

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

February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012

10:00-12:00pm

### Members Present:

Shirley Blake (by phone)	Casey Morehouse	Melinda Smyth
Patricia Eitemiller	Debbie Pfeiffer	Antoniette Strayhorn
Christine Eubanks	Lisa Powley	Beth Tolley
Daphne Miller	Sarah Shreckhise	Lori Zelman

**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 December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

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

We are rapidly approaching 600 applications for the HALB. The budget for the HALB was discussed at the Advisory Board meeting in December because my funds to reimburse the audiologist for the fitting of aids were diminishing rapidly. Ruth and I had a discussion with Brian Campbell with DMAS prior to the meeting to find out about billing applicants that had Medicaid for the fitting instead of the loan bank. Brian reported that Medicaid would pay for 4 fittings a year. They would pay for the fitting of the loaners. It was also decided that the audiologist should go ahead and order aids for applicants who are insured by Medicaid instead of using the loan bank unless they were cochlear candidates. Medicaid patients can still use the loan bank if circumstances warrant but Medicaid should be billed for the fitting. In the past one of the Medicaid HMOs was requiring certain paperwork that required a trial of aids in order to get the needed information but according to Brian that is not the case anymore. So hopefully there will be enough money to finish out the year. As of 2/1/12 there was 3,600.00 left to pay audiologists.

### Part C: Submitted by Beth Tolley

Beth requested the group's input on criteria for determining who should be re-screened for hearing for annual IFSPs. She shared that currently the Part C practice manual states:

*"Use of the Virginia Part C Vision and Hearing Screening tools are not required for the annual confirmation of eligibility. Providers should be alert to any signs that the child may be experiencing difficulty with hearing or vision, as such issues can arise at any age. In such cases, administration of the Hearing or Vision Screening tool would be appropriate."*

Beth asked the question: "Should we identify specific conditions or diagnoses which have higher rates of late onset hearing loss?"

**Update during meeting:** Beth informed workgroup members that currently; there is not a requirement for

hearing to be rescreened for all children at the time of the Annual IFSP. Beth asked for input from the group on what specific information could be listed to provide guidance to practitioners about which children may be most likely to experience late onset hearing loss. Some flags suggested included: family history of hearing loss; genetic diagnosis with high probability of hearing loss; lack of progress with speech and language development over the course of the past year; persistent ear infections; CMV; and anatomical/craniofacial anomalies.

Christine reported that Boystown once had a list of the top 20 genetic disorders can be associated with hearing loss. (*Addendum: After the meeting, several articles on risk factors for development of hearing loss were sent to the group*). It was discussed that there is not going to be an all inclusive list, as there are too many genetic disorders or factors that could come into play. Current practices show that practitioners often research a rare genetic disorder once referred to determine if hearing loss is a factor.

Beth will bring it back to the Part C office to see if this can be added to Part C guidance as something that can be implemented throughout the state.

Beth also reported that Early Intervention Targeted Case Management was implemented October 1, 2011. This allows reimbursement for case management/service coordination for every child with Medicaid or FAMIS within the early intervention system. There have also been changes to the ITOTS system, the Part C Data Tracking system.

Beth reports that they have seen a 15% increase in the number of children served in Part C over the course of the past year, which has taxed the system, budget, etc.

The Federal Part C regulations came out in November 2011. The Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia is developing state Part C regulations (which will replace state Part C policies and procedures).

