

Virginia Early Hearing Detection Intervention Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Friday, December 2, 2022, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

In-Person Meeting

Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association

[4200 Innslake Dr Suite 203, Glen Allen, VA 23060](#)

Meeting called to order 10:11 AM

Attendees: Valerie Abbott, Judy Alonzi, Lindsey Richard, Marcus Allen, Ira Pahdye, Tracey Yurechko, Teri Urban, Ashleigh Greenwood

Interested Parties: Ellysa Sigurdson

VDH Staff in Attendance: Daphne Miller, Deepali Sanghani, Noesha Ferrell, John Rogan, Christen Crews

ASL Interpretation provided by: Catherine Clough, Elizabeth Leitch

Captioning services available

Advisory Committee Business:

- Introductions/Roll Call -
 - Introductions from attendees were completed.
 - Physical quorum not present at the meeting today so no voting will be conducted
- Review of Agenda -
 - The agenda was reviewed by Co-chair V. Abbott.
- Review of June and September Advisory Committee meeting minutes – quorum not present. Meeting minutes will not be voted on but were reviewed and no changes or corrections- no changes requested
- Travel forms will be sent out via DocuSign after the meeting. Members were asked to request travel forms as needed.

Agency Updates:

Overview of agency updates by Co-chair V. Abbott she reminded members to submit updates the Monday prior to the meeting to ensure they are included into the printed agency updates.

Question from Advisory Committee Member -Is there a way the updates can be read prior to the meeting and not during the meeting? The Chair suggested we discussed this at the next meeting when we have a quorum, a discussion can be had, and a motion can be made to modify or change the process.

**The Technical Assistance Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (TAC-DHH)/
Partnership for People w/ Disabilities:**

Submitted by: Tracey Yurechko

Mission: The Technical Assistance Center for Children Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing is funded by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to provide training and technical assistance in the area of deafness and hearing loss. Assistance is available to local public school systems as well as state-operated programs including early intervention through the Virginia Network of Consultants for Professionals Working with Children Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VNOC) in areas such as identification, assessment (educational, psychological), communication of children across the spectrum of modalities (listening and spoken language, American Sign Language, Signed English, etc.), specific needs of children with amplification including cochlear implants, and instructional strategies.

Updates: Professional Learning Communities (PLC) with teachers of the deaf and hard of Hearing occur in conjunction with Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind. These PLCs allowed professionals to work collaboratively and build capacity in which 97% of the professionals identified growth of knowledge after attending these events.

- The Virginia Network of Consultants (VNOC) continues to support school divisions across the Commonwealth. For the 2022-2023 school year, 4 requests from local school divisions are currently in process and 5 requests are currently waitlisted until additional funding can be secured. Due to the impact of the pandemic on education over the last several years, VNOC is receiving a larger number of requests for services than historically documented.
- There are several future events to make note of:
 - Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Book Club: This free event will be held virtually in January on Tuesdays, January 10, 17, 24, and 31, 2023, from 6:30 - 7:30 PM and we will be reading Haben: The Deaf/Blind Woman who Conquered Harvard Law.
 - Opening Doors - Unlocking Potential (ODUP) Planning Team Meetings, will start after December 2, 2023. More information regarding ODUP will be forthcoming. Dates for conference will be June 21-23 (tentative).
- If you want to keep up with future events happening at the TAC-DHH, please complete the following form: <https://airtable.com/shrgJBAmME9gYXjWz> to receive our weekly newsletter.

DBHDS/Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia:

No Update

Newborn Screening (Dried Blood-Spot and CCHD):

Provided by: Mary Lowe and Christen Crews

Mission: Provide timely reporting of critical screening results to healthcare providers and specialists across the state, as well as case management for timely follow-up and assistance through the diagnostic odyssey for infants identified through newborn bloodspot screening.

