

**The Nebraska Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program
Advisory Committee Meeting
December 10, 2015
Minutes
1:03 pm - 3:14 pm**

Eugene T. Mahoney State Park, Riverview Lodge

Attending:

Members

Nina Baker
Kathy Beauchaine
Steve Boney
Linsay Darnall Jr.
Rhonda Fleischer
Brenda Hoover
Shelli Janning
Cindy Johnson
Kim-Jae Kang
Rick Kang
Kelly Rausch
Stacie Ray
Colleen Richart
Pete Seiler

Guests

Tobias Orr, ATP
Angie Ransom, ATP
Jessica Hagg, USD Graduate Student
Nicole Kreikemeier, UNL Graduate Student, HearU
Jessica Cook, Answers4Families
Laurie Miller, EDN

Liaisons

Cole Johnson

Interpreters

Kelly Brakenhoff
Frances Beurivage

Staff

Jim Beavers
MeLissa Butler
Kathy Northrop

Meeting start time – The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, Kathy Beauchaine, at 1:03 pm.

Open Meeting Act – Presented at the beginning of Advisory Committee Meeting by Kathy Beauchaine.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Kathy Beauchaine, Chair for the Nebraska Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (NE-EHDI) Program Advisory Committee, welcomed all Committee members, staff, and guests.

II. Review of Agenda

There were no changes.

III. Review of Minutes

The meeting minutes from the September 10, 2015 NE-EHDI Program Advisory Committee meeting were distributed via e-mail prior to the meeting and printed copies were available upon request. A motion to approve the Minutes as published was made by Rick Kang, seconded by Cindy Johnson, and unanimously approved by the Committee members.

IV. Presentation – Nebraska ChildFind

Tobias Orr, Director of the Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP), and Angie Ransom, Resource Coordinator for ATP, gave an overview of ATP and Nebraska ChildFind. Nebraska ChildFind provides information to parents, school personnel, and service coordinators serving children from birth to

age 21. The program offers information on special education, rights, resources, and the referral process. When parents don't know the next step, ChildFind can help them.

Tobias stated that, at the request of the Department of Education, ChildFind is trying to do more advertising on TV, so we may be seeing some TV commercials in 2016.

Kathy Northrop asked if ATP and ChildFind are 501(c)(3) organizations. Tobias stated that their programs are funded by grants from the Department of Education.

Kathy Beauchaine asked if ChildFind is able to help a child who is approaching graduation and getting transferred to vocational rehabilitation. Angie stated that ChildFind partners with vocational rehabilitation services to help the transition process. Nina Baker added that PTI Nebraska is another resource for children in the transition process.

Linsay Darnall Jr. asked what percentage of the children served by ChildFind are deaf or hard of hearing. Angie said that she did not have that number available, but she will look into it and follow up with the Committee.

Kathy B. asked if ChildFind sees the need for expansion of services to less populated areas in the future. Angie stated that through ChildFind and ATP, they want to focus on rural areas, and are always looking for available resources across the state.

Cole Johnson stated that with the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B and C, the state is required to have a ChildFind program. In Nebraska, the Early Development Network (EDN) receives over 2,000 referrals annually, and ChildFind helps to fill those referrals.

Angie stated that once a child is identified with a disability, part of what ChildFind offers is educational technology specialists to work with the schools. ChildFind also does professional development trainings, provides specifics about technology or services, offers consulting on Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) regarding what services are appropriate, and raises awareness.

Another service that ATP partners with is AT4All, which is an online database of assistive technology that families can access to find needed equipment. The equipment is offered as a loan, for demonstration purposes, or for free or sale depending on the type of equipment and individual need. Equipment loans are usually for 30 days as a trial. If they find that the equipment is a good fit, then a technology specialist starts looking into funding sources to provide more permanent assistive technology.

Cindy Johnson asked if, for example a child needs an FM system at home, would the family be able to get one through AT4All. Angie responded that a technology specialist would work with the family to research what can be done to provide the FM system.

Pete Seiler asked if ChildFind is able to explain to families the difference between American Sign Language (ASL) and Signing Exact English (SEE). Angie responded that a technology specialist would research that information or make a referral to the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH).

Shelli Janning stated she has worked with families through the Guide By Your Side program who have obtained equipment through ATP and it has been really helpful. Angie said that she appreciates hearing positive feedback.

Cindy stated that Children's often receives donations for equipment and asked how ATP and Children's can work together to make the most of the funds. Angie stated that she would like to get together with Cindy so they can discuss areas of collaboration.

Rhonda Fleisher stated that the Nebraska Regional Programs for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing have their entire lending library on AT4All.

v. HearU Hearing Aid Bank Update

Nicole Kreikemeier, UNL Graduate Student and HearU Graduate Assistant presented the HearU quarterly statistics.