### **Virginia Department of Education (VDOE): Submitted by Debbie Pfeiffer**

The VDOE update for VEHD follows:

- Participated in VEHD Advisory Council on Dec. 9, 2011 Participated in Webinars hosted by the Clerc Center on "Bilingual/Bimodal Education" Part I, Jan 12 and Part II, Feb 9 (see handouts attached)If you are interested, Part I of the webinar is archived at [http://www.gallaudet.edu/Clerc\\_Center/Information\\_and\\_Resources/Training\\_and\\_Technical\\_Assistance/Distance\\_Education\\_at\\_the\\_Clerc\\_Center/Webinars/Everything\\_You\\_Always\\_Wanted\\_To\\_Know\\_About\\_ASLEnglish\\_Bimodal\\_Bilingual\\_Early\\_Childhood\\_Education.html](http://www.gallaudet.edu/Clerc_Center/Information_and_Resources/Training_and_Technical_Assistance/Distance_Education_at_the_Clerc_Center/Webinars/Everything_You_Always_Wanted_To_Know_About_ASLEnglish_Bimodal_Bilingual_Early_Childhood_Education.html)
- Presented to Community Partnerships (Region II sped administrators and Military personnel associated with EFMS and Portsmouth Naval Hospital) on Resources for Families of Students who are Deaf/HH Jan 24, 2012 VA Dept of the Deaf and HH Advisory Board Feb. 7, 2012
- Hosted state meeting of coordinators, directors, and fiscal managers for Educational Interpreter Professional Development Grant Feb. 16, 2012
- Worked with VA Project for Children and Young Adults with Deaf-Blindness to disseminate D-B census to sped directors through Asst. Supt's Memo
- On-going following of House Bill 218/Senate Bill 399: Deaf Child's Bill of Rights. Carried over to the next year.

Want to share the upcoming Autism Research on Deaf/HH Students webinar (April 19) from the Clerc Center and the video, "Through Your Child's Eyes" with the group. To find the video, go to You Tube and search "Through Your Child's Eyes- American Sign Language."

### **Virginia School for the Deaf/Blind: Submitted by Sarah Shreckhise & Casey Morehouse**

VSDB continues to offer monthly ASL class for family members and community members in Staunton. Average group size has been 20-25 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.

The VSDB CAP Project will expand into 4 local school divisions during spring 2012. The VSDB CAP Project will expand into four local school divisions, Arlington County, Norfolk City, Rockingham County and Warren County, during the spring of 2012. Applications from local school divisions were solicited from elementary school programs for students who are deaf or hard of hearing across the Commonwealth of Virginia. These 4 programs will receive the Staff Workshop, the Family Workshop and the role play based Children's Workshop from the International Center for Assault Prevention (ICAP)'s Elementary Child Assault Prevention (CAP) curriculum. Schools that continue to send in applications or that express interest will be added to the Waiting List for the 2012-13 academic year. On Feb. 24-26, VSDB CAP team hosted a new volunteer training for individuals interested in supporting the project.

**Update during meeting:** Sarah and Shirley were able to participate in the CAP training this past weekend. We had a group of 8 individuals who were D/HH who took part. Training was fabulous and was very encouraging from a prevention standpoint. Those that were trained will be facilitating the trainings in the above listed schools throughout the year. The program focuses on the child feeling: "Safe, Strong and Free." Current program focused on age 6 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

For more information, go to the VSDB website: [www.vsdb.k12.va.us](http://www.vsdb.k12.va.us) and then search for link to the CAP on that webpage.

VSDB is planning to host another Visual Phonics training for staff, interested parents, TOD/HHs, interpreters, SLPs, and reading specialists across the state. The training will offer introductory and advanced level opportunities. We are hoping to offer this at the beginning of June 2012.

**Update during meeting:** Visual Phonics Training is still in the works. Sarah is working on becoming a trainer herself.

VSDB will offer the summer enrichment program the June. The dates will be June 25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> for a day school enrichment program for preschool age children 2 years-5 years. There will also be a middle/high school (ages 10-17) residential program that runs from the 24<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>. This will have a "science" theme in collaboration with JMU. We will be including some parent activities/training opportunities around this event. Both programs are free of charge, with exception of the preschool program, which parents will need to provide transportation on a daily basis.

**Technical Assistance Center for Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing: (Ann Hughes)****VNOC:**

2011-12 school year: 22 service requests in process to date.