Updates:

- Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children (ACHDNC) added Mucopolysaccharidosis Type II (MPS-II) to the Recommended Uniform Screening Panel (RUSP) earlier this year.
 - NBS-DBS will be assembling a workgroup to review screening for MPS-II in order to determine if this will be added to Virginia's NBS-DBS panel
- We are recruiting! We recently welcomed a new senior nurse to our team and are actively recruiting for:
 - One Senior Short-Term Follow-Up nurse / Nurse Educator
 - Two full-time Short-Term Follow-Up nurses
 - One Program Support Technician / Admin
 - CCHD birth defects coordinator has been recently hired

University of Virginia Hearing Aid Loan Bank:

Lisa Powley has retired, and Sandra Woodward has taken her place.

VDH Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN):

Submitted by: Marcus Allen

Updates:

The CYSHCN program worked in partnership with EHDI, VDOE, and MCH leadership to provide additional funding for the Hearing Aid Loan Bank. A contract modification was initiated with UVA, and it is pending. The funding will be used to purchase hearing aids, as needed for young people who qualify. Discussion on the current process for purchasing hearing aids and working with audiologists across the state to promote VAHALB and fittings for hearing aids.

Center for Family Involvement @ VCU-Family to Family

- 15 families referred to CFI- 1-3-6 Family Educator program
- 3 new educators being trained.
- New Facebook group for families.

Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind (VSDB):

- The VSDB outreach clinic has reopened in October and has serviced around 300 children.

Virginia Department of Education

Submitted by: Wanda Council

Mission: The mission of the Virginia Department of Education is to advance equitable and innovative learning.

Updates:

Virginia Supplemental Early Language and Literacy Resources for Deafness/Hard of Hearing (VA SELLR-DHH) Project Advisory Committee Meeting

The Virginia Supplemental Early Language and Literacy Resources for Deafness/Hard of Hearing (VA SELLR-DHH) Project Advisory Committee Meeting convened in person in full committee on Thursday, December 1, 2022, between 10 a.m.–3 p.m. with 14 of the 16 members present. The purpose of the meeting is to provide an overview of the requirements of new Virginia legislation regarding children who are deaf and hard of hearing as it pertains to the newly established advisory committee: [§ 22.1-217.04. Language development for children who are deaf or hard of hearing; assessment resources for parents and educators; advisory committee; report](#). The meeting was convened at the following location: Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association Conference Center, Washington Room, 4200 Innslake Drive, Glen Allen, Virginia 23060. Public comment was accepted in person at the meeting on Thursday, December 1, 2022, between 1:45–2 p.m. Public comments will be limited to three minutes per person. However, written public comment is accepted. Written public comment should be received by 5 p.m., Wednesday, November 30, 2022. Please submit any written comments to spedinstruction@doe.virginia.gov. All written public comment will be shared with the VA SELLR-DHH Project Advisory Committee Members following in-person public comment.

If you have any questions regarding this meeting, please contact Wanda Council, Education Specialist, by email at Wanda.Council@doe.virginia.gov, or by telephone at (804) 371-4059. Members of the VA SELLR-DHH Project Advisory Committee are listed below. Asterisk (*) designates voting member.

- Valerie Abbott, Virginia Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Advisory Committee
- Briana Bates*, Parent, Henrico County
- Robin Bliven, Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind
- Lori Bobsin, Ph.D.*, Speech-Language Pathologist, University of Virginia Medical Center
- Michele Bronnenberg*, Service Coordinator, Infant and Toddler Connection of Chesterfield County
- Wanda Council, Virginia Department of Education
- Ashley Esteva*, Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Chesterfield County Public Schools
- Janet Knust*, Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Norfolk City Public Schools
- Carrie Martin*, Speech-Language Pathologist, Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind
- Emilie Mulholland*, Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Fairfax County Public Schools
- Terri Nelligan, Infant and Toddler Connection of Virginia
- Eric Raff, Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Irene Schmalz, Ph.D., Center for Family Involvement at the Partnership for People with Disabilities, Virginia Commonwealth University
- Jessica Sheffield*, Parent, Hampton City
- Hunta Williams, Virginia Association of the Deaf
- Laura Yellin*, Parent, Arlington County

There was a discussion on the goals and tasks of the advisory committee. Also discussed what was accomplished during the meeting. At the culmination of this advisory committee there will be a report compiled that compares language acquisition for children who are DHH as compared to children who are not DHH.

