

## Virginia EHDI Program Advisory Committee Meeting

Friday September 7, 2018

### Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:** Ashleigh Greenwood, Valerie Abbott, Marcus Allen, Wanda Council, Julie Durando, Patricia Eitemiller, Christine Eubanks, Ann Hughes, Mona Iskander, Debi Leekoff, Lisa Powley, Irene Schmalz, Daniel Shearer, Teri Urban

**Interested Parties:** Anne Dare, Alison King, Ryan Murray, Kara Norcross, Kim Pekin, Dana Yarbrough, Jill Young

**VDH EHDI Staff:** Jennifer MacDonald, Chyann Mealy, Daphne Miller, Nadia Morgan, Rafael Randolph Deepali Sanghani, Antoinette Vaughan, Kathleen Watts

The meeting was called to order by Ashleigh Greenwood at 10:09am. All members provided brief introductions and a review of the agenda was presented and approved. Minutes of June 22, 2018 meeting were approved. All in attendance were reminded to submit their forms for travel reimbursement if applicable.

### Agency Updates:

#### The VA Network of Consultants (VNOC)/ Partnership for People w/Disabilities:

##### **Technical assistance and support:**

From May 29 – August 21: More than 38 calls/email requests for technical assistance were received and addressed/processed; 2 were directly from parents. Several requests become direct consultations through the Virginia Network of Consultants (VNOC) described under VNOC. In addition, 18 announcements were disseminated during this quarter; 16 of these announcements went to parents. (There are currently 207 parents on the TAC-DHH database.)

##### **VA Network of Consultants for Professionals Who Work with Children Who are D/HH (VNOC):**

VNOC service requests are reported following the school year calendar, August 1 to July 31. For the 2017-18 school year there were 20 VNOC consultations completed. For the 2018-19 school year (beginning August 1) 4 VNOC consultation requests have already been received.

##### **Regional Trainings:**

*See-the-Sound Visual Phonics* (Decoding strategy for early reading skill development)

For the 2018-19 school year in August, 2 STS-VP trainings were completed; 3 additional trainings are scheduled. From 2006-present, more than 1,675 people have received training in STS Visual Phonics through TAC-DHH/VNOC sponsored trainings.

##### **Statewide Professional Development:**

**Opening Doors-Unlocking Potential 2018:** *Language, Literacy and the School-Home Connection* was held in Richmond/Midlothian, June 18-19, 2018; 108 participants included 10 parents. A highlight of ODUP 2018 was the closing parent panel. ODUP had 22 exhibitors and Gallaudet University's Clerc Center provided an opportunity for participants to complete their nationwide survey to assist the Clerc Center with input for developing future goals. Parents from Richmond Metro area, unable to attend the full event were invited to hear the keynote presentation and visit ODUP exhibitors as well.

In addition, *Opening Doors to Life Beyond High School* programming was held during the first day of ODUP (**June 18, 2018**) for transition age students and parents/family members. OD2LBHS was attended by 8 transition age students. Parents registered for ODUP attended ODUP and/or OD2LBHS parent sessions.

**Additional Activity:**

June 4-6, 2018: VA State Leads attended the National Deaf Center's Engage for Change Convening, Austin, TX – attended by 38 states.

August 27-29, 2018: Center for Literacy and Deafness (CLAD) *Foundations for Literacy* and *Fingerspelling Our Way to Reading* trainings at the RI School for the Deaf in preparation for TAC-DHH training events for FY19.

August 30, 2018: Attend VDOE Symposium for personnel who provide outreach to Virginia school divisions.

**Program Support:**

Assistance to VA Hands & Voices, the Parent-Child-Advocate Program, Hearing Journey and Families to Families to disseminate specific d/hh related event announcements.

Review and editing support for the Virginia's Resource Guide – Companion Guide for Children in Elementary School (publication due Fall 2018)

**Upcoming:**

VDOE *Guidelines for Working with Students Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Virginia Public Schools* (Update to be posted early Fall 2018).

October 1, 2018: Virginia Stakeholders Meeting - VA State Leads for the National Deaf Center's Engage for Change project second stakeholders meeting to address root causes identified as challenges that impact postsecondary attainment by persons who are d/hh.

