Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Advisory Committee (EHDI-AC) Minutes
Approved November 13, 2020  Page 1 of 4

MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF CHILD & ADOLESCENT HEALTH ● BUREAU OF EARLY INTERVENTION

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention in Mississippi (EHDI-MS)
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
May 29, 2020 ● 12:00 – 2:00PM
https://zoom.us/j/469916569 (online only)

PRESENT MEMBERS AFFILIATION ROLE
X (Z) Ben Wagenknecht (Chair) State Office of the DHH ODHH; Family/Adult DHH
X (Z) Alyce Stewart MS State Dept of Health Title V: Newborn Screening
X (Z) Ashley Grillis UMMC, Audiology Clinic Audiologist
X (Z) Augusta Bilbro MS State Dept of Health Title V: CYSHCN Program
X (Z) Caitlin Ramage Parent Parent
X (Z) C.G. Marx Univ. of So. Mississippi Audiologist/Personnel Prep
X (Z) Augusta Bilbro Magnolia Speech School Early Interventionist
X (Z) Courtney Turner Univ. of So. Mississippi Audiologist
X (Z) Elizabeth Sims AAP, MS Chapter Pediatrician, Chapter Champion
X (Z) Haley Rishel Univ. of So. Mississippi Early Interventionist
X (Z) Kaye Carr SKI*HI Early Intervention Early Intervention Provider
X (Z) Kim Ward Univ. of So. Mississippi Audiologist/Personnel Prep
X (Z) Kolesha O’Quinn State Office of the DHH ODHH; Family/Adult DHH
X (Z) Krista Guynes MS State Dept of Health Home Visiting Program; Family/Adult DHH
X (Z) Laura Gremillion MSD: SKI*HI Early Intervention Early Interventionist
X (Z) Marilyn Johnson MS State Dept of Health Title V: MCH Block Grant
X (Z) Rebecca Lowe Univ. of Mississippi, Speech & Hrg Diagnostic/EI/Personnel Prep
X (Z) Valecia Davis MS State Dept of Health Part C of IDEA
X (Z) Valerie Linn Magnolia Speech School Early Intervention Provider

Additional Attendees:
Stacy Callender, EHDI-MS Director
Ashton Chatham, Magnolia Speech School
Marty Chunn, Hearing LTF/D Consultant
Barbara Coatney, First Steps, Pearl River County
Bevin Glass, Interpreter
Toni Hollingsworth, Dir of MS Deaf & Blind Project, USM
Brandi Jones, Hearing Follow-Up Coordinator
Shante Lampkin, Hearing Data Entry Clerk
Lara Monico, Hearing O/T Consultant
Donna Sorensen, Supt.MS Schools for Deaf & Blind
Courtney Turner, Audiologist, Univ. of So. Mississippi,
Lakeshia Unger, Hearing Follow-Up Coordinator
Jennifer Wiles, Audiologist, Jackson State University
MINUTES

Welcome/Introductions
The meeting was called to order by Ben Wagenknecht, Chair, at 12:10 p.m. After initial technical guidance, all participants were welcomed and introduced themselves.

Review and Approve Minutes
Meeting minutes from the Dec. 6th meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

Business

New Members and Nominations for members
Some of the nominations for new members include Jennifer Wiles and Courtney Turner. Donna Sorensen is a new member who will be taking Sandra Edwards position. Ms. Callender reminded the EHDI Advisory Committee needed more nominations especially families, adults who are hard of hearing and hospitals. Ms. Callender shared the website of where the nomination form could be found: msdh.ms.gov/EHDI and there you would click the link Advisory Committee page.

Impact of COVID-19 and Response
NCHAM is going be offering a meeting guide that we will use to try to help us figure out what’s our plan is going forward. We want the committee to let us know what impact COVID-19 had had and the pandemic response on screening, diagnostic evaluation and referral for Early Invention and what is going to be our response as we start to resume service delivery and ramp back up. There are two main strategies that diagnostic clinics are going to have to make: The decision of are they going to focus on catching up or keeping up the one’s that referred in March or the one’s that had an appointment in April that got pushed back. Ms. Callender stated that Early Invention will be providing procedures for in-home services. Kaye Carr shared with the committee about a pilot program partnered with the Alabama Institute for the deaf and blind to orchestrate some help during this time. This program is only for the nine southern states. The first time only MS and AL participated. It has helped seven families in MS to gain more confidence in their signing and conversion skills. It is now in its second cohort FL, TN and GA has also joined.

