

**Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program**  
**Hearing Workgroup Meeting**  
**May 2, 2011, 10am-1230pm**  
**Minutes**

Members Present:

Deana Buck  
Bailey Clark  
Patty Eitemiller  
Christine Eubanks  
Christine Evans  
Ruth Frierson  
Daphne Miller  
Lisa Powley  
Melinda Smyth

**Updates:** (All updates were provided by the appropriate parties prior to the meeting in an effort to save time)

**I. VA Hearing Aid Loan Bank** (submitted by Lisa Powley)

As of 3/31/11, 473 children have been served through the loan bank. As of 4/15/11, I already have had 8 applications for the month, last year I only had 4 for the month of April. BUSY BUSY BUSY!!!! I am purchasing new aids as needed.

**II. Guide By Your Side:** (submitted by Regina Craig)

Since January 1, 2011 I have had 21 referrals for GBYS. 20 of those are from EHDI. An email was sent out to Guides to determine if they want to be reimbursed for their services or are planning to talk/meet families on a volunteer basis. In order to be reimbursed they need to register through Procurement at UVA and a purchase order needs to be generated. I heard from several guides and they are choosing to be reimbursed. All invoices for reimbursement will need to be received at BRCCC by July 15, 2011 in order to be paid out of our current funding. 150 Family notebooks are being printed and those will be mailed out as soon as possible.

**III. VDOE** (submitted by Debbie Pfeiffer)

**Federal Monitoring Visit VSDB-S:** November 30 – Dec 2, 2010

Able to observe in several classrooms; interview some TODHH/TBVI; read through many student files. Very impressive!

**Interpreting for SOL:** Provided trainings in 3 school divisions/regions for ed interpreters, DDOTs, and special ed administrators.

**Miscellaneous...**

- Appointed by Governor to **VDDHH Advisory Board**
- Presented to **HLAA**
- Present to **Lion's Club** in Newport News re: hearing and vision needs

**Training Ap 1 – 2, 2011**

Two-day training recently completed, focused on developing listening and spoken language skills in children who are d/hh ~ 60 participants – terrific feedback! Kudos to Ann, Lori, Allison, Cheryl, and Christine!

### **Educational Interpreter Professional Development Grant**

First Semester, 29 regional trainings conducted, More than 100 interpreters mentored

UVA's "From a Distance" mentoring 12 now with Deaf mentors added.

Supported courses/personnel at 4 IHE

JSWRCC, NOVA, WEIT (DCC), and TCC

Paid for courses at above IHE

Still managing grant for **Hearing Aid Loan Bank** this year

Still managing grant for **Training to Work with Students with Deaf-Blindness**

VA Project for Children and Young Adults with Deaf-Blindness leads project

5 paras and 5 teachers/SLP form a cohort each yr

Take online courses from Utah State University

Receive ongoing support from VA D-B project

VA D-B Project check competencies on-site

3<sup>rd</sup> Cohort in process!

**ODU Oral Preschool Class** (new oral preschool class in Chesapeake being supported by VDOE)

Janet Knust, teacher

6 students served from Norfolk, Chesapeake, and Suffolk

Research being done by ODU faculty and graduate assistants

Developed and supervising **Distance Coaching Pilot Project**

**SLP working with Deaf/HH**

Montgomery and Page Counties and Roanoke City

SLP/TODHH given small grant to link with SLP experienced in working with d/hh

Use of skype, email, telephone call, and on-site visits; send video clips of therapy through email using flip cams

Developed grant for **Online videos**

Dr. Emmett Jones will be working with professionals to produce videos for families of and professionals who work with infants and toddlers who are deaf/hh.

\*sign language lessons

\*lessons for families/professionals to help develop language/communication and cognitive skills

Will host **State Leaders' Summit**

April 28 via videoconference

Focus on itinerant TODHH

Will update state action plan for deaf/hh with reps from other state agencies

### **Service Animal Guidelines Revised 2011**

2008, the *Virginians with Disabilities Act*, at § 51.5-44 which governs what is known as the service dog's right of access, was amended to expand to include public schools

As a result, we concluded that the *Code of Virginia*, § 51.5-44 afforded each student a near absolute right to be accompanied by a service dog in a Virginia public school. VDOE developed, "*Guidelines for School Division Policy Regarding Service Dogs in Virginia's Public Schools, 2008*"

New federal regulations implementing the *Americans with Disabilities Act* go into effect on March 15, 2011.

The amended federal regulations resolve a common question: a "service animal" can only be a **dog**, or a **trained miniature horse**. **Service Animal Guidelines Revised 2011.**

VDOE Guidelines issue in 2008 have been revised.

