



**Virginia Supplemental Early Language and Literacy Resources
for Deafness/Hard of Hearing (VA SELLR-DHH) Project
Advisory Committee Meeting**

May 4, 2023

Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association Conference Center
Washington/Jefferson Rooms, 4200 Innslake Drive,
Glen Allen, Virginia 23060

Minutes of Meeting

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Emilie Mulholland, Advisory Committee Chairperson, at approximately 10:12 a.m.

Communication Etiquette Reminders: Mr. Raff provided guidance for utilizing the communication access services effectively throughout the meeting.

Roll Call of Members: The roll call of members was conducted, and the advisory committee members and guests introduced themselves. Ms. Mulholland confirmed a quorum of the voting committee members who were present.

Members Present: Briana Bates, Robin Bliven, Dr. Lori Bobsin, Michele Bronnenberg, Wanda Council, Ashley M. Esteva, Carrie Martin, Emilie Mulholland, Terri Nelligan, Eric Raff, Dr. Irene Schmalz, Jessica Sheffield, and Hunta Williams

Members Absent: Valerie Abbott, Janet Knust, and Laura Yellin

Guests in Attendance: Dr. Zenia Burnett and Sarah Peters, Virginia Department of Education; Hilary Hodes, The Virginia Deafblind Project; Tracey Yurechko, Technical Assistance Center for Children Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing; Dr. Brenda Seal, Educational Consultant; and Michelle Long and Sheena Cobb, members of the public

Communication access services were provided by American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreters: Katherine Malady, Kristie Melson, and Rose Salen; Cued Language Transliterators: Maureen Bellamy and Suhad Keblawi; Certified Deaf Interpreters: Kirsy Majuri and Randee Pascall-Speights; and Communication Access Realtime Translation Captioning: Juan Ortega

Review and Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes: Ms. Mulholland requested the advisory committee members to review the meeting minutes from the previous meetings held on March 10, 2023, and April 12, 2023. The committee members were provided the opportunity to make comments and to suggest corrections prior to the voting members' final acceptance of the meeting minutes. Ms. Sheffield proceeded with a motion to accept the March 10, 2023, meeting minutes. Mz. Esteva seconded the motion, and the meeting minutes were accepted, unanimously. Ms. Council clarified that the meeting minutes for April 12, 2023, pertained to the subcommittee work session that was held on that date. Ms. Sheffield proceeded with a motion to accept the April 12, 2023, meeting minutes. Mz. Esteva seconded the motion, and the meeting minutes were accepted, unanimously.

Review of Agenda: Ms. Council reviewed the agenda items. This included the committee members' final recommendations for the language developmental milestones to be included in a resource for parents and the final recommendations for assessment and evaluation tools for professionals to use to evaluate the language skills of children who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Travel and Logistics: Ms. Peters provided clarification and reminders for submitting the required travel-related reimbursement forms and information in a timely manner.

Continuing Business

Language Developmental Milestones Parent Resource Considerations and Recommendations:

Ms. Council presented an updated list of the language developmental milestones for children, ages birth-five years, which included additional resources that were added and some removed since the original list was disseminated in December 2022. Following a discussion to answer questions, clarify information, and make comments, each of the designated voting committee members in attendance were provided a response form to individually select their final recommendations and to share written comments for selecting or not selecting each of the items. Ms. Council, Ms. Nelligan, and Mr. Raff reviewed and consolidated the responses. Ms. Nelligan departed the meeting early, due to an unavoidable scheduling conflict. Ms. Council shared a preliminary summary of the consolidated responses with the committee members and stated that she would be meeting with Ms. Nelligan and Mr. Raff at a later date to further consider the committee members' final recommendations for the final selection of the language developmental milestones that would be included in a resource for parents. Ms. Council also stated that the advisory committee members would be notified of the final selection by June 30, 2023.

Shared Language Experiences IV: During the lunchtime break, Ms. Mulholland facilitated a discussion among the committee members regarding their experience with being members of the advisory committee and their continued direct involvement with a child or children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Language Assessment Tools Considerations and Recommendations: Ms. Council presented a list of previously suggested language assessment and evaluation tools that could be utilized by professionals with children, ages birth-five years, who are deaf and hard of hearing. Ms. Yurechko, Ms. Hodes, and

Dr. Seal participated during the discussion to assist with answering questions and clarifying information. Dr. Seal referenced the results of recent research on the assessment of children who are deaf and hard of hearing who utilized American Sign Language.

The designated voting committee members in attendance were provided response forms to individually select their final recommendations and to share written comments for selecting or not selecting each of the listed items and for adding items that were not previously listed. Ms. Council and Mr. Raff reviewed and consolidated the responses, and a preliminary summary of the results was shared with the committee members. Ms. Council restated that she would be meeting with Ms. Nelligan and Mr. Raff at a later date to further consider the committee members' final recommendations, and that the advisory committee members would be notified of the final selection by June 30, 2023.

Ms. Yurechko and Ms. Hodes shared information regarding upcoming professional development events and summer activities for children who are deaf and hard of hearing or deaf-blind and their families.

Public Comment: The members of the public in attendance did not make public comments and written comments were not received prior to this advisory committee meeting.

Ms. Council stated that the advisory committee members would continue to receive information through email and that the committee's official function would end on June 30, 2023. She reviewed the next phases for furthering the implementation of the VA SELLR-DHH Project as specified by the requirements of the Virginia legislation. Ms. Council, Ms. Mullholland, Mr. Raff, and Dr. Burnett thanked the committee members, supporters, and guests for their commitment and service with the advisory committee meetings over the past several months.

Adjournment: Ms. Mulholland adjourned the meeting at 2:33 p.m.