

Meeting Minutes: EHDI Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Committee February 15, 2023

Minutes prepared by: Bridget Walde

Location: Zoom

Attendance

Present: Anne Barlow, Kirsten Coverstone, Darcia Dierking, Danelle Gournaris, Hannah Herd, Tina Huang, Colleen Ireland, Calla Kevan, Joscelyn Martin, Abby Meyer, Jess Moen, Gloria Nathanson, Jessica Novak, Sara Oberg, Elizabeth Pai, Cat Tamminga Flores, Katie Warne, Terry Wilding, Jay Wyant

Absent: Ingrid Aasan, Joan Boddicker, Mary Cashman-Bakken, Emily Smith-Lundberg

Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Announcements

- Logistics
- Roll call
- Approval of Minutes from November 2023 Meeting: *Minutes are approved.*

EHDI Story – Member Introductions

- Members introduced themselves, shared their EHDI related experience, and their roles with the committee.
- A special welcome was given to new committee members: Darcia Dierking, Calla Kevan, and Jess Moen.

MNCDHH Legislative Update – Alicia Lane-Outlaw

- Alicia Lane-Outlaw, Government Relations Director for MNCDHH, gave a legislative update on deaf and hard of hearing related initiatives in the legislature this year. MNCDHH is working alongside other organizations, things are happening and status information can change very quickly.
- Primary bills of interest:
 - Bill related to the Metro Deaf School (MDS) – there was a bill passed several years ago that allowed MDS to accept children birth to three, but the funding was limited. The current bill is to

update language around funding, and it is in the process of being jacketed, so it has not received a bill number yet.

- There is a bill to add deaf and hard of hearing education to the list of licensed fields that qualify for education tax credits as a master's program. It has been sent to revisors office, waiting to be jacketed.
- Affordable Hearing Aid Act: the objective is to lower the cost of hearing aids. Bill House File 1480 would remove the age limit on insurance mandates. Insurance currently requires hearing aids to be covered for those 18 and younger in MN, and this language may be in violation of federal law. If passed, insurance would be mandated to cover hearing aids no matter the age.
- Minnesota State Academy of the Deaf: requesting funding to upgrade audiology equipment to provide audiology services to students, and it is currently in the Governor's budget proposal.
- TEFRA program: federal law that mandates states to allow families who qualify for Medicaid regardless of family's income. In Minnesota, a family may qualify but they might need to pay a premium depending on income. For many of the families, the fee is a large burden. Introduced yesterday and moving forward. Bill would eliminate the fee for families
- The MNCDHH legislative agenda can be found at [Minnesota Commission of the Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard of Hearing 2023 Legislative Agenda \(https://mn.gov/deaf-commission/legislation/legislative-agenda/\)](https://mn.gov/deaf-commission/legislation/legislative-agenda/)

MNCDHH Collaborative Experience Recap – Danelle Gournaris

- Danelle provided a recap of the virtual 2022 Collaborative Experience Conference.
- The Conference addresses each of the four strategic issues in the 2019-2024 Collaborative Plan, but especially assessing and addressing licensure and qualification for professionals. It allows participants to collect CEUs.
- The Conference had two keynote presentations, 21 workshops, and a performance from Sunshine 2.0. There were 308 participants.
- Each workshop had an evaluation survey that allowed participants to collect their CEUs. There was also a post-conference survey, and the majority of participants were "satisfied" or "highly satisfied" with the conference experience. Very positive feedback was received on the keynote presentations and other sessions.
- The post-conference survey also asked what participants would like to see in the future.
- Will be setting a date for the 2024 Collaborative Experience Conference in either October or November of 2024. Will be in person, with a location to be determined.

Minnesota Department of Education Update – Cat Tamminga Flores

- Cat Tamminga Flores shared information regarding Due Process resources for Part C and 619.
- There are three different webinars to explain Part C Due Process. There are also three different webinars for 619 (preschool) Due Process.
- She also shared a link to a webinar highlighting the key differences between Part C and Part B.