Public Comments
No public comments were shared.

Program Updates

EHDI Data System Update
Our agency has decided to move into a new direction in newborn screening. It will be moving from the Natus Data System to Epic. We will begin work on that starting August 2020 once the contract is approved. We set November 30 as the tentative go live date. We also will be moving from MS-HIN to Move It. We will have a sign-up sheet for hospitals, diagnostic clinics, and anybody who sends us data. Info will be provided as soon as it is available.

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2020-2024 HRSA Grant
Ms. Callender informed the EHDI-AC that EHDI-MS expects to be awarded a four-year grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to fund the program in Mississippi. Under this new grant, the EHDI-MS will work with the EHDI-AC to develop a number of action plans to implement improvement related to:

- **Systems Building**
  - **Expanded screening:** The EHDI-MS has two years to develop a plan to capture screening results for children screened from birth up to three years of age. These screenings should improve the identification of children with late onset hearing loss.
  - **Sustainability Plan:** This plan developed in the first year of the grant requires the identification of efforts to sustain the system after Federal funding ends.
  - **Early Childhood Engagement Plan:** This plan developed in the first year of the grant requires the identification of efforts to engage early childhood partners in the system. Some of this work has already begun with Kim Ward serving on the early intervention/early childhood special education Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) Strategic Planning Team (SPT), which is working on quality improvement and personnel standards as recommended by the JCIH.

- **Professional Development & Quality Improvement**
  - **Communication Plan:** This plan developed in the first year of the grant requires identifying meaningful communication strategies with providers.
  - **Training Opportunities and EHDI-MS Conference:** This plan will increase the number of health professionals and service providers who are trained on lye aspects on EHDI-MS by 10% over our baseline. We will be working on training professional by collaborating with professional associations, various providers, EI systems and early childhood programs. We will also be having an annual conference that we have to assist in training.
  - **Quality Improvement (QI) Projects with Providers:** We will use the PDSA approach (Plan Do Study Act) methodology.

- **Family Engagement and Support**
  - **Communication and Diversity Plans:** This plan developed in the first year of the grant requires identifying meaningful communication strategies with families and identifying populations/geographic areas/other variables of inequity to develop targeted strategies to engage diverse partners in the EHDI system.
  - **Training and Networking Opportunities:** Expand opportunities and outreach to families. Conducting outreach and provide educational opportunities. Establish family to family support programs.
  - **Family-to-Family & DHH Adult-to-Family Support:** EHDI-MS will develop new Family-to-Family and DHH-Adult-to-Family support services. The program will hire consultants to provide these services.

**Work Group Meetings and Report Out**
All participants selected a work group to join to review the goals and to set upcoming meeting dates for planning activities:
**System Building** – Stacy Callender (F), Rebecca Lowe, Kaye Carr, Barbara Coatney, This group will meet the first Friday of every month at 11:00 a.m. The group will focus on system building, collaborating with partners. Conducting our assessment of partnerships, working on system integration with health programs. Planning on how we’re going to build our infrastructure to screen up to 3 years of age. Work on sustainability.

**Professional Development and Quality Improvement** – Kim Ward (C), Ashley Grillis, Rebecca Lowe, Angie Williams, Lara Monico, Courtney Turner, Donna Sorensen, Toni Hollingsworth, Ashton Chatham, Sheila Covington. This group monthly meeting is TBD, they will need a little more time to create a scheduled meeting. This group will be focused on communication, outreach educational, and the EHDI conference. They will ensure that health professionals and service providers are trained on the EHDI process and to also get engaged and active in quality improvement projects. We will also focus on what we offer professionals on our website.

**Family Engagement and Support** – Julie Seawright (C), Sandra Edwards, Ben Wagenknecht, Laura Gremillion, Haley Rishel, Jennifer Wiles, Marty Chunn. This group will meet every second Tuesday from 10a-11a every month. The goal of this group is to engage families in the EHDI system. To ensure families have access to family to family deaf and hard of hearing adult to family support.

**Adjourn**
The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.