**TODHH Community of Practice – Literacy** (Winter, 2018-19)

**ODUP2019** tentatively scheduled for June 2019.

**Early Intervention:**

No Updates

**Newborn Screening (Dried Blood-Spot and CCHD):**

Two disorders will be added to the RUSP: Pompe and NPS1. The Newborn Screening Advisory Committee will be meeting on November 15. As of January 1, 2019, the Newborn Screening team will be working 7 days a week.

**Virginia Hearing Aid Loan Bank:**

As of August 30, 2018 1,243 children have used the loan bank. Recently received a donation of many Phonak Inspiro transmitters. They are old and out of warranty, but was told they are working. If you know of anyone or a school system that may need some please have them contact Lisa Powley.

**Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs:**

The CYSHCN program is working on updating its Care Connection for Children care coordination assessment tool. Recently had a brainstorming session and agreed on a general framework/vision for the tool. Once the tool has been developed, we will work to integrate it fully into our database CCC-SUN. This process will take a considerable amount of time but will be what is best for families.

## **Family to Family**

- We are still recruiting for a 1-3-6 Family Educator in the Tidewater area who has very young child(ren) and who represents a diverse cultural community.
- Two 1-3-6 Family Educators continue to work with Hands & Voices and EHDIP to plan for the April 2019 Care Project in Virginia.
- Over the summer, the 1-3-6 Family Educators were busy helping Kathleen Watts update the database of audiologists in Virginia.
- 6 families of infants/toddlers who are deaf/hard of hearing were referred to the Center for Family Involvement this summer for family to family support.
- Two Learning Community meetings were held – one in Northern Virginia and one in Central Virginia. Facilitation of the NOVA learning community has transferred over to local membership.
- Over 2200 letters were mailed to pediatricians across VA that highlighted the Learning Communities. A link to the Southwest and Roanoke needs assessments was included.  
**SOUTHWEST SURVEY LINK:** [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Southwest\\_EHDI\\_Needs](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Southwest_EHDI_Needs)  
**ROANOKE SURVEY LINK:** [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Roanoke\\_EHDI\\_Needs](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Roanoke_EHDI_Needs)
- The Virginia's Resource Guide for Families of Children with Hearing Loss – A Companion Guide for Children in Elementary School has been reviewed by select staff at VDH and VDOE. It is intended for families of children between the ages of 5 and 10 years old with hearing loss. The graphic design is 90% complete. We anticipate printing the book by late September.

## **VA School for the Deaf & Blind (VSDB):**



**Fall, 2018**

**Events Sponsored by Outreach Services, VSDB**

(for educators and family members from across Virginia)

### **Wednesday Webinars**

**November 28, 2018 - Transition Services for Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind**, in collaboration with the VA Project for Children and Young Adults with Deaf-Blindness and Department of Aging and Rehabilitation Services (DARS). A panel speaking about services in VA including: ;Dr. Julie Durando and Ira Padhye, VA Project for Children and Young Adults with Deaf-Blindness; Mary Nunnally and Tracy Branch, VA Dept. for Aging and Rehabilitation.

**December 5, 2018 - Transition Services for Blind/VI and Deaf-Blind**, in collaboration with the VA Project for Children and Young Adults with Deaf-Blindness and VA Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired. A panel speaking about services in VA including: Dr. Cynthia Ingraham, Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults ; Dr. Julie Durando and Ira Padhye, VA Project for Children and Young Adults with Deaf-Blindness; and Charity Reid Davis and Caren Phipps of DBVI.

**TBD - ASL K-12 curriculum, Gallaudet staff**

**Additional webinars for select groups:**

**October 10, 2018 - Sensing, Acting, Learning: Strategies for Learners with Visual and Multiple Impairments**, presented by the VA Project for Children and Young Adults with Deaf-Blindness and facilitated by VSDB Outreach; this webinar is offered only to those individuals who attended the live training held July 17-18, 2018.

