

## Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Linkage Committee Hearing Workgroup Meeting Minutes

December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011

10:00-12:30pm

### Members Present:

Deana Buck  
Patricia Eitemiller  
Christine Eubanks  
MJ Goodrich  
Ann Hughes  
Daphne Miller  
Sarah Peters  
Debbie Pfeiffer  
Lisa Powley (by phone)  
Sarah Shreckhise  
Nancy Smith  
Melinda Smyth

**Updates:** (All updates were provided by the appropriate parties prior to the meeting in an effort to save time and cover any changes since the last workgroup meeting on September 12, 2011.)

### I. Hearing Aid Loan Bank (HALB): Submitted by Lisa Powley

To date, I have had applications for 572 children since May 2005, 134 this year. Since January 2011 – November 30, 2011, I have loaned out 240 aids and 7 FM systems. July and November were record months for applications with 20 & 19 received. New devices were purchased throughout the year with the money from the DOE grant that ended August 31, 2011, 74 aids and 1 FM system.

This fiscal year the HALB is being funded by VDH EHDI and VDOE. Due to the overwhelming use of the loan bank there are some financial concerns with regards to reimbursement for the audiologist. We will address this at the Advisory Board meeting on 12/9/11. Thanks to everyone for their support of this program.

**Update during the meeting:** Lisa reported that she and Ruth Frierson met with Brian Campbell on Friday 12/2 to discuss budget issues related to the HALB. Presently Lisa reports that there is only \$5000 left in the budget to pay audiologists for hearing aid fittings. However, if the demand remains the same she could send out about 77 aids between now and June 30 based on last years' estimates. She would need about \$10,000 more to accommodate that level of need. Debbie asked

a question, she didn't realize that the HALB pays the audiologist for fittings. Lisa confirmed that they pay \$100 per fitting per device.

Brian is going to look into billing Medicaid for the fitting of hearing aids. Brian thinks that they will pay for fittings. About 60% of the kids that have hearing aids from the HALB have Medicaid, the remaining 40% have private insurance. The plan is to discuss this further on Friday at the EHDI advisory meeting. Lisa confirmed that this is already listed on the agenda. Deana asked which HMO the majority of the children on Medicaid have. Lisa reported that they were all in the various different HMO's.

Debbie reported that the trial period should be counted as the time that loaner aids are used – Medicaid should then pay for it.

MJ posed the question: what do most people do with hearing aids that they are no longer using. The group had a discussion about where they might be able to donate them. Lisa reported that if the warranty is still good she can take them. Debbie reported that CHEAR's foundation may accept used hearing aids. Also the Lion's club may take them. Christine reported that the cost for refurbishing an aid is about \$150.

MJ also asked why people are using the loan bank- is it because the families' private insurance companies don't cover them- which was confirmed by the group.

## **II. Part C: Submitted by Beth Tolley**

Implementation of the Early Intervention Targeted Case Management is in full swing. Beth reported that she is very appreciative of the great resources and training modules available on the websites for EI personnel. She thanks all who have developed and/or identified and/or funded and/or posted these resources.

## **III. Technical Assistance Center for Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing: submitted by Ann Hughes**

- **VNOC:**  
2011-12 school year: 19 service requests received to date.  
Fall VNOC members meeting/professional development session on VA based technology/assistance resources; Pediatric Needs Model for Hearing Assistive Technology-see CHOP attachment (10/6/11).
- **VDOE:**  
ESS+ Work Sessions: Science (9/26-27); English (10/26)  
State Action Plan: DHH Nat'l Summit Webcast (10/5/11)  
SLP Guidelines Training: assistance (10/17)
- **Trainings:**  
Visual Phonics: Lynchburg, Henrico, Prince William, Suffolk Public Schools – regional trainings .  
Total attendance – 95 participants

- **EHDI:**  
EHDI Advisory Committee (9/23).  
H&V Chapter Conference call (10/18).  
GBYS/EHDI Conference call (11/1).
- **Professional Development**  
Cue Camp (9/30)  
HOPE Webinars: CI Concepts for Non-programming professionals (10/12); Parent and adult habilitation resources in Spanish (11/4); Single sided Deafness (11/30)  
Bob Pike Webinar- 7 Ways to Energize Learning (11/10)
- **Other:**  
ICODA National Think Tank Meeting (9/29)
- **Upcoming Activity:**  
Dec 9                   EHDI Advisory Committee-VHHA, Richmond  
Jan 17-20            VNOC – 3 SW VA sites  
Mar/Apr             LSL 2-day session (TBA)  
Apr 19               VNOC-Spring Members Meeting  
June                 Opening Doors-Unlocking Potential (TBA)

