

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

Minutes July 19, 2018

Members Present

Jennifer Reesman, Ph.D., Chair
Claire Buxton, Au.D., Vice Chair
Judith Black (phone)
Tina Backe
Bridgetta Bourne-Firl
Margaret Hargrove
Patty Muldowney

Members Absent

Kelby Brick
Jessica Thornton
Brian Reilly, M.D.
Brian Morrison, Ph.D.

Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Staff

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

Guests

Cheri Dowling
Marny Helfrich
Jacob Salem
Lia Thibodaux
Dawn Marsiglia
Gabrielle Beaumont (phone)
Jennifer Willis

Called to Order – The meeting was called to order by Council Chairperson, Jennifer Reesman, at 12:37 pm.

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Reesman welcomed everyone to the meeting followed by introductions and the sharing of a story about Kennedy-Krieger Institute's first psychologist who is deaf (Dr. Danielle Previ) and the positive impact that she is having.

Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes from the April 19, 2018 meeting were voted on and approved.

Old Business

Parent Connections Update

Family Day at the Water Park will be held on August 6th at the Chesapeake Beach Water Park. This fun event provides a way for families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing to meet one another. A number of free tickets are available to Maryland families. Registration is required. 125 attendees are currently registered.

The Annual MD EHDI Stakeholders Conference was held on May 3rd in the conference room of the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing located at 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD. Conference evaluations were overwhelmingly positive. Attendance was down at 76 attendees, possibly due the location being outside of Baltimore. The usual attendance is 100, however the new venue allows for up to 125 attendees. It was suggested that future speakers have some knowledge of presenting information to a group that includes attendees who are deaf or hard of hearing. The sign language interpreters were commended for effectively conveying a musical and comedic portion of one of the presentations.

The Family Learning Weekend was held at the Sheraton Columbia Town Center Hotel on May 19th – 20th. The event was successful and Dr. Jennifer Reesman was one of the presenters.

Parent Connections is collaborating with the Maryland chapter of the Alexander Graham Bell Association and the MD/DC Hands and Voices chapter on upcoming events. Also, a meeting is being planned to collaborate with the Maryland Association of the Deaf on events.

Newborn Hearing Screening Protocols/Best Practices Update

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 has been submitted to the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and is currently being reviewed by the Department for edits and final approval.

Membership Update

Sue Burnes (parent representative) submitted a notice of resignation on July 18, 2018. Claire Buxton's term (audiologist representative) ended on June 30, 2018. Claire will not seek a new term but has agreed to continue serving until her position is filled. Olga Polites' (Alexander Graham Bell Association (AG Bell) representative) second consecutive term ended on June 30, 2018. Margaret Hargrove has been appointed as the new AG Bell representative. Lori Moers (Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD) representative) has resigned and Patty Muldowney has been appointed as the new MSD representative. Dr. Reesman (mental health representative) has been reappointed to her second, consecutive term which will end in 2020. Kelby Brick (Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing representative) has been reappointed to his first full term which will end in 2020. Jessica Thornton (parent representative) has been reappointed to her first full term which will end in 2020. Dr. Brian Reilly's (physician representative) term ended on June 30, 2018, and Dr. Reilly is being contacted to follow up on his status with respect to the Council.

MD EHDl Program Update

MD EHDl Program Follow Up Statistics

Follow up statistics dated July 11, 2018 were provided and discussed.

MD EHDl Brochure

The Council's revisions of the brochure have been received by the Department. It will be determined whether the current brochure will be revised or if a new brochure will be developed.

HRSA Grant Update

Learning communities are being established as a requirement of the grant. The purpose of the learning communities is to provide information which will increase awareness of the EHDl process in Maryland for physicians and their staff. Two pediatric practices have been recruited and two parent partners have been hired to work as family navigators within the two practices. Both parent partners have children who are hard of hearing. Learning will take place through a series of informational webinars about the EHDl system.

The ad hoc advisory committee has a core set of members as required by the grant. Throughout the project period, invited guests will be requested to attend select meetings to share their expertise on various EHDl-related topics. The council requested a list of ad hoc committee meeting dates.

Parent Experience at the 2018 National EHDl Meeting – Ms. Gabrielle Beaumont

The MD EHDl Program was able to use HRSA grant funds to support Ms. Gabrielle Beaumont's attendance to the 2018 National EHDl Meeting in Denver, Colorado. Ms. Beaumont has a young daughter who is deaf and works with the MD/DC Chapter of Hands and Voices. Ms. Beaumont stated that attending the meeting was a wonderful

experience and that she benefited from many of the presentations. She expressed her gratitude for the opportunity. When asked by a council member if she had brought back any ideas of ways to change the MD EHDI system, she responded that there isn't much she would change in Maryland from her personal perspective, but that other states could look at Maryland in terms of best practices.

New Business

The MSDE Technical Assistance Bulletin, entitled, "Early Intervention Services for Children Who Are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing and Their Families" was discussed. This bulletin was developed to fulfill the need to clarify best practices for children in Maryland who are deaf or hard of hearing and does not reflect any changes in policy. The bulletin was produced as a joint effort between the Maryland State Department of Education and the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Topics covered in the bulletin include early intervention services, language access and development, supporting families to support language development, family support, services offered by the Maryland School for the Deaf, and a brief FAQ section.

<http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Documents/Special-Education/MarylandTABEISforDeafandHardofHearing.pdf>

It was suggested that Jennifer Willis, Project Coordinator of the Connections Beyond Sight and Sound Maryland & DC Deaf-Blind Project provide an overview of the project at a future council meeting.

Announcements

CMV Public Health & Policy Conference – September 23-25, 2018, Burlington, VT

Next MD EHDI Advisory Council meeting – Thursday, October 18th, 2018, 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM, Hearing and Speech Agency; park in the rear lot.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:17 PM.