- The webinars and slides will be shared with Committee members to review before the next Committee meeting in May. All information can also be found at [Part C and Part B Resources \(https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/early/ecse/bc/\)](https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/early/ecse/bc/)

Minnesota Department of Health Update

- Kirsten Coverstone, MDH EHDI Coordinator, shared an update on congenital cytomegalovirus (cCMV). Minnesota universal cCMV screening went live on February 6, 2023, with a media coverage and press release event on February 8, 2023.
 - MDH continues to work on its process related to cCMV screening.
 - Expect to see about 293 infants with cCMV in MN annually, with about 217 identified through newborn screening using current screening methods.
 - MDH continues to build newborn screening system capacity through supporting stakeholders through developing resources and providing education about cCMV and developing and implementing strategies for newborn screening systems improvements.
 - EHDI Advisory Committee has had an important role in cCMV screening implementation. Kirsten thanked everyone who has contributed.
 - Question: Will MDH or others be presenting any information on cCMV at the National EHDI Conference or other conferences?
 - Kirsten: MN asked to be part of a panel at the National EHDI Conference in March & MDH had a CMV abstract accepted for presentation. MDH will likely present something at the cCMV National Conference in 2024. There will likely be other local & national presentations by MDH as we learn more.
 - MDH will be at the local audiology conference next week, sharing the audiology guideline. Will look for more opportunities in 2024.
 - Abby Meyer: will be presenting at some upcoming conferences and might touch on cCMV.
 - Jesi Novak: presenting at Children's Grant Rounds on cCMV, would like to present at other opportunities as well
- Kirsten also shared a snapshot look at EHDI data.
 - The percentage of newborns completing screening remains high and consistent through 2022 data. Minnesota's initial refer rate (infants screened & did not pass birth screen) remains high (7.8%) and above the national guideline of 4%. Early discharges, staffing changes, and equipment changes are thought to contribute to this.
 - Kirsten plans on speaking with other EHDI Coordinators at the National EHDI Conference to see if they are experiencing anything similar with equipment changes.
 - When looking at FINAL refer rate after outpatient rescreen, the overall refer rate is 1-2%.
 - The percentage of infants with a complete diagnosis within 90 days of birth decreased in 2021.
 - Question: Referral is when someone fails a hearing screening?
 - Kirsten: yes, refer is when an infant is screened but does not pass
 - Question: What did you mean when you said 1-2% regarding the refer rate?
 - The statewide Initial refer/did not pass of 7-8%, however, after the outpatient rescreen, the percentage of infants screened & did not pass is closer to 1 to 2%.

- Lost to follow up rate of initial refers remained about the same in 2021. However, we are seeing a promising downward trend from 11.4% in 2016 to 7.8% (preliminary) in 2021. Of note, this overall decrease in LTF/D is happening even with the significant increased statewide refer rate from 4.3% in 2018 to over 7% in the last few years.
- The majority of children diagnosed with hearing loss have bilateral hearing loss. Mild and moderate are still the most common degrees of hearing loss.
- MDH looking at ways to get data back to stakeholders, using proven QI strategies, the continued need for consistent messaging across providers, and prioritizing projects that will improve documentation/reporting.
- MDH has begun working on a quality improvement initiative with the Minnesota Perinatal Quality Collaborative.

Partner/Stakeholder Updates

- Question: are May and November meetings in person?
 - Kirsten: we are trying to balance the ease of virtual meetings with the need for in-person connection. More information to come on in-person meetings.
- Gloria Nathanson: Deaf Culture Language and Careers (DCLC) expo event happening on April 15th. Organizations can host booths. Typically we have more than 2,000 people attending. Can visit [DCLC \(https://dclcevent.com/\)](https://dclcevent.com/) for more information.
- Terry Wilding: Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf will be hosting a family immersion event for families with deaf/hard of hearing children from May 5th to the 7th. It will cost \$60 per family to attend, and housing for families who will be traveling is available. Can visit [Family Immersion Weekend \(https://msad.msa.state.mn.us/academics/family-immersion-weekend\)](https://msad.msa.state.mn.us/academics/family-immersion-weekend) for more information.
- Jesi Novak: State Hearing Aid Loaner Bank has received more hearing aids. Would love to connect with more families who need loaner hearing aids for their children.

Next Meeting

Date: May 15, 2023

Time: 1:00 – 4:00 pm

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

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

Decisions Made

- None.

Action Items

- None.

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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