



Meeting Minutes: EHDI Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Committee August 17, 2022

Minutes prepared by: Bridget Walde and Darcia Dierking

Location: Virtual

Attendance

Present:

Ingrid Aasan, Kathy Anderson, Anne Barlow, Joan Boddicker, Nicole Brown, Mary Cashman-Bakken, Kirsten Coverstone, Danelle Gournaris, Hannah Herd, Tina Huang, Colleen Ireland, Joscelyn Martin, Abby Meyer, Gloria Nathanson, Jessica Novak, Sara Oberg, Emily Smith-Lundberg, Cat Tamminga, Katie Warne, Terry Wilding, Jay Wyant

Absent: Renae Allen, Elizabeth Pai, Emilee Scheid

Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Announcements – Joan Boddicker

- Logistics
- Roll Call
- Approval of Minutes: Minutes from May 2022 meeting approved.

EHDI Story/Reflections - Kathy Anderson

- Kathy retiring from her position as the Statewide EHDI Specialist with MN Low Incidence Projects as of August 31st, 2022.
- Jess Moen taking over as the Statewide EHDI Specialist as of September 1st, 2022.
- Kathy shared her story over last 4 decades of collaborating with interagency projects and resources to move EHDI forward, “rowing in the same direction” supporting each other, and with gratitude, she celebrated all the accomplishments that the interagency teams and organizations have made. She shared that just as parents and community partners at a MN Hands & Voices family picnic event stood shoulder to shoulder to find a lost hearing aid in the grass, all the people in MN involved with EHDI continue to “walk” shoulder to shoulder as we work to improve outcomes for kids.

- Jess Moen introduced herself. She shared that her background is in early childhood, and she has been a teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing (TDHH) for over 15 years. For the past 7 years, she has also served as a MN Centers of Excellence Professional Development Facilitator in Regions 1 and 2 in northwest MN.

Legislative Report 2022: Students Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing - Mary Cashman Bakken, MDE

- Thanked Kathy for her many years working in MN EHDl.
- Legislative report came out on June 30th, and it is available on the MDE website: <https://mn.gov/dhs/media/legislative-information/legislative-reports/>
- Highlighted recommendations that were included in report
 - recruitment/retention of staff,
 - work with curriculum designed for children who are deaf and hard of hearing (DHH),
 - expand mental health and executive function support,
 - expand trainings for TDHH, and
 - pursuing the creation of a database of educational interpreters.
- Shared basic information about the status of DHH students in Minnesota.
- Questions and Answers: included topics regarding “delivery via consult” vs direct instruction with teacher of the DHH (TDHH), reading programs, caseloads, database for educational interpreters, executive function.
- Collaborative Conference the 3rd to 5th of November. Parents can attend conference for free.

MDE Updates - Cat Tamminga, MDE

- Shared updates from Early Childhood Special Education, Part C.
- Highlighted MDE’s 10 Commitments to Equity, especially those that apply to Part C.
- Shared an update on federal reporting and funding, including determining the next 6-year State Performance Plan (SPP) which included:
 - community engagement,
 - the Annual Performance Report (APR), and
 - the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) which also included community engagement.
- Discussed allocations for Part C, including some from the American Rescue Plan
- Part C American Rescue Plan Funds Updates – engaged the community to determine the best way to spend the additional funding. Results included continuing outreach to families, updating the Family Outcome Survey, funding to districts, statewide profession development and ongoing support, and examining the Help Me Grow/referral process.
- Part C continues to engage families and Part C partners as part of their ongoing work.
- Questions and Answers: included discussion on the preschool development grant and hopes to see improved connections between data systems so families don’t have to tell their stories again and again.

Help Me Connect - Shawn Holmes, MDH

- Help Me Connect (<https://helpmeconnect.web.health.state.mn.us/HelpMeConnect>) is a result of hearing from families and providers and aims to connect them to the resources/services they need in a “one stop shop”. It has been live since May 2021.
- Shared that Help Me Connect is a partner to Help Me Grow. It links to programs that already exist for those who are expecting or have children up to age 8. Gave an overview of how families can search for resources and use the site, including the availability of translations in 4 languages, the ability to create an account, and how it is mobile friendly. There are 11 categories of resources, and they are evaluating and adjusting the site on an ongoing basis. Shared analytics since the beginning of Help Me Connect, including the top search queries. Demonstrated how to navigate the site, including how to make sure a family is finding the resources closest to them, how to create an account, and specific Hearing Loss resources.
- Questions and Answers: included discussion on how the site points families to connect with their local district and what information is included.

cCMV Implementation Focus: Asymptomatic cCMV with Typical Hearing - Kirsten Coverstone, MDH

- Shared overview of cCMV follow-up for confirmed cCMV cases with passing results on newborn screening, including timeline of screening and diagnosis with a focus on audiology. Audiology recommendations vary nationally, and within Minnesota, health systems have similar yet slightly varied processes. Shared MDH’s confirmed cCMV audiology process, including that MDH will notify the family and the PCP of the need for ongoing hearing testing during childhood. Asked for feedback on two general statements for the notice to families and PCPs.
 - Feedback:
 - Curious about insurance perspective, will frequent hearing screening look odd to insurance companies? Will insurance companies pay for this?
 - Answers from group:
 - If there are specific guidelines, then insurance companies typically have to follow this.
 - Will have secondary cCMV code that should be included in insurance billing.
- Shared MDH proposed public health plan for short- and long-term follow-up for audiology for infants with cCMV and typical hearing,
- Group Discussion:
 - Audiologists on the committee thought they could get together and come to consensus between clinics.
 - Will be able to adjust guidelines and frequency of public health short and long term follows up as we go and learn more.

Partner/Stakeholder Updates:

- No additional updates.

Next Meeting

Date: November 16th, 2022

Time: 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Location: Virtual

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

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