



Meeting Minutes: EHDI Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Committee

August 21, 2024

Minutes prepared by: Samantha Colston

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

Attendance

Present: Anne Barlow, Mary Cashman-Bakken, Kirsten Coverstone, Darcia Dierking, Kathleen Geraghty, Danelle Gournaris, Hannah Herd, Tina Huang, Calla Kevan, Joscelyn Martin, Jessica Novak, Sara Oberg, Cat Tamminga Flores, Colleen Vitzthum, Katie Warne

Absent: Ingrid Aasan, Joan Boddicker, Abby Meyer, Jess Moen, Gloria Nathanson, Elizabeth Pai, Emily Smith-Lundberg, Terry Wilding, Jay Wyant

Agenda Item Minutes

Welcome and Announcements

- Collene 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, Danelle Gournaris seconded minutes approval. Minutes approved.

Part C Updates – Cat Tamminga Flores

- In July 2024, Part C transitioned from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) to the new Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). MDE and DCYF are co-leading Part C through an interagency agreement. All Part C services for infants, toddlers, and families remain the same – families and providers should not feel any changes.
- The federal Part C grant application has been updated and contains four sections: policies, assurances, use of funds (budget), and system of payments/indirect cost. MDE applied in spring of 2024 and the new fiscal year began July 1, 2024. Federal reporting is due each year in February, and each state must also report to their Governor each year.
- In Minnesota, the Child Outcome Survey (COS) contains additional questions for children who are deaf and hard of hearing, which is not a regular practice in other states.

- A joint letter between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the U.S. Department of Education (ED) on the federal level was recently published. This letter is intended to support requirements, expectations, and stronger collaboration between EHDI and Part C. In MN, the EHDI program and Part C already collaborate in many ways.

EHDI Family Story – Hakimi Family

- Mom presented her family’s story as the parents of a daughter who is deaf and hard of hearing, including how her birth at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic affected their experience. She described the feelings they experienced on their diagnostic journey, challenges they encountered, and their experience with hearing aids and eventually, cochlear implants. The family encourage each other and their daughter to utilize American Sign Language (ASL) and spoken English. They participated in the Deaf Mentor program to learn ASL. Their daughter has attended educational programs that use ASL and spoken language. The family credits the wonderful early intervention services the family received including a supportive medical team, incredible teachers, mentors, and connecting with other DHH families for their daughter’s success.

CMV Outreach and Prevention Update – Gina Liverseed and Karmen Dippmann

- Presented an update on data on congenital cytomegalovirus (CMV) screening since it began in February 2023. Also gave an overview of the directives from the Vivian Act.
- Provided an overview of education, outreach, and prevention activities that have taken place recently for professional and public audiences. For professionals, these activities include attending conferences, recording a podcast, hosting educational webinars, speaking at statewide meetings, publishing newsletters, conducting a book study, and facilitating a Lunch & Learn. For the public audience, they have been working on developing and rolling out a messaging campaign. During CMV Awareness Month (June 2024), they launched a targeted social media campaign that saw good engagement. They have also placed ads in Spanish, Hmong and Somali using the messaging that was developed and tested with key audiences.

EHDI Goals, Indicators, and Benchmarks: Workgroup Share Out and Vote

- Discussed updates to the EHDI Goals, Indicators and Benchmarks as proposed by the workgroup. The workgroup met twice since May 2024 and provided feedback via a survey. The workgroup was comprised of MDH EHDI staff as well as Advisory Committee members.
- Proposed updates include updating terminology to reflect current best practices, adding “among eligible” or “among served” to denominator for each indicator, keeping the goals and indicators at a high level to look at the bigger picture, removing several indicators, and adding several new indicators.
- For Goal 3, discussed what is included in “early intervention”.
- MDH EHDI staff also suggested splitting Indicator 3.1 into part A and part B to separate congenital onset and late onset. Advisory Committee agreed with this update. (This was an additional update after the last workgroup meeting.)

- Suggestion to add “initial IFSP date” to numerator on Indicator 3.5. Advisory Committee agreed with this update. (This was an additional update after the last workgroup meeting.)
- Suggestion to add language that explains participation in programs offered (parents have choices in participation) to the paragraph at the beginning of the document.
 - Move to add language: Darcia Dierking
 - Seconded: Joscelyn Martin
 - MDH will draft this language.
- In Goal 7, suggestion to change, “children birth to age 3” to “children, through age 2” to be consistent with MDE’s wording. Advisory Committee agreed with this update. (This was an additional update after the last workgroup meeting.)
- The Advisory Committee voted on whether to approve the proposed EHDI Goals, Indicators and Benchmarks with the additional updates discussed during the meeting.

MDH Data Update and Discussion

- This was not presented due to time and will be discussed at a future Advisory Committee meeting.

Decisions Made

- The committee votes to approve the updated EHDI Goals, Indicators, and Benchmarks, with the changes discussed during the meeting.

Action Items

- MDH will update benchmarks with changes discussed during the meeting.

Next Meeting

Date: November 20, 2024

Time: 1-3pm

Location: Zoom

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

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