



Meeting Minutes: Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI)/Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Committee

May 15, 2024

Minutes prepared by: Bridget Walde

Location: Amherst H. Wilder Foundation, 451 Lexington Pkwy. N, St. Paul MN 55104

Attendance

Present: Ingrid Aasan, Anne Barlow, Joan Boddicker, Mary Cashman-Bakken, Kirsten Coverstone, Darcia Dierking, Kathleen Geraghty, Danelle Gournaris, Hannah Herd, Calla Kevan, Joscelyn Martin, Jess Moen, Gloria Nathanson, Sara Oberg, Colleen Vitzthum, Katie Warne, Terry Wilding, Jay Wyant

Absent: Tina Huang, Elizabeth Pai, Emily Smith-Lundberg, Abby Meyer, Jessica Novak, Cat Tamminga Flores

Agenda Item Minutes

Welcome and Announcements

- Colleen Vitzthum called meeting to order, initiated roll call.
- Committee members each introduced themselves during roll call and shared their experience with EHDI.
- Joscelyn Martin moved to approve minutes, Mary Cashman-Bakken second, minutes approved.

EHDI Story – Cadie Adhikary

- Presented her story as a mom of a child who did not pass newborn hearing screening and described journey to diagnosis of hearing loss and cCMV. She described experiences with loaner amplification and cochlear implants, Help Me Grow & early intervention. The family learned American Sign Language (ASL) with Deaf Mentors. She described challenges with insurance coverage and need for switching jobs. She described challenges with school placement and negotiations for child to be enrolled in an auditory oral program. Family moved so they could be in a school district that offered programs they desired. Child caught up to hearing peers for expressive/receptive language at 4. Today child is thriving, involved in many activities, and continues to meet goals!

National EHDl Conference Highlights

- Committee members who attended National EHDl Conference shared highlights from the Conference. Members attended a wide variety of sessions, were glad time was spent together at the stakeholder meeting and in informal settings, and enjoyed the time for networking.

Education Update – Legislative Report for Part C and Part B

- MDE provides a report on deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) students in Part C and Part B to the Legislature every two years. Provided an overview of the preliminary results of the report for 2022 to 2023. Data included an overview of the MCA math and reading scores, graduation rates, outcomes on the Child Outcomes Survey (COS), and additional deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) questions on the COS. Report also includes recommendations to improve outcomes.
- Discussion from audience: would like to see data on children not enrolled in Part C/B; want to brainstorm additional steps that can be taken to improve outcomes; mentioned importance of using valid instruments for measuring outcomes.

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Update

MDH Data Update, Sara Lammert

- Presented data on unilateral hearing loss, including longitudinal follow-up outcomes such as grade level achievement and language acquisition as reported in the Early Childhood Longitudinal Data System (ECLDS). Also presented on a quality improvement health record abstraction project focused on abstracting data on unilateral hearing loss and specialty care evaluations, hearing technology fittings, and hearing etiology. Goal of the project was to improve data matching with ECLDS. Presented data on the time of diagnosis, enrollment in Part C, evaluation by ENT, genetics, and ophthalmology, hearing technology fittings, etiologies, among others.
- Presented an overview of EHDl Local Public Health (LPH) data presented at the Children and Youth with Special Health Needs (CYSHN) Local Public Health Conference. Data presented included the number of assessments completed each year, common topic areas assessed during visits, health insurance coverage, referrals to early intervention, among others.

EHDl Activities & Committee Updates, Darcia Dierking

- The EHDl/Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Committee subdivision in statute is scheduled to sunset in June 2025, unless reauthorized. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) EHDl grant still requires MDH to convene a state/territory EHDl advisory committee, regardless of state statute.
- Presented an overview of EHDl federal funding received by MDH from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and HRSA. Presented an overview of the goals, objectives, and activities of HRSA funding for the project period April 2024 to March 2029. Highlighted activities include improving language acquisition outcomes.
- Questions:
 - Will the reported individual data on language outcomes be from the COS?

- First year of the grant is a planning year to address questions like this.
- EHDI programs are different from state to state. Will programs in other states be looked at?
 - Yes, looking at other states. Also doing interviews with primary partners within the state. Minnesota Commission of the Deaf, Deafblind & Hard of Hearing has also convened a language acquisition workgroup.

EHDI Benchmarks Updates/Introduction

- Re-introduced EHDI Benchmarks, which were last updated in 2013. Currently there are 31 indicators among seven sections. Sections include benchmarks related to screening, diagnosis, early intervention, communication ability at age three, etc. Current benchmarks can be found on the MN EHDI website.
- Asked the Committee for interest in members joining a workgroup for further review and recommendations for updates to the benchmarks. Committee decided to form a workgroup.
- Members expressed interest in participating in workgroup, and email describing workgroup will be sent to all members including those not present.
- Question: how often will workgroups meet?
 - Anticipate two meetings that will take place virtually. Looking to present recommendations at the next meeting in August, vote in November. However, it can take as long as the Committee would like.

Partner Updates

- Partners shared updates, including upcoming events and new resources.

Decisions Made

- Workgroup to review and update the EHDI Benchmarks will be formed.

Action Items

- Link to EHDI Benchmarks document will be shared with the Committee.
- Partner updates will be shared with the Committee via email.

Next Meeting

Date: August 21, 2024

Time: 1-4pm

Location: Amherst H. Wilder Foundation, 451 Lexington Pkwy. N, St. Paul MN 55104

Agenda items: submit proposed agenda items to ehdi@state.mn.us

Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI) Program
Minnesota Department of Health
651-201-3650
ehdi@state.mn.us
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/childreyouth/improveehdi>

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