**Online Trainings**

Outreach Services, VSDB has purchased short courses from Central Institute for the Deaf for state viewing as follows:

<b>Name of Short Course:</b>	<b>Period for Registration:</b>	<b>Period for Completion:</b>	(note about SPICE Curr)
The Art of the Structured Syntax Lesson: Assessing, Planning and Prompting	Sept. 27–Oct. 3, 2018	Oct. 4–Nov. 4, 2018	ASHA and LSLS certification credits, as well as continuing ed units for licensure, are available for completion of these courses, paid for by Outreach Services. The SPICE Curriculum Kit will be placed in TTAC Lending Libraries for borrowing free of charge.
Linking Language and Literacy: Strategies for Developing Reading and Writing Skills in Children Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing	Oct. 30-Nov. 7, 2018	Nov. 8-Dec. 12, 2018	
Pediatric Audiology	Jan. 10-Jan. 16, 2019	Jan. 17-Feb. 17, 2019	
Developing IEP Goals for Students with Hearing Loss: Speech, Language, and Auditory Development	Feb. 12-Feb. 19, 2019	Feb. 20-Mar. 20, 2019	

Outreach Services, VSDB has purchased short courses from the Perkins School for the Blind for state viewing as follows:

<b>Name of Tutorial</b>	<b>Period for Registration</b>	<b>Period for Completion</b>	<b>Number of Credits</b>	Perkins’ tutorials can be taken on your own, free of charge if you don’t need credits; Outreach
Cerebral Visual Impairment: Tutorial	Sept. 25–Sept. 29, 2018	Sept. 30 – Dec. 1, 2018	20 credits	

3-D Printing: What's Realistic for TVIs?	Sept. 25–Sept. 29, 2018	Sept. 30 – Oct. 28, 2018	1.5 credits	has purchased state viewing for those who want credits for continuing education and/or ACVREP for each of these titles.
Assessment That Informs: Don't Just Guess, Assess!	Oct. 21-26, 2018	Oct. 29-Nov. 29, 2018	1.5 credits	

(Watch for three more self-paced tutorials from Perkins to be offered Spring Semester, 2019 through Outreach Services!)

### **Regional Activities for Students in all Virginia Schools and their Families**

**October 27, 2018** – Science Museum of Virginia; for students ages 6 through high school who are deaf or hard of hearing, and/or blind or visually impaired and their families; in collaboration with the VA Dept. for the Blind and Vision Impaired. Richmond, VA

**December 1, 2018** – **Santa Clause is Coming To Town**, Barter Theater. Interpreted for students who are deaf/hard of hearing and described for students with blindness/visual impairment; pre-session allowing students to “get to know” the set, props, and characters; and afternoon Career Awareness session on “It’s Not Just Acting - The Many Careers in Theater” in collaboration with the VA Dept. for the Blind and Vision Impaired and VA Hands & Voices. Abingdon, VA.

### **Live Trainings**

**Sept 26, 2018** – **Conducting Learning Media Assessments** with students with blindness/visual impairment. Presenter: Tom Miller, formerly Teacher and Administrator, Perkins School for the Blind.

**Oct 5 - 6, 2018** – **Improving Academic Success in Writing and Mathematics of Students Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing**, Presenters: Theresa Johnson, Dawn Kidd, and Michelle Halversen, Texas School for the Deaf, and trained trainers of the DeafTEC Project, National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID). VA Crossings Hotel and Conference Center, Glen Allen, VA.

### **Online Training Series**

**Family American Sign Language (ASL)** – short lessons on vocabulary and phrases, presented with ideas for use in normal daily routines of infants and toddlers, and associated cultural/language building lessons. See <https://www.vsdh.k12.va.us/vsdh/outreach/family-asl-lessons/>

**Interveners: Providing Access for Students with Deaf-Blindness** – brief video showing how interveners and teachers work together to provide students with deaf-blindness access in the classroom. Produced in collaboration with the Virginia Project for Children and Young Adults with Deaf-Blindness.

**Archived Wednesday Webinars** (coming soon)

Registration information will be posted at [www.vsdh.k12.va.us](http://www.vsdh.k12.va.us) and at [www.ttaonline.org](http://www.ttaonline.org) three to six weeks prior to each event.

### **VSDB Outreach Audiology services**

Classes at VSDB have been in session since August 6th. Outreach audiology services began again full-time on July 23rd. So far in 2018, 40 children have received diagnostic audiologic services through the school's outreach program. Referrals have been received primarily from early interventionists, primary care providers, birthing facilities, community service boards, and other professionals. A 3rd-year JMU audiology doctoral candidate, Paris Atabek, began her fall clinic rotation at VSDB in late-August and will continue through the end of the semester. Paris recently completed a summer rotation at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and has a genuine interest in pediatric audiology. With the assistance of JMU audiology students, VSDB is now more capable of providing diagnostic services for difficult-to-test children.

### **Department of Education:**

The VA Guidelines for Early Childhood Inclusion is now available as a resource.

### **Early Childhood Special Education**

The VDOE developed a new guidance document pertaining to early childhood inclusion for children with disabilities. The Virginia Guidelines for Early Childhood Inclusion (April 2018) can be found at the VDOE website. See: <http://va-leads-ecse.org/Resource/JWHaEa5BS74gjKeJCIL1Uw/Resource-virginia-early-childhood-inclusion-guidance-document-2018-virginia-department-of-education>.

### **Deaf-Blind Project:**

Currently working writing grant report the next cycle.

### **VA Dept. for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH):**

#### **Executive Management**

VDDHH has reorganized the Deputy Director position into a Business Manager position in order to delegate the administrative functions of the Department. Job bulletins for both the Business Manager and the vacant Community Services Specialist were posted and a recruitment campaign initiated. VDDHH central office has consolidated its three office suites into one suite. After a month and half, two office suites were remodeled into five (5) individual offices, a conference room and a storage room. A two years and five months project to triage VDDHH records spanning 20 years for retention, destruction and archival was completed!

#### **VDDHH Advisory Board**

A public meeting was held on Wednesday May 2nd with three visitors. The 9-member Governorappointed board met to review program managers' reports, discuss composition of the work group studying interpreter licensure, and discuss the current and future strategic plan as well as obtaining stakeholder feedback via upcoming town hall meetings.

#### **Virginia Relay**

The Federal Communication Commission (FCC) approved VDDHH application for renewal of a five (5) year certification for the state telecommunication relay service (TRS) program, aka Virginia Relay. This

approval recognizes VDDHH as the Commonwealth's TRS administrator. On Thursday April 12th , VDDHH hosted its' semi-annual meeting of the Virginia Relay Advisory Council. VDDHH recognized three incumbents whose terms have expired and has been recruiting to fill the three vacant seats. VDDHH filed the 2018 Annual Summary of Consumer Complaints with the FCC. Telecommunication Assistance Program (TAP) A new TAP Specialist contractor joined the Staunton office in May. With VDDHH office remodeling and relocation, the TAP staff reorganized equipment storage for work efficiency and to surplus discontinued equipment. A roundtable of Relay and TAP staff and contractors began to meet monthly to promote efficiency and eliminate duplication of overlapping outreach & training activities. Interpreter Services Program (ISP) VDDHH established a small workgroup to study the benefits and drawbacks of state licensure of sign language interpreters that will report to the VDDHH advisory board in November. Meetings will be once a month June through October. VDDHH met with the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court to finalize the Memorandum of Understanding concerning the provision of interpreters for the state and local courts. The new "Interpreter Services Program Agreement and Manual for State Agencies and Sign Language Interpreters in the Commonwealth of Virginia" is in its' final draft and will be effective August 1, 2018.

### **Virginia Quality Assurance Screening (VQAS)**

The new VQAS testing materials continues to be a success with positive feedback from candidates. Three groups of raters: Expressive Raters, Interactive Raters and Receptive Raters have completed their training on the new testing materials. The Interactive Raters did give feedback on the new segment of Interactive Interpreting and VDDHH is now revising that segment. A new VQAS database was developed and VDDHH is in the process of evaluating it. There are significant improvements over the old database. After providing input and correcting a few items, the database will be ready to launch.

### **Community Services**

Community Services performed ongoing education and training activities to 37 EMTs (state convention), 28 police officers, 12 9-1-1 dispatchers, 27 counselors (involved with sexual assault/domestic violence) Provided technical assistance to the Richmond Metro Communications in creating an accessible video (captioning and sign language) to inform the deaf and hard of hearing community about the benefits – and limitations of Text to 9-1-1. Also provided technical assistance to Mass Care Task Force about communication access in in disaster evacuation / sheltering situations. The outdated VDDHH brochure, which was drafted on MS Word and printed via in-house copier, was replaced with a new, professionally printed version now available on the VDDHH website.