Virginia Project for Children and Youth with Deaf-Blindness:

Submitted by: Ira Padhye

Mission: The Virginia Deafblind Project (VDBP) is committed to supporting families, teachers, and service providers in their endeavors to improve outcomes for children and youth who experience both vision and hearing loss. Through providing technical assistance, training, and information, we aspire to improve the quality of life for people with deaf-blindness as they live in their homes, learn in their schools, and socialize in their communities and access the services they chose.

Updates:

- The Virginia Deafblind Project (VDBP) piloted “Discovering ME!”, a transition assessment and planning tool, with 2 teams of transition-aged students with dual sensory

loss to increase employment based opportunities. Staff facilitated the process which is designed to create customized employment-based learning opportunities for students with significant barriers to employment. The training was attended by 14 educators, 3 parents and 2 high school students.

- VDBP hosted a “Transition Retreat Weekend” in Roanoke, VA in July 2022 for two families (3 parents, 1 sibling and 2 young adults who are deafblind) receiving transition support from VDBP. The weekend was spent creating goals for life after high school and action planning to meet the created goals. Parents also were able to share their goals for their children.
- VDBP delivered a “Communication Kickoff Training” to 2 school teams (10 educators total) that provided strategies to support communication development for early communicators as well as strategies to connect instruction to the General Education Curriculum.
- VDBP, in collaboration with the Technical Assistance Center for Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing (TAC-DHH) and Outreach Services at the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind, hosted the “Sensory AccessABILITIES: The Unconference” on November 8th, 2022, in Staunton, Virginia. The Unconference was designed to be a participant driven training, where the educators identify the challenges, they face when working with students with sensory loss and then participate in reflective discussion to help come up with solutions. It was attended by 16 of the 24 educators registered throughout Virginia who work with students with sensory disabilities.

Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH):

No Update

Virginia Hands & Voices:

Submitted by: Teri Urban

Mission: Virginia Hands & Voices is a non-profit, 501(c)(3), parent-driven organization. We are dedicated to supporting families with children who are deaf and hard-of-hearing without bias around communication modes or methodology. Virginia Hands & Voices provides parents with the resources, networks, and information they need to improve communication access and educational outcomes for their children. This is the 6th year of the program.

Updates:

We are pleased to wrap up 2022 with proudly hosting 9 events, both in-person and virtual, across Virginia. Each year, our memberships increase from previous years, and 2022 will close out

with close to 60 members. We have begun our 2023 membership renewal drive and always hope to retain many existing members, while adding new ones throughout the years.

Our brochures are being updated and should be approved for printing by the end of December. We are excited to begin circulating our updated materials with families and stakeholders that represent more diversity and include Cued Speech.

We have been receiving many requests from families for 'parent mentoring sessions. Families, mostly those who are new to the journey of parenting a deaf/hard of hearing child, are eager to connect with other parents and ask questions, along with getting a glimpse of what their child's future may look like. Families are seeking local resources, ASL classes and opportunities to connect with other parents. Many of our conversations revolve around cochlear implants, what the process entails and benefits of each manufacturer. Our board loves having these conversations so much that we are currently seeking grants to start up a more formal program here in Virginia so we can continue to provide this support to families, but with more structure and funding.

Our Board of Directors (7 adults total; 6 are parents of DHH children, 2 identify as deaf adults) will be meeting soon to begin planning our 2023 calendar. We've had many requests for activities/social opportunities in Winchester and southern Virginia, just to name a few, and are eager to continue connecting with families and provide them with unbiased resources, networks, and information across the Commonwealth.

Review of AC Bylaws

The EHDI AC Bylaws were reviewed at the meeting for the changes and recommendations by the Bylaws workgroup committee who met on Tuesday, November 29, 2022.