VDOE reiterates that while the student's right to be accompanied by a service animal in school is nearly absolute, it still must be qualified and carefully weighed against:

1. the rights of other students who are equally entitled to receive educational benefits at the school.
2. the school division's ongoing legal responsibility to operate, maintain, and supervise Virginia's public schools. (*The Constitution of Virginia, Art. VIII, Section 7*).

To view the full VDOE Guidance document , go to  
[www.doe.virginia.gov/special\\_ed/tech\\_asst\\_prof\\_dev/guidance\\_service\\_dog.pdf](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/special_ed/tech_asst_prof_dev/guidance_service_dog.pdf)

SAVE The DATE

**Opening Doors Conference**

June 28 – 29, 2011, Charlottesville

Focus on Literacy

**IV. Partnership for People with Disabilities** (submitted by Ann Hughes)

Technical Assistance Center for Children Who Are D/HH and the Virginia Network of Consultants for Professionals who work with children who are d/hh (VNOG) at the Partnership for People with Disabilities, VCU

**VNOG:** 23 service requests received to date for the 2010-11 school year; 4 still in process.

One request from EI- NoVA for staff development in daycare setting

April 1-2, 2011: Listening and Spoken Language: Updating Educational Interventions for Working with Students who are D/HH – 60 participants, largely teachers of d/hh and slps attended.

Upcoming: Opening Doors-Unlocking Potential 2011! Language-Literacy-Learning And Students Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, June 28-29, 2011 in Charlottesville.

**V. PART C:** (submitted by Beth Tolley)

Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia Update for the Hearing Workgroup (Beth Tolley)

Resources have been placed on Virginia's Professional Development Website

[http://www.eipd.vcu.edu/sub2\\_deafness\\_resources.html](http://www.eipd.vcu.edu/sub2_deafness_resources.html) There will also be hearing-related resources posted for parents here: [http://www.eipd.vcu.edu/resource\\_land\\_pad.html](http://www.eipd.vcu.edu/resource_land_pad.html) (developed by Christine Eubanks; currently being formatted for the website)

Development of training modules is in process (Christine Evans through the Partnership for People with Disabilities using funds from VDH)

Daphne Miller will be attending the June regional Technical Assistance meetings with Part C TA Staff. She will present information about VEDHI including the processes for screening, diagnosis, referral and follow-up as well as information about the 1-3-6 goals for screening, diagnosis and early intervention.

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**\*\*\*\*The following are minutes of the information shared during the actual meeting. This meeting was held before Regina Craig's passing on May 13<sup>th</sup> ; minutes have not been changed and do contain some references to her.**

Deana announced that there will be a state leaders summit: July 29 930a-230p in Richmond. Ann Hughes, who was not able to be present today, asked for volunteers from this group to participate. Email Ann Hughes to participate.

Deana also brought up the ongoing EI Talks on Tuesday's: June is available, would like to feature hearing loss/resources as the talk. Date would be June 7. From 12-1p. Focus on topics of interest of EI providers. No one knows about the 1-3-6. May survey EI providers to see what else they do not know. Christine Evans has a presentation that might be able to be used. Has a lot of basic content. Also pull from the modules that are currently being developed. Patty will also work with Deana, Christine and Ruth on developing content. Patty will pull stuff from First Years and Gallaudet certificate programs as appropriate. Make sure that the EI providers know that they should ask the families if they have been linked to GBYS.

Christine Evans is continuing to work on the modules for the EI providers.

Ruth and Daphne will be traveling around the state in June to attend the regional Part C meetings (system managers meetings). They are going to focus on data of how many infants were "lost" in each region and present it to the regions as appropriate. Dates are as follows:

Roanoke, June 6  
Fredericksburg/Northern VA, June 9  
Valley, June 21  
Abingdon, June 23  
Richmond, June 24  
Tidewater, June 28

Ruth presented information regarding the future funding and support of the Guide By Your Side program. A handout was also presented to the group summarizing. Please email Ruth for a copy of this handout. Lengthy discussion regarding funding, who will manage GYBS during the transition process from current location to another organization/entity that will manage the program in the future.

Current grant issued for Guide by Your Side ends June 30. Another grant application was submitted in March for five years, covering 150-175 thousand dollars. Looks good that it will be awarded.

HRSA grant ends this August 31, submitted application in April for 2011-2013. Primary focus is follow up and other VEHDI activities and where GBYS funding falls. Follow up person fro VEHDI has left recently. Surveillance coordinator recruitment has been denied. Ruth will continue to work on getting the position reopened for recruitment.

