

Advisory Council Minutes

March 20, 2014

Approved by the Council

Reflections from a parent – Regarding Newborn Hearing Screening Experience

- **Kisha Greenidge-Kader** – a mom of three kids. Her first daughter was born at GBMC. They had a good experience with Newborn Hearing Screening. Her daughter was flagged for follow up. At that time they weren't concerned about the "Refer" because they didn't have any risk factors. The nurse told them to not worry and that it was probably just fluid in her ears from the emergency Cesarean Section she had. She brought the baby home and in a couple of weeks she received a reminder letter, in the mail from the State of Maryland Infant Hearing Program. She says, "If it wasn't for that letter from the Infant Hearing Program, I would not have scheduled a follow up appointment because we don't have any history of hearing loss in our family." They followed-up with multiple tests and then a hearing loss was confirmed. She was appreciative that the nurse was discrete and communicated the results of the test directly to her and not through documentation put in her folder.

January Minutes were approved.

Continued Business

Senate Bill 103 – The Act to rename and modernize the Newborn Hearing Screening Program.

- In January we were closely following the legislation and the hearing. In our last meeting we discussed the Hearing in the Senate. Tanya Green, Cheri Dowling, Lisa and Jennifer Reesman were all present. Cheri Dowling, Lisa Kornnberg and Jennifer Reesman were present at the House Hearing.
- An amendment was made one week previous to the Hearing. After receiving the hearing date, The Maryland Association of the Deaf approached the Council with some concerns. They received some feedback from their stakeholders and they wanted to change some terminology within the Bill.

The original Bill that was on the books had "Hearing Impaired", and the new Bill that passed the Senate had "Hearing Loss". There were specific concerns raised to MDAD regarding the term "Hearing Loss" and that term was not acceptable to their stakeholders. So Kelby Britt, Jennifer Reesman and officials at the Health Department

had to find out whether or not an amendment to request a change in the language in the bill was feasible with the time that was remaining before the hearing. Tanya and Dr. Badawi at DHMH had a discussion with The Office of Policy and Planning to find out what the options were and what would be necessary. In review of all the information, the Council decided to look at NCHAM's eBook . It was co-authored by several former members of the Advisory Council, Maryann Swann and Mary Ann Richmond. It included terminology that was more inclusive and respectful. There was a specific table that DHMH used in the eBook to assist the department with clarifications to that language.

The Language and the amendment was drafted by the department and gained approval so that it could be presented at the House Hearing. Once Jennifer Reesman received the drafted language, she in turned shared it with the Advisory Council. She acknowledges that the Council received the revisions late and there wasn't a sufficient amount of time for the Council to have a discussion around the revisions. She notes that the Council should continue to have discussions about the language and the Council Meeting is the appropriate place for that to happen.

Jennifer Reesman also thanked everyone from the Advisory Council who looked at the revised language and gave their feedback. All of the feedback she received was positive. There were inquires about raising concerns about the language, especially adding an amendment to the Bill after it had already gone through and been approved by the Senate. The thought was that it may cause this Bill further difficulty proceeding through the legislative process. She also said that this Bill still has to go back to the House in which it originated to get approved. So there is still time for members to make comment. At this point we don't have any updates on Bill 103. If anyone wants to track any bills they can go to MGALG.

- Dr. Badawi spoke on behalf of DHMH. She explained the rationale behind the Senate Bill and the amendments.
- Jennifer Reesman spoke on behalf of the Council. She spoke in support of the rationale and further providing explanation for the change in the language.
- Members from MDAD, Kelby Britt, Lisa Kornberg (ODHH) testified in support of the bill as amended and Cheri Dowling testified in support of the Bill as written.

Parents selected to attend the 2014 National EHDl Conference:

- The NCHAM Stipend recipient is Michelle Yerkin
- The recipients for reimbursements from MD EHDl were Gabrielle Beaumont and Tisa Barnes

Membership Update

Vacancy – DHMH representative

Terms due to expire

- Jennifer Reesman Ph.D- (Mental Health Professional) is applying for a second term.
- Deborah Marquez- (MSD) is not pursuing a second term. Mr. James Tucker MSD Superintendent recommended Lori Moers
- Stacy Taylor- (parent) is applying for a second term

Nominations for Vice Chairman

Claire Buxton

Wanda Hoshina

Attendees

1. Olga Polites
2. Jennifer Reesman ph.D.
3. Kisha Greenidge-Kader (via phone)
4. Claire Buxton (via phone)
5. Kathleen Heck Ph.D
6. Judith Black
7. Brian Reilly (via phone)
8. Wanda Hoshina
9. Lisa Kornberg
10. Cheri Dowling
11. Clare Johnson
12. Dawn Marsiglia
13. Charm Smith
14. Stacy Fitzgerald
15. Jennifer Gunderson