

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

Minutes July 20, 2017

Members Present

Jennifer Reesman, PhD, Chair
Claire Buxton, AuD, Vice Chair
Bridgetta Bourne-Firl
Kelby Brick (via phone)
Olga Polites
Tina Backe

Members Absent

Brian Reilly, MD
Judith Black
Lori Moers
Jessica Thornton
Sue Burnes
Marsye Kaplan

MDH Staff

Courtney Lewis, Director MCHB
Jed Miller, MD, Acting Director,
OGPSHCN
Tanya D. Green (scribe)

Guests

Ben Dubin, Past Chair
Debbie Badawi, MD, MD AAP EHDI Chapter
Champion (via phone)
Marny Helfrich
Allysa Dittmar
Shee Newman
Lisalee Egbert
Richard Jeffries, Ph.D.
Keithia Harding
Renee Averitt Sanzone
Cheri Dowling
Jennifer Amato

Called to Order – 12:45PM

I. Maryland Department of Health and The Parents' Place of Maryland Updates, Welcome, Introductions and Sharing of Story

Effective July 1, 2017, the Maryland Department of Mental Health and Hygiene (DHMH) has been renamed the Maryland Department of Health (MDH). Courtney Lewis is the newly appointed MDH, Maternal and Child Health Bureau director. Jed Miller, MD is the acting director of the Office for Genetics and People with Special Health Care Needs, replacing Donna Harris who retired in May, 2017. The Parents' Place of Maryland also has a new executive director, Rene Averitt-Sanzone. Former executive director, Josie Thomas retired in June, 2017.

Council members, Maryland Department of Health (MDH) staff, and guests introduced themselves. Dr. Claire Buxton shared a story about a 4 year old who received a refer result on her hearing screening at the pediatrician's office. A significant hearing status was determined. The child was born at home and never received a newborn hearing screening. The child has some language. It is not known if the decreased hearing status was present at birth or progressed. Dr. Buxton expressed an interest in learning about the newborn hearing screening protocols for out of hospital births. Bridgetta Bourne-Firl will share a story at the next council meeting.

II. Previous Minutes

Board members received the minutes for review prior to today's meeting. Minutes of the April 20, 2017 meeting were approved as circulated.

III. Old Business

Dr. Reesman expressed thanks to MSDE for the presentation by Brian Morrison, PhD, Program Director, Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program at the April Maryland EHDI Advisory Council meeting.

MD EHDI Annual Stakeholders Meeting Update

Cheri Dowling updated the Council on the Annual MD EHDI Stakeholders Conference which was held on May 4th. There were 124 people registered to attend and 93 attended. The majority of the evaluations were very positive. The conference theme was "Celebrating the Past, Present and Future of Deaf Education". Speakers included Jeffrey Bravin, Superintendent of the American School for the Deaf who spoke about the history of deaf education, Josie Thomas, co-founder and former executive director of The Parents' Place of Maryland who spoke about the history of special education and there was a presentation on the history of EHDI programs.

Next year's MD EHDI Stakeholders Conference will be held on May 3, 2018 and will be formatted differently based on the grant. The morning session will be comprised of a working meeting around the topic, systems change. The topic for the afternoon session will be cultural competency with the hopes of securing a speaker from Georgetown University.

Kelby offered the use of meeting space at the Maryland Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) for the 2018 MD EHDI Annual Stakeholders meeting. He stated that the room is able to hold more than 100 people. Cheri will discuss this possibility with Allysa Dittmar of ODHH. Cheri will also investigate the possibility of having the afternoon session videotaped if funding allows.

Parent Connections Update (Cheri Dowling)

Last Saturday Parent Connections hosted a family farm day. There were 106 attendees.

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

The protocols document will provide best practices guidelines for providers who are involved in the EHDI process in Maryland. The document will be used by hospital staff, pediatricians, audiologists, early intervention providers, and other healthcare providers who are involved in the EHDI process. This document will serve as a great resource for providers who are new to Maryland.

The protocols workgroup has made a lot of progress. Council members provided feedback which is being incorporated into the document. Claire requested assistance with formatting the document once the content is approved. Tanya will

check to see what MDH resources are available for this purpose. The plan is to post the protocols document in the MD EHDI section of the MDH website but to also make it available via email or hard copy form upon request. Prior to final approval by MDH, the document will be reviewed and voted upon by the Council. A review schedule will be determined and the document will be reviewed and updated with Council input on a regular basis. It was suggested that the review schedule be indicated within the document. Other suggestions included using the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) as a source of advertising the document.

Membership Update

Four members (Kelby Brick, Jennifer Reesman, Lori Moers, and Jessica Thornton) have terms that expired June 30, 2017. Their submitted applications are in process at MDH. Members are able to continue serving until their position is filled. Marsye Kaplan was appointed as the new MSDE representative in May.

MD EHDI Program Follow Up Statistics

Follow up statistics dated July 10, 2017 were provided.

MD EHDI Program Update (Tanya Green)

The program is currently fully staffed with a program chief, program audiologist, and 2 full-time follow up coordinator (1 permanent and 1 contractual). The temporary terms of 2 former staff members has ended.

HRSA Grant Update

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 previously reduced by 57.53% for all recipients. Earlier this month the official revised Notice of Award was received reflecting that Year 1 funding has been restored to the full amount.

The focus of the grant is to improve the 3 and the 6 of the 1-3-6 EHDI goals. One of the grant requirements is to form an ad hoc council with a makeup that is similar to this advisory council. Invitations will be sent to solicit members for this committee. Bridgetta encouraged the recruitment of deaf adults for the ad hoc committee and offered her help with the recruitment effort. The grant also requires establishing learning communities which will involve partnership with medical professionals. A large part of the grant is sub-contracted with The Parents' Place of Maryland to co-lead the development of a comprehensive and coordinated statewide EHDI system.

MD EHDI Advisory Council 1-3-6 Workgroup Update

Because of the work that will be conducted as required by the HRSA grant to improve the EHDI process, a separate 1-3-6 workgroup may not be necessary. It was suggested to include on the agenda for the next council meeting, a discussion on how council members may provide assistance in meeting some of the HRSA grant deliverables.

IV. New Business

There was no new business.

V. Open Discussion

There was open discussion about the need for sensitivity in word choice and language used to inform parents about the birth hearing screening results and the need for a deaf role model mentoring program in Maryland in which deaf adults are matched with parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

VI. Announcements

Board member, Bridgetta Bourne-Firl works at the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center and is involved with the Family Leadership in Language and Learning Program (FL3) which is funded by HRSA. A webinar is being developed to train parents to be leaders. The Clerc Center is developing an app to help families advocate for their children.

<http://www.handsandvoices.org/fl3/index.html>

http://www.handsandvoices.org/fl3/PressReleaseFL3_2-13-17.pdf

MSDE is developing an app that can be used to make referrals to the Infants and Toddlers Program.

The Vision and Hearing Guideline manual for Maryland Public Schools is currently being updated. Board member, Tina Backe is assisting with the update.

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System has a Ready 2 Read Program for children under the age of five. Once registered, the child will receive a free book in the mail every month until their fifth birthday. See website link below:

<http://ww1.pgcmlls.info/website/freebooks-1886>

National Black Deaf Advocates Conference – August 1-6, Baltimore

Telecommunications for the Deaf (TDI) - July 27-29, Bethesda

Parent Connections event at Chesapeake Beach Water Park – August 16th
\$9 per person under 48” entry fee; \$11 per person over 48” entry fee use of cabana and pizza will be provided at no charge

“Powerful Parents” all day conference at Maryland School for the Deaf - September 9th (to assist families with coordinating care for their child who has special needs)

Dr. Jennifer Reesman will be one of the presenters.

Next MD EHDI Advisory Council Meeting – Thursday, October 19, 2017, 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM, Hearing and Speech Agency, park in the rear parking lot

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:04PM.