych. Clinic. She will be doing the same services as she does at KKI. They will continue to accept patient referrals from Johns Hopkins, Cochlear Implant Team, Children's National, and the community.

# Adjournment

Dr. Tommy Horejes moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Jamie Perry seconded the motion. Motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned

**Next MD EHDI Advisory Council meeting:** Thursday, July 20, 2023, 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM; the meeting will be virtual.