**Trainings:**

Visual Phonics: Montgomery County, Radford University

**Professional Development:**

HOPE Webinars: Auditory Building Blocks: Auditory Comprehension (1/10); Auditory Building Blocks: Focus on Memory (2/8); Early Language Development and First Words in Young Children-DiEL (2/15)

**Upcoming Activity:**

Feb 29/Mar 28	Visual Phonics Workshop- Chesterfield County
Mar 9	EHDI Advisory Committee
Mar 31/Apr 21	<i>LSL- Integrating the Cottage Acquisition Scales for Listening, Language and Speech (CASLLS) in Classroom and Therapy Environments for Children Who Are D/HH</i>
Apr 19	VNOC – Spring Members Meeting- presentations by Bonnie Grifa, Early Childhood Mental Health Coordinator
June 26-27	Opening Doors – Unlocking Potential 2012! Starting with Assessment

**Partnership for People with Disabilities: (Deana Buck)**

Deana reported the following regarding the two online modules focusing on Hearing Loss: Twenty people have completed the "1-3-6 Process: A Road Map for Newborn Hearing Screening and Follow-up" Module and 30 people have completed the "Rules of the Road: A Foundation for Understanding Early Hearing Detection and Intervention" module. Please continue to let people know about these wonderful resources (<http://www.vaehdi.vcu.edu/>, click on "Training" to access the modules).

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

**Hands and Voices: (Casey Morehouse, for Bailey Clark who was not able to attend)**

Have gotten our official chapter status. They are no longer a start up chapter- YAY! See the website:  
[www.handsandvoices.org/chapters/va.htm](http://www.handsandvoices.org/chapters/va.htm)

Bailey has been doing a lot of work on getting the chapter started. She has been receiving lots of emails from parents inquiring about H & V. They have added Sarah Shreckhise, as a professional; Amber Tyree, parent; and Jeremy Saling, deaf adult professional. They are definitely looking for more parents and would like for more who are using modalities other than sign language. They have had a hard time keeping parents interested in the chapter.

Christine asked if there is a description of the obligations as a board member? Casey reports that there should be something on the National Hands and Voices website.

Beth asked that someone please send the description to Debra Holloway at the Arc of Virginia as she might have more contacts of parents who might be interested.

Lori asked where meetings/events usually take place. Most have taken place in or around Richmond and Charlottesville. This go round, most of the members involved live near VSDB (Staunton) so events will likely be in that area. They have a meeting tomorrow at 430pm via Skype.

#### **Guide By Your Side: (Daphne Miller)**

We do not have anyone for a contract yet as it has not yet gone out. The GBYS Steering Committee will discuss further information related to the program and moving forward during the meeting later today. Separate minutes will be taken for that meeting.

#### **Virginia Department of Health/Early Hearing Detection and Intervention: (Daphne Miller)**

EHDI conference is coming up this weekend in St Louis, Missouri. Ruth will be attending the conference on behalf of the Virginia Department of Health (EHDI staff). She has asked that everyone would consider including this conference into their budget due to Virginia not having as much representation as other states. Two parents will be attending the conference due to parent stipends: Bailey Clark & Lisa Crohe.

EDHI is moving forward with audiology online reporting. Audiologists will be able to report directly into Visits. The system change will allow EHDI staff to see what tests have been done with the child directly from the system.

Loss & Found PSA's will be aired in May 2012; the target area includes Richmond & Tidewater. The PSA's will be on local and cable channels which will include the on demand feature, by selecting the option on demand you can watch the eight minute version of Loss & Found PSA. EDHI estimated that approximately 600 airings on the 30 second PSA will happen in Richmond & Tidewater area. The PSA's have been included in the budget for the next three years, but EDHI will complete an analysis on the effectiveness of this project.

EHDI's 2010 data has been submitted to CDC and will be shared at the Advisory Board meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Beth and Daphne will get together to discuss data and how it relates to the children served through Part C.

