

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

Approved

Virtual Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2022
12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Patty Muldowney, Chair	Emily Kelleher	Jocelyn Leung
Robyn Miller, Au.D.	Danielle Previ, Ph.D.	Cheri Dowling
Marny Helfrich		Nina DeSell
Kelby Brick, Esq., CDI		Jamie Perry, MD
Tina Backe	Maryland Department of Health (MDH)	
Margaret Hargrove	Florence Harvey	
Jonathan Walsh, MD	Stacy Taylor	
Mara Clement	Erin Filippone	
Catherine Paige		
	ASL Interpreters	
	Pat McKenny-Benjamin	
	Lisa Weems	

Call to Order

Chairperson Patty Muldowney called the meeting to order.

Welcome and Meeting Etiquette Reminders

Chairperson Muldowney shared meeting etiquette reminders.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Council members received meeting minutes from the January 20th meeting in advance for review. Chairperson Muldowney asked for any suggested edits to those minutes and there were none. Marny Helfrich made the motion to approve the minutes, Catherine Paige seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

Continued Business

MD Department of Health (MDH) Updates

Membership Updates

- Stacy Taylor announced Tanya Green is no longer with the Department and while they are looking for a new program lead for the EHDI program, she will be providing support to the program.

- Jamie Perry, MD was welcomed as a new Advisory Council member taking over for Tina Backe as the MDH representative. Tina made a statement and Dr. Perry introduced herself.
- Stacy sent emails to those whose terms are ending June 30, 2022.
- Seeking Maryland Association of the Deaf member. Stacy asked the Council for recommendations and to contact her with any suggestions.

MD EHDI Program Updates

Statistics

- Stacy Taylor shared the Infant Hearing Program follow up statistics on the screen. Erin Fillipone was available to answer Council questions. Chairperson Muldowney asked if there has been any catch up since January. Erin replied there has been some modest improvement. Kelby Brick notes screenings are very behind and encouraged catching up.

HRSA grant

- The HRSA grant has different primary areas of focus, one being family support. In order to further progress on that, two competitive requests for applications for family support and engagement projects were posted. Pre-proposal conferences scheduled for 4/22/22. The conferences will be transcribed and ASL interpretation will be available live. Stacy encouraged Council members to review, consider applying, and/or share with contacts and organizations.

CDC grant

- The CDC grant is focused on bolstering the data capacity of OZ (the infant screening database) and incorporating Vital Statistics Administrations (VSA) data.

Hearing Screening Follow-Up Initiative

- The Maryland Department of Health has enacted a Memorandum of Understanding with The Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD). With guidance and training from the MD EHDI program MSD has been conducting screening and follow up activities.
- Cheri Dowling, representing MSD, detailed information about the initiative.
 - MSD is primarily working on screening babies from calendar years 2020-2021.
 - They started with 1,433 babies that needed to be screened or re screened.
 - 333 cases have been closed.
 - 157 screenings, including 8 home visits have been conducted.
 - Of the 157 screenings, 16 babies referred and are in the process of follow up.
 - MSD has 2 full time staffers that are making phone calls every day all day. Over 2,000 calls have been made.
 - Clinics are being conducted all over the State.

- Clinic locations have two Audiologists and one Administrative staff to welcome families and talk to families if their child refers.
- Nine clinics have been done throughout several Counties.
- MSD is also following up with hospitals, Audiologist and Primary Care Physicians to make sure babies are being screened and OZ is being updated with results.
- MSD is also working with the Amish Community.
- The Council had a few questions for Cheri.
- Stacy stated the partnership is not long term. It ends June 30th but seeing some success with the initiative, MDH is working to extend the term.

New Business

Feedback on National EHDl Conference

Chairperson Muldowney gave an update on the National EHDl Conference that was held March 13-15, 2022. She attended the Conference and said it was initially planned as a virtual component then switched to all virtual. Virtual was very convenient. She was very happy recordings were made available. Robyn Miller attended as well and said it was informative and she learned a lot. She was also happy the recording is available. Overall, she said the Conference was amazing.

Follow Up: Identify Council Objective for Calendar Year 2022

Chairperson Muldowney opened the continuing discussion of identifying a Council objective for 2022. Two ideas presented during previous discussion were: 1) putting an equity and diversity lens on the data the Council has access to through OZ and, 2) conducting a needs assessment.

Equity and Diversity Lens on Data

- Stacy shared that the EHDl HRSA grant has a requirement to create a diversity and inclusion work plan and shared information on the screen. She described what HRSA expects of EHDl Programs. The Council had questions and gave Stacy some insight that she will look into further.

Needs Assessment

- Chairperson Muldowney mentioned she, Robyn and Stacy discussed a needs assessment. Chairperson Muldowney explained that the Council could recommend that The Department of Health (MDH) conduct a needs assessment but could not require MDH to conduct a needs assessment. MDH is understaffed and an in depth needs assessment is not necessarily likely at this moment. There was a thought that perhaps the Council could do their own informal needs assessment: As an issue is brought to the attention of a Council member, it would be noted on a chart. The Council could then discuss strategies to address the issue. After Chairperson Muldowney and Robyn gave examples, the Council discussed, shared ideas and were in agreement. The Council was told if they have any knowledge of any issues going on, please email Chairperson Muldowney, Stacy or Robyn. A chart will be started with issues and shared with the Council.

Announcements

No announcements.

Next MD EHD Advisory Council meeting: Thursday, July 21st, 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM; meeting will be virtual.

Adjournment

Dr. Walsh moved to adjourn the meeting. Robyn Miller seconded the motion. Motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned.