

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

Minutes April 19, 2018

## **Members Present**

Claire Buxton, Au.D., Vice Chair (on phone)  
Tina Backe  
Kelby Brick  
Olga Polites

## **Members Absent**

Jennifer Reesman, Ph.D., Chair  
Sue Burnes  
Jessica Thornton  
Brian Reilly, M.D.  
Judith Black  
Bridgetta Bourne-Firl  
Lori Moers  
Brian Morrison

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

Tanya D. Green  
Jed L. Miller, M.D., M.P.H.

## **Guests**

Debbie Badawi, M.D., MD AAP EHDI  
Chapter Champion (on phone)  
Cheri Dowling  
Ben Dubin  
Margaret Hargrove  
Marny Helfrich  
Katherine Millios  
Jacob Salem  
Kayla Scott (Au.D. student/on phone)  
Kyle Langfitt (Au.D. student/on phone)

**Called to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Council Member, Kelby Brick, in the absence of Chairperson, Jennifer Reesman, Ph.D. Vice Co-chairperson, Claire Buxton, Au.D. attended the meeting via phone. Claire Buxton delegated the responsibility of conducting today’s meeting to Kelby Brick.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

### **Approval of Previous Minutes**

The minutes from the January 18, 2018 meeting were voted on and approved.

### **Old Business**

### **Parent Connections Update**

The Parents’ Place of Maryland (PPMD) has five interviews scheduled for the MD EHDI/PPMD HRSA grant Parent Partner position.

On April 18<sup>th</sup> a deaf adult panel was conducted. There were 22 people in attendance.

There is space available for a few more attendees to register for the upcoming MD EHDI Stakeholders Conference which will be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Governor’s Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing conference room at 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD.

On May 12<sup>th</sup> a Serving on Groups training will be held. This training will provide a great way to learn about leadership and how to become involved in various state initiatives. This training session is limited to 15 participants.

The Family Learning Weekend will be held at the Sheraton Columbia Town Center Hotel on May 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>. Space is filling quickly. Interested families should register soon.

On April 26<sup>th</sup> a workshop entitled, “Supporting Deaf Children with Autism: A Hands on Workshop” will be held at the Maryland School for the Deaf, Columbia.

The Maryland State Department of Education has released a Technical Assistance Bulletin entitled, “Early Intervention Services for Children Who Are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing and Their Families”. The “Parent Connections” program is included in the bulletin and hopefully the exposure will lead to increased referrals for the program.

### **Newborn Hearing Screening Protocols/Best Practices Update**

A motion was made and seconded to vote on submitting the *Maryland Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (MD EHDI) Program Best Practices and Guidelines for Hospital and Birthing Center Staff, Midwives, Physicians and Staff, Audiologists and*

*Early Intervention Providers* draft to the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) for review, edits and final approval.

A vote was taken and showed a unanimous decision to submit the draft to MDH for review, edits and approval. The Council expressed the desire to see MDH's edits and to have an opportunity to provide culturally appropriate photos and graphics before the document is finalized. MDH has previously been informed of this request.

Tanya asked Vice Chairperson, Claire Buxton to work with Chairperson, Jennifer Reesman, to ensure the document is emailed to MDH with a request for review and approval. Indicate the document has been voted on and approved by the council. The email should include a description of the document's purpose.

### **Membership Update**

No changes to report since the last meeting.

### **MD EHDl Program Update**

#### **MD EHDl Program Follow Up Statistics**

Follow up statistics dated April 9, 2018 were provided and discussed.

Kelby suggested the loss to follow up rate be added to the monthly statistics report.

#### **MD EHDl Brochure**

The Council's revisions of the brochure have been received by the Department and are being reviewed to determine if the current brochure will be revised or if a new brochure will be developed.

#### **National EHDl Meeting**

The annual National EHDl Meeting was held in Denver, Colorado from March 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>. Presenters from Maryland included Kelby Brick, Bridgetta Bourne-Firl, Jennifer Mertes, Au.D., Michelle Bode, Au.D., and University of Maryland nursing student, Allison Boyer.

Each state is given the opportunity to hold a state stakeholders meeting during the national meeting. There were 23-24 attendees at the Maryland EHDl Stakeholders meeting. Everyone was engaged and the meeting was productive.

Through the use of HRSA grant funds, the MD EHDl Program was able to fund one parent (Gabrielle Beaumont) to attend the national meeting. Ms. Beaumont is a Maryland parent who works with the MD/DC Chapter of Hands and Voices. It was suggested that she attend a future Council meeting (in person or by phone) and talk about her experience at the National EHDl Meeting.

### HRSA Grant Update

Establishment of learning communities is a requirement of the grant. Learning communities will consist of physicians and their staff. The purpose of the learning communities is to provide information which will increase awareness of the EHDI process in Maryland for physicians and their staff. Two Parent Partners will be hired to serve as Family Resource Specialists to work with pediatric primary care providers to provide culturally competent services leading to positive outcomes for children and their families. Five interviews for this position have been scheduled. Learning community participants will receive information through a series of informational webinars about the EHDI process. Topics will include the 1-3-6 EHDI national goal, care coordination, communication opportunities, technology, amplification, and the referral process. The core grant and learning community implementation team includes Tanya Green, Rene Averitt-Sanzone, Cheri Dowling, Stacy Taylor, and Debbie Badawi, M.D.

The HRSA grant also requires the forming of an ad hoc advisory committee to assist with the implementation of grant objectives. The ad hoc committee has been formed and consists of 11 core members. Over the course of the grant ad hoc committee meetings will additionally include invited guests and consultants to share their expertise.

### **MSDE Technical Assistance Bulletin** (released March, 2018)

Dr. Brian Morrison was unable to attend today's meeting. Marny Helfrich from MSDE updated the Council on the Technical Assistance Bulletin. The bulletin was developed over approximately nine months. Its purpose is to clarify existing policies and best practices to be sure everyone is on the same page throughout the state due to concerns regarding consistency of services offered around the state. This bulletin will help ensure that all the Infants and Toddlers Programs have information about best practices when it comes to deaf and hard of hearing children around the state.

The bulletin clarifies that any child with identified as deaf or hard of hearing is eligible for early intervention services. It discusses the importance of language access, families receiving unbiased information supporting their child's language development, and resources. Information about family support and the Maryland School for the Deaf is included, as well as families' right to receive services from the Maryland School for the Deaf and their local Infants and Toddlers Program.

The audience of the document is primarily Infants and Toddlers Program staff, but this document will also be useful for families. It is posted on the MSDE and Maryland Learning Links websites.

It was suggested that the July Council meeting agenda include time for further discussion of the bulletin.

### **New Business**

No new business was presented.

### **Announcements**

The Hearing and Speech Agency will host a shrimp feast and an online auction tomorrow, April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Claire Buxton announced that her Council member term expires on June 30, 2018 and that she will not seek an additional term. The Council will need to search for an audiology member and a vice chair.

Next MD EHDI Advisory Council meeting – Thursday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM, Hearing and Speech Agency; park in the rear lot.

Annual MD EHDI Stakeholders Conference

Thursday, May 3, 2018

Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH)

100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD

### **Public Comments**

Ben Dubin requested clarification on MD EHDI Program statistics and how they may be impacted by out of state babies. Tanya clarified that the data submitted to the CDC is for Maryland births.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM.