



**Maine Newborn Hearing Advisory Board Meeting
March 23, 2021
Virtual Meeting Minutes**

Members Present:	Donna Casavant, Susan Delaney, Katherine Duncan (Co-Chair), Jennifer Gaulin, Harriet Gray, Karen Hopkins, Nola Metcalf, Louise Packness, Eileen Peterson, Laura Sweet, Duska Thurston (Chair)
Members Absent:	Catherine Lushman, Leigh Anne Gorecki, Nicole Dotson, Ariana Blethen Whiting
Guests:	Amy Spencer, Pam Dawson
Program Staff:	Holly Richards, Anne Banger
Interpreters:	Cid Pollard, Meryl Troop
CART:	Marsha Swain
Recorder:	Amy Fair

Welcome and Introductions	Duska Thurston welcomed everyone to do individual introductions	
Review and Acceptance of the Minutes	Louise Packness moved to accept October 2020 meeting minutes, Karen Hopkins second. Meeting minutes were accepted by all members.	
Program Updates	<p>COVID-19 Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID – 19 had been at a priority at the state department. Staff in the program are working remotely. Some people are still deployed to COVID-19 related activities and some have been released within the last month. Hoping by summer the rest of our team will be back. • The data and surveillance system (Nebulogic) are still finalizing some pieces of data. • We are in the process of rulemaking; we were combining all statues into one rule. Four new conditions being added for Newborn Bloodspot have been pushed through with emergency legislation, but the rest of the rules are still going through the process. <p>MNHP – EHDI Grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are still in year one, 	<p>Holly Richards Anne Banger Louise Packness Karen Hopkins Katie Duncan Susi Delaney</p>

- CDS has a new director, Jamie Michaud.
- Continued monthly collaboration meetings between MNHP – CDC EHDI Grant and MECDDHH -HRSA EHDI Grant.
- The annual 2020 Maine Newborn Hearing Advisory Board Legislative Report was submitted to the legislature.
- Year 2 funding re-application including a progress report for work we have done through December 2020 and a work plan for the second year was submitted on March 2, 2021.
- The EHDI annual survey was submitted in November 2020.
- EHDI annual 2021 meeting was held virtually this year.
- The updated risk factor document is finalized, they are updating our website to put it on there before we sent it out.
- CMV workgroup had been put on hold due to COVID, we have scheduled the next meeting for the workgroup to be May 24th, 2021 via Zoom.
- Laura Sweet and Anne Banger went to the Perinatal Coalition Meeting on December 11th, 2020 via Zoom to present on CMV.
- Laura Sweet was able to get a volunteer from the national CMV foundation to add the DHHS logo to three national CMV information flyers and handouts. One we have had reviewed by our CDC and the other two will be reviewed.
- The next Pediatric Audiology workgroup meeting is May 13th, 2021. A subcommittee of the Pediatric Audiology workgroup reviewed and proposed updates to the five MNHP brochure/guides the MNHP Advisory Board is reviewing at today's meeting. They are working on developing tip sheets for families.
- The next Pediatric Audiology Journal Club Meeting is April 8th, 2021.
- Ariana Whiting has joined the board, CDS representative.
- We are still in need of a parent of a hearing child and a representative from insurance carriers.
- Louise Packness, Speech Language Pathologist, will be resigning her seat following this meeting.
- Amy Spencer a speech language pathologist has expressed interest in joining the board.

MECDHH – HRSA Grant

- HRSA grant team is wrapping up the first year of this grant, March 31st, 2021.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lot of work has been put into the Earliest Interactions website. This website will be utilized by prenatal, hospitals, audiologists, early interventionists, the deaf community, and families. • Work is being done on the Exploring Language and Communication Opportunity, being led by Amy Spencer to make it much more family centered and following the routines based on early intervention that we are doing with Child Development Services statewide. • Accepted to be one of the few states to be part of a family engagement learning community with NCHAM. • In the process of writing the final reports and summarizing findings of the MECDHH Community Needs Assessment, report will be out soon. • The big needs that is coming out of the MECDHH Community Needs Assessment survey is the need to increase access to hearing screening for babies that are born at home. 	
Public Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the process for posting and accepting applications for the Speech Language Pathologist board seat? The posting and accepting applications for the Speech Language Pathologist board seat goes through the Governor’s office. The governor’s office reviews applications and makes an appointment. Anne Banger has the link and can forward it to interested parties. 	Pam Dawson Holly Richards
Advisory Board Discussion	<p>Website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing updates to the website, advisory board page is up to date as far as the dates of the meetings, meeting minutes and the membership. • An update has been submitted to the providers page of the website, some documents need to be removed and updated. <p>Publications/Brochures: Prenatal Brochure, Hearing in Infants and Young Children Brochure, General Resource Guide, Unilateral Resource Guide, Mild Resource Guide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplified some language that was a little too complicated and redundant, made updates with updated information. • Graphic designed suggested visual updates. • Suggested changes by the group: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General Brochure – Formatting where paragraphs line up, typos, titles have the word hearing and feels hearing heavy, tips for communicating with your baby might be nicer to add at the beginning rather than towards the end of the document, make images for the visual for the ear and the audiogram color. 	Anne Banger Katie Duncan Karen Hopkins Laura Sweet Duska Thurston Jennifer Gaulin

	<p>2. Hearing in Infants and Young Children Brochure – Add something that says no follow up to make it clear for families, add something about risk factors and follow up, mention recommending a CMV screen if they didn't pass, using more pictures and visuals vs words.</p> <p>3. Prenatal Brochure – Update to the ear picture and audiogram to match the overall document.</p> <p>CMV Work group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting May 24th, 2021 via Zoom. • Senator Breen has agreed to propose a new CMV bill next year based on the recommendations of the work group report that went to the legislator in December 2017/January 2018. The workgroup recommendations that the bill would be based off is hearing targeted CMV screening, meaning that if the baby does not pass the hearing screen at the hospital, they would have a CMV screen done at the hospital and CMV education. 	
Break	No break was taken	
Adjourn	Meeting was adjourned at 11 am	
Next meeting dates	June 22, 2021 October 26, 2021	