### **VA Hands & Voices:**

It might seem that Virginia Hands & Voice took a summer break, but in reality we have been very busy behind the scenes – continuing to connect parents to information and each other, coordinating fall events and getting ready to announce some big news for 2019!

### **BIG NEWS FIRST:**

We are proud to announce that the Virginia chapter, along with the Maryland / D.C. chapter, will be co-hosting the 2019 Hands & Voices Leadership Conference at Kellogg Conference Center on the campus of Gallaudet University. This conference will take place September 20-22, 2019 and all parents and professionals with d/hh children will be encouraged to attend. It was a massive, collaborative effort to

make this dream a reality – including contacting almost 20 hotels and conference centers in Virginia. We are excited to bring the mission of being unbiased towards communication choices so close to home and know this will be a great opportunity for everyone to fully understand what makes us tick at H&V! Valerie and I both have found attending the leadership conference to be an invaluable way of understanding the big picture of what H&V is trying to accomplish, while figuring out ways to deliver that mission to our local communities.

#### **RECENT EVENTS:**

As a way to continuously connect everyone throughout Virginia, we have hosted our first virtual learning opportunity in the form of a conference call. Tracey Lee, with the VDOE, presented on the IEP process and parental rights. At the time of this writing, we have almost 60 people registered. Our board has a few other ideas in mind that we would like to see come to fruition, so stay tuned!

#### **REMAINING 2018 EVENTS:**

- Gathering at Skate Nation in Short Pump (Richmond) September 9. We are offering free laser tag, Ice skating and popcorn to all attendees – BUT preregistration is required and space is limited.
- September – planning an event in the Roanoke area
- October – planning an event, possibly two, at a pumpkin farm for some fall fun in central (Rockville) and Northern VA (Clifton).
- November – possibly hosting an event in the Winchester or Virginia Beach region

#### **PARTNERING:**

We are always eager to partner with other organizations who wish to collaborate on social or educational opportunities for families and professionals. If you wish to brainstorm ways on how we can collaborate with your organization, please contact us at [vahandsandvoices@gmail.com](mailto:vahandsandvoices@gmail.com)

#### **Home Visiting Project**

Jennifer Case, program manager at Early Impact VA, discussed her role as well as provided education on early childhood home visiting. She also discussed different models for home visiting. There are various factors why a client may receive home visiting. She also discussed the requirements to be a home visitor. There are extensive competencies, training, and classroom education to allow home visitors to be competent and receive certification.

#### **CYSHCN Care Coordination**

Marcus Allen discussed Care Connection for Children and care coordination. There are case managers who provide consultation in the home of clients and he described the difference of this role from home visiting. He also discussed the relationships that should exist between professionals to ensure health outcomes are achieved for the child. Marcus also discussed the importance of crisis management and assessment of needs. He also discussed the services provided by care coordinators for children with special health care needs.



### **Family Navigator**

Dana Yarbrough discussed the importance of family supporting other families. She also discussed three entities: Information & education, Connecting & Networking and lastly, services & goods. These three entities all affect each other. She also discussed various departments such as VDH, DOE, and other agencies that provide support to CFI and family navigators.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **EHDI & Learning Community Updates**

Chyann Mealy presented on the various projects, travel, and events that the EHDI team has been working on over the past few months. The advisory committee co-chair, Valerie Abbott, followed up with information on the Learning Communities.

### **EHDI Family Stories**

Sabrina Hasnat discussed her experience as a parent going through her child's diagnosis with hearing loss. She also discussed what was helpful and not so helpful during her process so far with the new diagnosis.

### **Workgroup Updates**

- The Parent workgroup reviewed and discussed potential recommendations for the two new EHDI Products for Prenatal (What is my Baby Hearing) and Postnatal (Do you know IF your baby can Hear).
- The Shared Plan of Care (SPoC) committee met to discuss the SPoC for families and the new SPoC for primary care providers. The committee decided to make several revisions to both documents.

Ashleigh Greenwood adjourned the meeting at 3:15PM.