Below are the changes that were discussed and addressed at this meeting:

- Discussion regarding the previous AC bylaws and recommended changes based on the code and guidelines provided by the Virginia Department of Health.

Recess

The Advisory Committee recessed for lunch at 11:58AM.

The meeting was resumed at 1:03PM

Public Comment

No public comment.

Review of AC Bylaws (cont'd)

- Discussed adding the word “aid” to the composition of the Advisory Committee. See below highlighted changes.
 - **Advisory Committee Composition**
 - The membership of the EHDI AC must comply with the specifics set out in the Code of Virginia. The AC shall consist of representatives from relevant groups including, but not limited to, the following;
 - The health insurance industry
 - Physicians, including at least one Pediatrician or Family Practitioner, one Otolaryngologist, and one Neonatologist
 - Nurse representing newborn nurseries
 - **Audiologists**
 - **Hearing aid** dealers and fitters
 - Teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing
 - Parents of children who are deaf and hard of hearing
 - Adults who are deaf and hard of hearing
 - Hospital Administrators
 - Personnel of appropriate state agencies, including the Department of Medical Assistance Services, Department of Education, Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services
- Discussed the revision of the code to add the number of each advisory member composition. Also consider addition of family-based organizations, speech pathology, etc.
- Discussed the changes to the Advisory Chairs section. See highlighted changes below. Addition of the number of chairs and the role of the chairs. Discussion on the language about federal and state government employees and will consider the option to amend this language with more clarity on which employees will be considered under this umbrella. Consider revising the language to address conflict of interest and make changes as necessary.
 - **Advisory Chairs**
 - The **re shall be two** chairs **who are** shall be residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia, **they will be** elected annually by the AC and shall not be employed by any federal or state government. The chairs may serve for three (3) consecutive years.
- Discussion on the ability of members to participate if the member is participating virtually.

Family Perspective-

Debra Few shared about her personal experience with her diagnosis of hearing loss and also her experience as an intern at the VDH EHDI program.

EHDI Updates provided by Daphne Miller and Deepali Sanghani

- Provided updates for HRSA and CDC grants
 - HRSA progress report for submitted and CDC HSFS will be submitted in January 2023
- In process of hiring positions for the EHDI program.
- Mentioned EHDI conference Feb 12-14, 2023, in Richmond, VA
 - Planning to hold AC meeting to kickoff conference.
- OAE equipment
 - 8 mailed in summer 2022
 - 2 mailed in winter 2022
- Discussed birthing center outreach.
 - Completed trainings on how to use and report in EHDI-IS
- Discussed virtual hospital site visits.
 - Completed 11 hospital site visits and one is scheduled for week of 12/5/22
- Pushing PCP VISITS access
 - Looking into ways to promote PCP access to VISITS
- VISITS enhancements
 - Outgoing/incoming calls – calls made through VISITS
 - Texting – on demand responses.
 - Dashboard in VISITS – for providers
- Collaboration with DBS
 - Create a prenatal brochure to help families understand what happens at the hospital
- iPad's
 - Continuing to send out iPads to families to support early access to language
 - 30 iPads left in inventory
- National EHDI conference
 - Will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, March 5-7, 2023
 - If you are a parent and interested in attending the National EHDI conference, please send an email no later than 12/30/2022 to va_ehdi@vdh.virginia.gov
 - VA EHDI team submitted 3 abstracts, and all have been accepted.

Hospital Compliance Presentation by Deepali Sanghani

- Compliance
 - Discussion and brief overview of new process for tracking compliance
 - Went over the process of compliance tracking
 - Detailed the components of the hospital site visits.
 - Mentioned types of data obtained and key components for that data.

- Mentioned some hospitals did great in the 1st quarter but then dropped in the 2nd quarter.
- Site visits target hospitals whose compliance percentage is less than 50%.
- Site visits are helping hospitals improve their compliance rates and improve overall reporting.

Next Steps

Next meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2023.

The chair Valerie Abbott suggested that if you have not submitted your standing updates, send your updates as soon as possible to the VA EHDI email box.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:20PM