



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

Advisory Committee Meeting

December 1, 2022

Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association Conference Center
4200 Innslake Drive
Glen Allen, Virginia 23060

Minutes of Meeting

Call to Order: Wanda Council presided as the Acting Chair, and the meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m.

Roll Call of Members: The roll call of members was conducted, and individual members introduced themselves.

Members Present: Valerie Abbott, Briana Bates, Robin Bliven, Dr. Lori Bobsin, Michele Bronnenberg, Wanda Council, Ashley M. Esteva, Janet Knust, Carrie Martin, Emilie Mulholland, Terri Nelligan, Eric Raff, Dr. Irene Schmalz, and Hunta Williams

Members Absent: Jessica Sheffield and Laura Yellin

Ms. Council introduced and thanked the guests also in attendance from the Virginia Department of Education, Department of Special Education and Student Services: Dr. Zenia Burnett, Bonnie English, and Sarah Peters; as well as Tracey Yurechko, Director of the Technical Assistance Center for Children Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing; Dr. Brenda Seal, an independent educational consultant; Hilary Hodes, Project Coordinator at the Virginia Project for Children and Young Adults with Deaf-Blindness; and Paul Stuessy, Community Services Specialist at the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Communication access services were provided by American Sign Language Interpreters: Bernice McCormack and John Folker; Certified Deaf Interpreters: Jill Owens Brick and Lynn Capps Day; Cued Language Transliterators: Carol Livingston and Jamie Karlinchak; and Communication Access Realtime Translation Captioner: Lois Boyle.

Ms. Council declared a quorum of voting members and reviewed the meeting agenda.

Mr. Raff presented recommendations for appropriate communication etiquette to be utilized during the meeting through the use of spoken English, American Sign Language, Cued Speech/Language, and Communication Access Realtime Translation. Mr. Williams requested that members and guests also provide a visual description of themselves when they initially speak.

Ms. Peters reviewed the state travel reimbursement procedures and related information.

Ms. Council added an agenda item to include election of the Advisory Committee Chairperson following the Public Comment period. Ms. Abbott assisted with reviewing the process for voting members to nominate and elect a chairperson. Members were encouraged to engage with one another during lunch and prior to the nominations and voting.

New Business

Virginia Deaf and Hard of Hearing Legislation Overview: Ms. Council reviewed a document that summarized the *Code of Virginia* legislation that became effective on July 1, 2022, [§ 22.1-217.04. Language development for children who are deaf or hard of hearing; assessment resources for parents and educators; advisory committee; report](#). Specific timelines and required action by the Advisory Committee were discussed.

Virginia Deaf and Hard of Hearing Resources Overview: Ms. Council reviewed the Virginia state agencies, programs, centers, guidance documents, and resources for information and services that are currently available for families of children who are deaf and hard of hearing and educators.

Mr. Raff facilitated a voluntary discussion during lunch with members sharing their personal experiences with learning and/or teaching language.

Early Language Milestones and Assessment Resources Overview: Ms. Council, Mr. Raff, Ms. Nelligan, and Dr. Seal facilitated discussion about existing assessment tools and resources that are currently available and utilized by parents and educators to assess and monitor the acquisition and development of language toward English literacy for children who are deaf and hard of hearing, ages birth-five. A list of existing language developmental milestone tools and resources will be compiled and distributed to the members by January 1, 2023.

Public Comment: Members of the public did not attend. Public and/or written comment were not received during this advisory meeting.

Ms. Council requested Ms. Abbott's assistance with facilitating the process for nominating and voting for the Advisory Committee Chairperson, who would subsequently preside over the advisory committee meetings. Mz. Esteva and Ms. Mulholland were nominated, and both accepted their nominations. Mz. Esteva and Ms. Mulholland each provided a summary of their personal and professional background and experience in the area of deafness/hard of hearing. Ballots were distributed to and received from the seven voting members in attendance. Ms. Mulholland was elected by majority vote to be the Advisory Committee Chairperson.

Ms. Council proposed the following dates for the consideration of approximately three subsequent advisory committee meetings prior to the termination of the advisory committee's function on June 30, 2023.

- January 24, 2023
- January 27, 2023
- February 3, 2023
- March 9, 2023
- March 10, 2023
- May 4, 2023
- May 18, 2023

Ms. Nelligan suggested that each member submit a list of their suggested language milestone and assessment tools for consideration of the committee to Ms. Council and/or Ms. Nelligan.

Adjournment: Ms. Council adjourned the meeting at 2:56 p.m.