**IV. Virginia Department of Education (VDOE): submitted by Debbie Pfeiffer**

Activities since last meeting: September 12<sup>th</sup>:

- Issuing grants (14 in the area of deafness in Sept).
- Participated in VEDHI workgroup meetings September 12<sup>th</sup> and December 5<sup>th</sup>.
- VEHDI Adv. Council September 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Funded Part 2 of INSITE training.
- Participated in national planning for a Think Tank sponsored by Pat Scherer
- Hosted Part 2 of the National Summit on Deaf Education for those representing deafness from state agencies on Oct. 5.
- Attended VNOC meeting on Oct 6, presented updates.
- Presented session on IEP's for UVA grad class in Aural Habilitation October 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Represented DOE for Community partnership meeting in Tidewater, bringing together military EFMP personnel and special education administrators Oct 18.
- Attended award ceremony for VA Teacher of the Deaf of the Year (Job Turner Award) in Roanoke.

- Participated in VDDHH Advisory Board meeting November 3.
- Participated in Partnership's Project for Children and Young Adults with Deaf-Blindness Advisory Committee meeting November 15.
- (Much of my time has been spent on TBI and VI initiatives, as well as VSEP review committee).

**V. Virginia School for the Deaf/Blind: submitted by Sarah Shreckhise & Casey Morehouse**

- VSDB is offering a monthly ASL class for family members and community members. Average group size has been about 30 people participating in each class. Child care is offered and student's in ASL 3 and work study programs are helping to support the project.
- Casey continues to offer hearing testing for children across the state. She has hosted an information table at family resource events around Staunton.
- Presentation regarding ideas for doing home visits following the INSITE model at the INSITE (Deaf-Blind Project) training at Virginia Beach – September.
- October 2011- The VSDB CAP (Child Assault Prevention) Project is awarded grant funding from the Virginia Department of Social Services. Grant funding will be used to bring the VSDB CAP Project to at least three school divisions in Virginia during the 2011-2012 academic year, to train interested members of the Deaf community to be CAP volunteer facilitators, and to sponsor a variety of activities during April 2012 Child Abuse Prevention Month. The grant funding will support a total project cost of over \$53,000 for these prevention activities.  
<https://sites.google.com/a/vsdb.k12.va.us/vsdb-child-assault-prevention/>.
- Sarah attended the CSEFEL train the trainer workshop (Center on the Social Emotional Foundation in Early Learning) in October.
- See the Sound Visual Phonics training Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> – We are hosting a Visual Phonics training for staff, interested parents, and interested SLPs, TOD/HH, and interpreters across the state. The training is full and we are managing a waiting list.
- VSDB is hoping to re-establish a summer enrichment program this summer. We are hoping to include parent activities/training opportunities around this event. We are also working to create a website for early intervention and outreach at VSDB which will offer a wide variety of internet-based resources.
- Trying to create an outreach committee at VSDB to get more parents together across the state.

**VI. Partnership for People with Disabilities: submitted by Deana Buck**

Nothing new to report.

**\*\*\*\*The following are minutes of the information shared during the actual meeting.**

**VII. Guide By Your Side (GBYS): Daphne Miller/Ann Hughes**

**Update during the meeting:** Ann reported that she and Ruth had a conference call with Janet DiGeorge, the director of the National Hands and Voices organization and Lisa Kovacs, National Coordinator for Guide By Your Side. Daphne reported that the Request for Approval for Procurement (RAP) has been submitted and is currently waiting for approval.

**VIII. Hands And Voices: Ann Hughes**

Ann reported that the National Hands and Voices Organization is still very supportive of Virginia staying on the radar as having a viable Hands & Voices chapter. Ann is working on getting the box of information and documents related to Hands & Voices Virginia.

Ann explained the requirements of the members of the Hands & Voices advisory board. They can have as many as 16 members on the board but a minimal of 50% must be parents of children with hearing loss. Presently, Bailey Clark is considered the acting director of H&V Chapter. Ann Hughes is a professional member. Casey Morehouse is currently the third Hands & Voices members and is considered a professional members as well as a parent member.

