

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

Minutes April 20, 2017
Approved by Council

Members Present

Jennifer Reesman, PhD, Chair
Claire Buxton, AuD, Vice Chair
Judith Black
Lori Moers (via phone)
Jessica Thornton (via phone)
Kelby Brick
Olga Polites
Tina Backe

Members Absent

Brian Reilly, M.D.
Bridgetta Bourne-Firl
Sue Burnes

Vacant

MSDE Representative

Staff

Stacey Little, PhD
Tanya Green (scribe)

Guests

Ben Dubin, Past Chair
Sue Griebler, Past Chair
Louise Colodzin, Past Vice Chair
Debbie Badawi, MD, MD AAP Chapter
Champion (via phone)
Marny Helfrich
Allysa Dittmar
Dawn Marsiglia
Brian Morrison
Judith A. Fox
Shee Newman (via phone)

Called to Order – 12:47PM

I. Welcome and Introductions (Jennifer Reesman, Ph.D.)

Welcome and introduction of board members

II. Previous Minutes

Board members received the minutes for review prior to today's meeting. Minutes of the January 19, 2017 meeting were approved as circulated.

III. Old Business

Parent Connections and MD EHDI Stakeholders Conference Update

Cheri Dowling was not present at today's meeting but provided the following updates:

- Parent Connections has received several referrals for new families including several who have children who are older and not receiving appropriate services.
- The following workshops were held:
“Eye Health and Deaf Children”
“Autism and Deaf Children”
- An event is scheduled for Tuesday, April 25th in Patterson Park for Latino Families
- A family fun day will be held at a farm, pending confirmation of a June, 2017 date.
- Planning is in process for an event at a water park, likely in July or August.

- The MD EHDI Conference will be held on May 4, 2017 at the Hearing and Speech Agency from 8:30am – 4pm. The event has been approved for .6 ASHA CEUs. There are 3-4 seats available.

Newborn Hearing Screening Protocols/Best Practices Workgroup Update (Claire Buxton, Au.D.)

The protocols workgroup will meet immediately after today's council meeting.

MD AAP Website Demo (Debbie Badawi, M.D., AAP EHDI Chapter Champion)

Dr. Badawi met with the MD AAP executive director. Some changes have been made to the MD EHDI section of the website. Broken links have been fixed. Still in progress is the effort to have website links route the user to the associated website instead of to a PDF document.

Membership Update

On April 12, 2017, DHMH received email notification from Stacy Fitzgerald, MSDE representative, indicating that her last day at MSDE would be April 12, 2017. DHMH has contacted MSDE to request a recommendation for a replacement board member to complete Stacy's term.

Four members have terms that will expire June 30, 2017. All are eligible for a future term. Reappointments for Kelby Brick (ODHH representative) and Jessica Thornton (parent representative) are currently in process. Dr. Reesman (mental health expert) has expressed a desire to continue to serve but needs to submit the appointment application. At today's meeting, Dr. Reesman stated she would submit her application soon. Lori Moers (MSD representative) stated she will notify DHMH by Friday, April 21st of her intent to apply for another term.

MD EHDI Program Follow Up Statistics

Follow up statistics dated April 12, 2017 were provided.

MD EHDI Program Update (Tanya Green)

Follow Up Coordinators

The program is currently staffed with 1 permanent, full-time follow up coordinator, 2 full-time, temporary follow up coordinators, and 1 part-time, six-month follow up coordinator.

EHDI Dx Letter

The revised EHDI diagnostic letter is posted on the MD EHDI website in English and in Spanish. The ASL translation of the letter is in process. The letter was drafted with input from the MD EHDI Advisory Council as well as external stakeholders and has received final approval from the DHMH Secretary. Any feedback that is received will be shared with leadership at DHMH and may be considered in the event the letter undergoes another revision.

http://phpa.dhmd.maryland.gov/genetics/Pages/Infant_Hearing_Program.aspx

HRSA Grant Application

The MD EHDI Program received a 3 year HRSA grant award for the period of April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2020. As a result of the federal government's continuing resolution status, the funding for the first year of the grant was reduced by 57.53% for all recipients.

MD EHDI Advisory Council 1-3-6 Workgroup

Council members are being sought to work together to create ideas or strategies to improve on the 1-3-6 goals of EHDI. Tanya will send an email to board members explaining the mission and expectations of the workgroup and requesting volunteers to participate in the workgroup.

The National EHDI Meeting was held February 26-28 in Atlanta, GA. The meeting was well attended. The MD EHDI/NCHAM (National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management) family engagement leadership scholarship recipient, Mrs. Shee Newman, attended the meeting and briefly shared her experience with the Council. Mrs. Newman, her husband, and her son attended the meeting. She named the panel presentation with teens who are deaf or hard of hearing as one of the highlights of the meeting. She encouraged teachers of the deaf to attend this national meeting and stated she would attend future national EHDI meetings.

"Sign It"

Flyers were distributed for "Sign It", a free online American Sign Language class for families who have a child who is deaf or hard of hearing age 36 months or younger.

Genetics Educational Handouts for Review

Genetics and deafness draft handouts (one for providers and one for families) were provided for review and comment as requested by Kunal Sanghavi of Johns Hopkins University and NYMAC.

Comments may be directed to:

Kunal Sanghavi, MBBS, MS

Genetic Research Program Specialist/Patient and Family Project Coordinator

New York-Mid-Atlantic Consortium for Genetics and Newborn Screening

Services (NYMAC)

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine – Institute of Genetic Medicine

Email: ksangha1@jhmi.edu

IV. New Business

Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program Presentation by Brian Morrison, Ph.D., Section Chief, Policy and Data, Program Director, Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program, MSDE, Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services

Dr. Morrison provided an overview of Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program followed by a Q&A segment.

Highlights from Q&A:

- There is nothing that could prevent EI (early intervention) eligibility for any deaf or hard of hearing child who is referred to the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program.
- Are there guidelines to keep different jurisdictions consistent? IFSPs (Individualized Family Service Plan) are supposed to be individualized and inclusive of family priorities. Statewide training exists and the federal government requires a statewide improvement plan. There is statewide training at the provider level. There is a technical assistance bulletin to minimize gaps in services.
- The MD EHDI Program is doing a great job of ensuring the identification of children who are deaf or hard of hearing yet there are still children entering the school system with severe language delays. There is a need to identify the gaps after referral to EI services. What happens at the Infants and Toddlers level? The referrals are received by the Single Point of Entry and there is an intake process prior to the initial evaluation. If the child is identified as deaf or hard of hearing, service eligibility is automatic. An appointment is made and evaluation/assessment occurs. The family is assessed to determine family concerns and resources to determine what's important to the family. Outcomes are developed and how to meet those outcomes. The child's strengths and needs are determined.
- What type of oversight/authority does MSDE (Maryland State Department of Education) have over local agencies? Authority is in the form of enforcing family rights and ensuring that IFSPs are appropriate and meet the needs of the families.
- Comment: Some families do not become aware of the Maryland School for the Deaf until the child is 2 or 3 years old. Per COMAR, IFSP/IEP Teams are to make families aware of the Maryland School for the Deaf. This is included on the 2010 revised version of the IFSP.
- <http://ectacenter.org/> - The Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center was developed by the State in 2009/2010 and includes a recommended toolbox for the childhood outcome summary process.
- Concerns were expressed about the low education and salary levels for service coordinators and a possible link to the need for improved quality of service coordination outcomes.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:37PM.