They are doing hospital site visits starting in May.

Hearing aid loan bank will continue to be funded, but the funding source has changed. The two grants applied for are very specific. Increased role in providing training to stakeholders that will improve follow up. A steering committee will be formed as part of a stipulation of the grant, so that they will find permanent funding for GBYS. A survey will also be put in place to measure the success of the program. It will be non-negotiable. Need outcomes to secure the funding. In the future, having the EHDI coordinator be the one, or another appropriate person, to do the survey rather than the guide.

Whoever applies to manage the GBYS program will be put out for bid. VEHDI will fund whoever will bid to manage the program. Currently it's with Care Connection for Children, it will be opened to see if there are other partners that would like to manage this program. A contract will be developed so that timelines can be established. Maybe more vague at first and more clarified as time goes on. Initial contact will be made within in two weeks. There has to be a way to monitor that that is happening. The family then says when they are ready. Will be a non-profit or non for-profit. Coordinator still has to be a parent of a child with hearing loss as this is a national requirement.

There is a reporting form from the guide. Lisa reports that they are having difficulty getting this back which translates to how they should monitor and manage how/when the guides get compensated. Discussion ensued as to whether it could it be created into an online component. Tie the survey to it. Checked out Colorado's program. Very online based. Creating a website and number for the program so that if another program manages it, that contact information doesn't change.

Home visits are not happening the way they initially envisioned, more is happening over the phone. Ruth is thinking that the new program description, expectations with have less stringent guidelines, more flexibility in the guides being able to meet the parents where they are. Guides need to be compensated, finding an easier way to get compensated. Then also making sure that they adhere to the agreement. Also need to clarify definitions of timeline of the GBYS referral process, link to parent receiving services.

Christine Eubanks asked how does this tie to the Hands and Voices Chapter? H&V National purchased the rights to GBYS - we had a GBYS first and now are still working to develop a H&V chapter.

Where will GBYS be for the two months while in transition? Working on developing its own website for the VA Hands and Voices chapter. Is that a place where the GBYS program is housed while in transition? Lisa Powley is currently the contact. Need permission for some of the parents to provide names and contact information in them meantime. Also how the guides will be compensated during that time.

Digitized GBYS notebooks? Lisa recently received 150 of them. Need a way to mail them. Lisa needs postage it goes against the grant to mail through UVA. Deana is going to help with postage in the meantime through the partnership.

Lisa has gotten 38 referrals since the end of February. Tidewater region continues to be inundated with highest prevalence. Daphne concurred with this data.

Back to where GBYS should be housed: Hard to figure out whom should house it since we need that unbiased piece.

Developing a protocol for online versus in person guides. Having a tech oriented guide. How do you compensate one versus the other? Employee them hourly? That way there is no difference. Is there an element of online support that doesn't replace the face to face visits, but meets the family where they are. Could have online trained guides. Or phone guides. Add forums chats so that the information could be archived.

Need some feedback or input from Regina. Also asking the guides what they might like better, what has worked, what has not worked? Regina has been possibly thinking about going more digital. Get information from four nor so parents to be able to put their information on the website as contacts.

It makes sense to have hands and voices be part of this transition.

Ruth asked, Where do we go from here?

To do list:

VA Hands and Voices website is done, add the GBYS information and transition information to the page to be more tech friendly.

Market it like it's new and good. For your convenience and more easily accessed. Make sure that everything points to the same spot.

Add a general phone number and email to make referral. Avoid saying we're in a transition.

Lisa will ask a few guides if their information can be shared on the website.

Someone is going to have to be in charge for the next two months to monitor and manage. Who should do this? Should probably be someone local to UVA during the transition.

Weed through the guides to see if any of them can do this. Asking people to donate their efforts and matches will likely be the phone or email.

We have a referral form, needs to be an online referral. Maybe do this after the transition is over so that we are not overwhelmed with referrals.

Christine announced the study from UNC and they will be coming to her office in Charlottesville. They will test the child until they are 6 years old. There must be a spoken language component. There cannot be any other disabilities. Also must be English speaking. Children 6 months to 6 years, 11 months. They want to know how children with hearing aids are doing. They are continually looking for kids. They want to test 400 kids by September. Large nationally funded grant. Parents are being reimbursed about \$100. If they are interested parents should call.

Next Advisory Committee Meetings:

June 10

September 23

December 9

**Next Meeting: July 11th, 2011 @ 10-12:30pm, in Richmond (location TBA).**