

## Advisory Council Meeting

January 16, 2014

*Approved by Council*

### Continued Business

#### Membership Update

- Maryland Association of the Deaf - Wanda Hoshina is applying for this council seat.
- DHMH – Dr. Maura Dwyer had to resign from her position due to unforeseen circumstances. Dr. Lee Woods was recommended by Dr. Dwyer to fill the DHMH position. She is a neonatologist and has a PH.D in Genetics. She is the Director of DHMH Surveillance and Quality Initiatives Office. She oversees all quality issues related to the birthing hospitals.
- There are three members whose terms are scheduled to end on 6/30/14 – Deborah Marquez, Jennifer Reesman, and Stacy Taylor. They all are eligible to serve for a second term if they are interested.
- Dr. Brian Reilly was sent his appointment letter on January 7, 2014. He will fill the physician seat.
- Jennifer Reesman also requested that we nominate a Vice Chair Person at the March Advisory Council Meeting to be in accordance with our bi-laws.

#### MD EHDI Update

- In Process at L3 (Level 3) refer to infants who did not pass a screening and have been referred for a complete audiological evaluation.
  - Question (Jennifer Reesman) – Can you clarify whether or not the L3 babies are carry overs from quarter to quarter or if they are in fact new babies? Also we would like to see a percentage of babies who have completed the process fully across time. To get a more accurate picture of those babies who are carry overs.
- The National EHDI Conference will be held in Jacksonville, Fl. on April 13-15, 2014. The Infant Hearing Division will be sending two parents to attend the conference using monies from the HRSA Grant. NCHAM will also be offering a stipend to one parent from each state to attend the conference. The agenda is online at [ehdimeeting.org](http://ehdimeeting.org).

#### Parent Connections

- They are starting a “Parent Information Series” and the next meeting will be on February 11, 2014. The topic will be Safety and Your Child. The meeting in March will focus on Math, in April it will focus on Writing, in May it will focus on Reading Strategies.

#### Maryland Stakeholders Meeting

- Will be on May 15, 2014 from 8-4pm at the Hearing and Speech Agency.
- The two presenters have been confirmed Dr. Yoshinaga-Itano and Dr. Benedict.

- Volunteers are needed to assist with Introductions of Speakers and to assist with various other things.
- Registration will open tentatively on March 1, 2014
- Also Cheri is adding a Parent Panel. She is looking for three parents to speak for an hour. Please send any parent recommendations to her.
- CEU's will be available.

### **Communications Working Group**

In our last meeting, it was proposed to put together a letter to be sent to hospitals to remind them of the importance of reporting the status of screenings to the state. As a response of the Council's concern that the state was not receiving all Hearing Data Information. A rough draft letter was sent out to the communications group that basically states that they are required to report this data; we are concerned that it's not being reported and what can we do to assist you in getting this data report efficiently.

In looking at the numbers now it appears that over time the problems have worked themselves out and the letter may no longer be necessary. It may be worth discussing if this is a good time to send the letter, in light of what happened, to reach out to hospitals to reiterate that if there are any concerns about reporting, who they should contact .

Tanya had a conversation with Erin Filippone and Erin reassured her that there were no issues with any hospitals at this time. The major delays were due to the hospitals change over from the EHR Systems. Now that all the systems are in place at the hospitals and the staff have been trained, we have been receiving data in in a timely fashion. Tanya recommends on holding on to the letter for now but will give the letter to her directors for approval in case we need it in the future.

### **New Business**

#### **Senate Bill 103**

The hearing for Senate Bill 103 went smoothly. The bill will now have to be heard in the House of Delegates. This Bill is the first revision of the original Bill that established Maryland's Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Program. The changes were around the language in the Bill such as changing the name from Universal Newborn Hearing Screening to Early Hearing Detection and Intervention. Hearing impairment was changed to either hearing loss/children with hearing loss/or at risk for hearing loss. Where it states babies born "in a hospital" was removed so the law could apply to out of hospital births as well. Also the risk factors will no longer be listed specifically in the Bill because they change overtime. Another change in the Bill is to add a twelfth member from ODHHD to the Advisory Board.

They are also looking to include the Bi-laws in the statute. Such as specifying the term of award member is three years and that the term begins July 1. They will have the terms staggered so that the Council will never have all new members at one time. Also that at the end of a term, the member will continue to serve until a successor is appointed. If a member is appointed

after a term has begun that member will only serve for that term or until a successor is appointed. Also if a member serves two consecutive three year terms, the member cannot be appointed for three years after completion of those terms. Reducing the number of times the council meets during the year from six to four. Lastly the statute added a statement to include hospitals, birthing sites and audiologist to ensure testing and follow up testing is being conducted and reported by all health care providers.

### **Senate Bill 20**

The hearing for Senate Bill 20 was also successful in the Senate Finance Committee. Senator Jennie M. Forehand of Montgomery County wrote the legislation and submitted it.

### **Announcements**

On January 29, 2014 ODHH will move from the thirteenth floor to the ninth floor.

Christina Marmor from Hands and Voices would like to talk more with the Council about the Guide by You Side program.

The Jade Center has monies to pay for sign language interpreters for some of their programs.

The Maryland State Steering Committee's Conference will be on March 21, 2014 from 8-3:30 pm at the McDaniel College.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

#### **Attendees**

Olga Polites  
Stacey Taylor  
Jennifer Reesman Ph. D  
Judith Black  
Lisa Kornberg  
Cheri Dowling  
Tanya Green  
Leah Washington