House bill 829: Virginia Immunization Systems: Linkage to Other VDH database was approved as of this morning. Go to the following website for further details and information about this bill. <http://LIS.VA.gov>.

EHDI introduced a new staff member Antoinette Strayhorn (Follow-up Specialist) today during the Workgroup meeting. EHDI now has one vacant position for Follow-up specialist the posting should go out soon for this position.

EDHI provides letters to families in Spanish and if they contact VDH EDHI directly Ruth answers questions for the families.

### **General Discussion:**

#### **New Member:**

Lori Zelman, a new member of the group, of Fairfax County Public Schools and ITC of Fairfax/Falls Church and also Bright Beginnings, shared the various opportunities for education of children who are Deaf /HH in her area. All three modalities are offered through the same school, Camelot in Annadale. Once they are in Kindergarten, they will go to the various elementary schools that focus on the modality that the child is learning. There is a middle school and high school that serve these children. All of these modalities for preschool allow the children to move to the various classrooms throughout the week and allow the child to be “bimodal.” They have a new staff member, Emily Mullholland, who benefits from bilateral cochlear implants and uses all modalities. Parents can go and observe to check out the various modalities.

#### **Support Group in Mechanicsville:**

Melinda reported that Rachel Hockman has started a support group in Mechanicsville called “The Hearing Journey” which will meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday from 10-12pm.. Her goal is to have something for siblings, parents, etc. Contact is Rachel Hockman at (804) 317-6496 or [Rachel.Hockman@bshsi.org](mailto:Rachel.Hockman@bshsi.org).

#### **Shining Stars:**

Debbie sharing the flyer for Shining Stars. She proposed someone from the workgroup submit a presentation for the conference. Proposals can be submitted via the following weblink: [http://ttaonline.org/staff/s\\_events/s\\_eventssubcontent.asp?dis=17](http://ttaonline.org/staff/s_events/s_eventssubcontent.asp?dis=17).

She would like for there to be session on working with children with Hearing Loss. Several members have presented in the past at the Shining Stars and attendance to these sessions has been good.

Beth reported that this will be a combined conference for EI providers and ECSE providers: Creating Connections to Shining Stars. It’s being publicized more widely to the Early Intervention providers. The folks that need the information are not necessarily the ones that come to the conferences. What should the non-hearing specialists know? Beth suggested a session directed to the non-hearing specialists to provide information and strategies for PT’s, OT’s, and Service coordinators. The group recognized the challenge of providing sessions that are worthwhile, but may not be selected by participants who have other interests and numerous choices. The sessions are 90 minute or 3 hours. Consensus was to aim for a 90 minute session. Beth would like people from this group to come up with one or two proposals.

Sarah suggested a session or “Make and Take” time to provide consultation and to connect to resources to practitioners that they may not be already aware of, or may not have in their area. Melinda reported that there was something such as a Make and Takes that were going on the whole time. Discussion as to whether they

required sign ups.

Debbie proposed using the opportunity to have the individuals who typically work with the deaf/hh to connect and get the resources. Debbie reported that "Theory of Mind" would be a good topic for proposal.

**Home Visitors:**

Home Visitors discussion was tabled to the next meeting.

**HOT TOPICS:**

Melinda is the only one who did her homework. She shared the following:

1. Universal newborn screen is ONLY a screening! A child may hear normally on the day of the screening, however, they could have a progressive loss or an illness etc. that may cause hearing loss at a later date. If you have any concerns about your baby's hearing at any time, make an appointments with your doctor.
2. As a parent, you have the right to choose a mode of communication to use with your child. You also have the right to change your mind about your decision!
3. If your child fails the newborn hearing screening it's in your best interest to follow up with an audiologist within the first month of life. Early Diagnosis and intervention is the key to success!

Meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 10am-12noon at Henrico CSB 10299 Woodman Rd.

*Minutes Submitted by: Patricia Eitemiller*