Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2014  2:00-5:00 p.m.  Minnesota Department of Education Conference Center
1500 Highway 36 West, Roseville, Room CC16

Facilitator:  Emilee Scheid
Recorder:  Zay Rezania

Attendees:
Kathy Anderson, Nicole Brown, Mary Cashman-Bakken, Kirsten Coverstone, Karen Doenges, John Gournaris, Mary Hartnett, Tina Huang, Candace Lindow-Davies, Joscelyn Martin, Linda Murrans, Gloria Nathanson, Peggy Nelson, Sara Oberg, Emilee Scheid, Kara Tempel

Absent:
Dennis Ceminski, Karleen Maeurer, Lisa Schimmenti, Geoffrey Service, Michael Severson, Rhonda Sivarajah, Emily Smith-Lundberg,

AGENDA ITEM DISCUSSION POINTS/DECISIONS/NEXT STEPS

1. Welcome and Announcements
   Emilee Scheid
   • Joscelyn Martin’s name needs a correction from November 2013 meeting minutes. Meeting minutes were approved.
   • Please complete meeting evaluations and turn in at the end of the meeting.
   • Option for members to share any brief announcements with the committee – there were none.

2. EHDI Story
   MN Hands & Voices Parent Guide
   Judy Cabos Beal
   • Mom Judy shared her family story with son AJ.
   • A lot on the family’s plate with vision concerns, Charge Syndrome, feeding tube, hearing aids – can be overwhelming to tackle all at once.
   • There was some initial uncertainty about hearing loss and family saying “he responds to sounds – he can hear fine.”
   • With all of the medical conditions they needed to wait until he was healthy enough then they could focus on figuring out communication choices for AJ and their family. They chose ASL first and then added spoken English.
   • Family did not experience difficulties in connecting with resources – resources were accessible and helpful.
   • They had trouble with consistent use of hearing aids at first, especially with having to wear glasses too. They felt good that he was finally consistently wearing hearing aids and glasses by 1 year of age.
### 3. MDH EHDI Update

**2013 Screening & Diagnostic Data**

Amy Gaviglio  
Zay Rezania

- Screening rates have increased to 99.4%
- Refer Rates have decreased to 4.4%
- Rescreen within one month increased to 68.4%
- Comprehensive audiological evaluation has increased by almost 7% to 38.4%. We still have some work obviously but a nice increase.
- Lost to Follow-up remains about the same at 8.9%
- Data shows that the out of hospital birth hearing screening initiative has been successful. Midwives with access to hearing equipment have increased to a 88% screen rate. In addition, the average days to rescreen decreased from 57 days down to 22 days.
- New efforts to verify initial hearing screen results/look into accuracy of results reporting. Direct electronic reporting system soon to come.
- Data does include reports from late onset cases
- Hopeful that electronic reporting system will help with more accurate reporting thus more accurate data

### 4. Parent to Parent Support Expansion

Candace Lindow-Davies  
MN H&V Parent Guides

- **2013 Data Snapshot**
  - 1,183 parents & professionals served
  - 280 new parents with an 83% contact success rate
  - 16% have a primary language other than English (44 families)
  - 25% had children with unilateral hearing loss
  - 19% had children with bilateral severe/profound hearing loss
- Hands & Voices team has expanded with an increase in existing FTEs and 5 new positions. The new positions include the 3 new cultural parent guides (Spanish, SE Asian, & Somali) and a parent education guide.
- Most non-MDH referrals came from Greater MN/pockets that aren’t putting a lot of kids through the system.
- Working to figure out ways to better utilize staff time/make staff accessible to families.
- Pilot study to find out whether culturally-specific guides can be used to target families in order to reduce health disparities before they are lost to follow-up.
- Already seeing a lot of progress with increased staffing.

### 5. Insurance Coverage/Reimbursement for Cochlear Implants

Candace Lindow-Davies

- Parents have been asking for assistance in addressing insurance coverage/reimbursement coverage.
  - Examples: 1) Family has insurance but is denied, then has to try and get MA all of which means a delay. 2) Family has insurance and child has cochlear implant but a part needs to be replaced and insurance denies payment for the part.
- More complicated with the Affordable Care Act where each state decides what is “essential”
- Hard for insurance companies to process claims from manufacturers instead of distributers.
- Right now the appeals process is the best way to go however this causes delays. The commission could look at putting together an “appeal packet” for cochlear implants like they have for hearing aids.
- Consensus: this affects many families; suggestion to enlist the Department of Commerce, MDH MMB, Hands & Voices, & the Commission to tackle the issue.
### 6. MDE EHDI Update
Kara Tempel
Mary Cashman Bakken

- Data sharing agreement near completion and has been routed to the appropriate commissioners for signature.
- Regional educational EHDI team trainings will be held this April.
- Early Intervention summer institute will be held in June.
- MDE staff will be participating in the upcoming Collaborative meeting held by the MN Commission Serving Deaf, Deaf Blind and Hard of Hearing Minnesotans.

### 7. Physician Survey Results
Nicole Brown
Kirsten Coverstone

- Purpose of the survey is to find out how involved the medical home is with the EHDI process.
- ~14% response rate.
- Results indicate:
  - Majority are confident (91.8%) in explaining the newborn hearing screening process.
  - Respondents were less confident in talking to parents about permanent hearing loss.
  - On a positive note, we saw an increase in referrals to genetics and ophthalmology.
  - Nearly 50% of offices are using OAE testing in their practice. This highlights the importance of communication & collaboration with PCP clinics.
- NCHAM did data analysis – might be possible to request breakdown by provider type (Pediatrician, Family Practice Physician & ENT) – this would be useful in the future.
- Need to continue connecting with PCPs and getting guidelines to them.

### 8. Out of Hospital Birth Guidelines
Kirsten Coverstone

- The well baby guideline document was adjusted for the out of hospital birth system.
- Midwife Kate from the Minnesota Council of Certified Professional Midwives reviewed and gave feedback on the guidelines.
- They will be posted on the EHDI website.
- Mary motioned to pass guidelines, seconded by Candace. Vote to approve guidelines passed.

### 9. Closure
Emilee Scheid

- Next meeting 5/14/14, 2-5pm at MDE Conference Center
- Please let Emilee know if there are any partner updates to be put on the August meeting agenda.
- Meeting adjourned