Christine Eubanks asked if Hands & Voices requires dues to be a member? Ann confirmed that yes, it does. Parent membership is \$25, and for professionals is \$40. The money does not go to the National organization if there is a local/state chapter. If you are in a state where there is no local chapter, then the money goes to the National organization. The workgroup discussed the importance of marketing the Hands & Voices chapter. During this discussion, Ann Hughes shared some of the ongoing challenges that they have had recruiting parent members. The consensus from the workgroup is that marketing is a key component and needs to be addressed.

A question was asked if the Hands & Voices chapter had a website for parents to go for more information to learn more about the organization and chapter. It was reported that the National Hands & Voices organization has a website: [www.handsandvoices.org](http://www.handsandvoices.org). The workgroup inquired how often the Hands & Voices Advisory board (for the Virginia chapter) meets. Ann Hughes reported that the Hands & Voices advisory board previously met every other month. The workgroup wanted to know what's included with being a member of Hands & Voices. It was stated that members receive a newspaper and used to have an annual picnic. Ann Hughes stated that Hands & Voices has a database and information was sent to parents using that database. Bailey Clark currently maintains this database.

**IX. Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI): Daphne Miller**

The EDHI conference will be March 5-6, 2012 in St. Louis, Missouri. EDHI is unable to send workgroup members, but would like to encourage all to attend. A parent will be able to represent Virginia at the EHDI conference and is currently awaiting approval. Ruth Frierson and Daphne Miller will be representing VAEHDI.

EDHI will be unable to provide data at this time due to not having a Surveillance and Evaluation Coordinator at this time.

A selection has been made for the Follow-up Specialist position. The hiring is in the approval process.

EDHI received no funding for Teleaudiology, but they are looking for alternative funding sources.

**X. General Discussion**

**DISCUSSION:** Daphne raised the following question for discussion: Whether the current workgroup should remain a workgroup or become a steering committee for Guide By Your Side?

If we remain a workgroup, we need to decide on a focus. Suggestions for a focus of the workgroup are as follows:

- \*Part C- enrollment.
- \*Education of home visitors.
- \*Continued work on "loss to follow up" population.

Ann Hughes asked the definition of the steering committee. Daphne Miller stated the committee would help to steer GBYS in the direction we would like for it to go and provide the support it needs. Does this have to be open to the public? \*\*\*Update from Daphne following the meeting, per Ruth Frierson, at this time the steering committee does not have to be a public committee.

Debbie Pfeiffer reported that she thinks we have been working on both of these things as a workgroup all along. We have divided our attention to which things are more important at the time and as issues arise.

Deana Buck reported that she and Ruth Frierson have talked about developing another module to work on helping educate the home visitors on working with children with hearing loss. Deana Buck defined home visitors as anyone who supports children and families through home visiting, including but not limited to: Resource Mothers, CHIP, Healthy Families, and Early Intervention providers just to name a few. The new Part C regulations under IDEA are focusing on home visiting.

The group decided that there will be two different groups (comprised of the same people). The

workgroup will remain known as the “workgroup” and then the “steering committee” will focus on Guide By Your Side. It was proposed that one group will meet in the morning and the other will meet in the afternoon.

Daphne reported that they want to come up with some educational materials and resources- which is something that the workgroup could focus on. VEHDI is possibly looking at purchasing CD’s from CDC. If VEHDI purchases the resources they will not be Virginia Specific. The suggestion was made for VEHDI to come up with its own resources. Daphne Miller stated that it’s cost effective to purchase materials rather than create our own materials at this time. The workgroup suggested using NCHAM materials to distribute as a resource attached to VEHDI information.

**HOMEWORK:** Everyone must bring three HOT TOPIC “did you know?” to the next meeting. We will peer review at the next meeting and discuss with Beth Tolley about their inclusion in the monthly Part C updates that are sent out to providers.

**DECISION:** We are still a workgroup and will take on the steering committee role. The workgroup needs a focus statement. Decided our focus statement will be:

**To increase follow up to Newborn Hearing Screening according to the 1-3-6 guidelines.**

Meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012 @ 10am @ Henrico CSB, Room 123

*Minutes Submitted by: Patricia Eitemiller*