Nicole also shared information about her responsibilities with HearU. She has been with the program for seven months as a Graduate Assistant. One of her responsibilities with HearU is processing hearing aid loaner applications. She stated that a typical application will take several days to process, but she likes to get them out the door as soon as possible. Usually it is no more than a week before she can get a child fitted for hearing aids.

Shelli Janning asked what criteria HearU uses to qualify a child for hearing aids. Nicole stated that in order to qualify, the family has to prove a financial need and show that their insurance or Medicaid will not cover the cost of hearing aids. If the family has no other options, HearU will provide the hearing aids.

Rick Kang noted that the number of hearing aids dispensed is increasing and asked if they had any idea why. Nicole stated that it is because HearU is becoming better known.

Steve Boney asked how long the hearing aids are loaned out. Nicole stated that the child can keep them as long as needed and the hearing aids still meet the child's needs.

Pete Seiler asked if HearU works with the Lions Hearing Aid bank and the Sertoma Hearing Aid Bank. Nicole stated that all three hearing aid banks are operated through Barkley Memorial Center. HearU serves birth through age 18 and provides new hearing aids. Lions serves ages 19-64 with refurbished hearing aids; the need is based on income. Sertoma serves ages 65 and older. They provide one refurbished hearing aid at no charge and the second hearing aid for \$85.

vi. Baby Isao™

Stacie Ray demonstrated Baby Isao™, which is a simulator for ABR and OAE screenings on newborns. Stacie stated that it is often difficult for audiology students to gain needed experience in the newborn hearing screening process because they don't see many babies at their clinical sites. The doll, manufactured by Intelligent Hearing Systems, offers many unique characteristics such as simulating conditions like crying.

The NE-EHDI Program funded the purchase of Baby Isao which was \$7,300, using unobligated grant funds from 2014.

vii. Video Presentation: "Amazing, Caring and Kind" Women Investing in Nebraska

The Video *"Amazing, Caring and Kind" Women Investing in Nebraska* was presented via YouTube <https://youtu.be/v3FVoERXB5o>

HearU was given a grant from Women Investing in Nebraska. The video features Stacie Ray, Kelly Rausch and her daughter, Evie.

viii. CMV Task Force Update

Rick Kang updated the Advisory Committee on the status of the CMV Task Force. Utah is currently the only state that has been able to get CMV testing mandated legislatively. Nebraska has decided they will not pursue legislation, but rather plan to make the CMV test the standard of care in Nebraska. The swab for CMV is not expensive, as it costs around \$60 for the test. If the test is ordered by a physician, insurance will cover the cost. Ann Anderson Berry has set up a screening protocol, and she has obtained a small grant to fund the pilot project.

Other agenda items for the CMV Task Force include how to educate expectant mothers and how to raise awareness about CMV. However, there needs to be funding for these efforts, which has not yet been obtained.

ix. Hospital Training Task Force Update

MeLissa Butler stated that Marietta Mathis's capstone is up for review by the University of Nebraska's Institutional Review Board (IRB) in January. Once the approval process is complete, progress on the Hospital Training Task Force will start moving forward again.

Linsay Darnall Jr. added that information about sensitivity to Deaf culture needs to be included in the training.

x. NE-EHDI Advisory Committee Composition

Kathy Beauchaine asked the Committee to start thinking of people who could fill the open positions in the areas where there is no representation. Rhonda Fleischer stated that there needs to be an easier way for people from the western parts of the state, outside of Omaha and Lincoln, to participate. Kathy Northrop stated that the NE-EHDI Program is aware of the need to make accessing the meetings remotely easier, however we don't have the necessary technology and we have to abide by the open meeting laws and state guidelines.

Kathy N. announced a change in membership composition. Members who work for state agencies have been reassigned to serve on the Committee as liaisons. This will open up positions in the membership, as the membership was getting close to the 20 maximum number of members allowed according to the Charter.

xi. Thank you to Kathy Beauchaine, New & Vice-Chair announcements

Kathy Northrop recognized Kathy Beauchaine for her years of service on the NE-EHDI Advisory Committee. The Committee thanked Kathy B. for her leadership, contributions, dedication to babies, and the support she has provided the NE-EHDI Program over the years. Kathy B. was presented with an award and balloon bouquet. She shared that she remembers working on Newborn Hearing Screening with Dr. Steve Boney back in the 1980's.

Kathy N. announced that Linsay Darnall Jr. will begin his term as chair in 2016, and Kim-Jae Kang will serve as Vice-Chair.

XII. The NE-EHDI Program Statistics and Lost to Follow-up Information – Jim Beavers

Jim Beavers reviewed the handouts entitled *January through September 2015 DOB the NE-EHDI Status Report* and *Nebraska 2014 Births-Hearing Status*.

In regards to the *Nebraska 2014 Births-Hearing Status* handout, Rick Kang asked what the age range is for the 76 identified in 2014. Jim stated that the age range covers birth to age 3 so this statistic includes cases of late onset hearing loss. Kathy Beauchaine stated that the Iowa state law requires any child under the age of three identified as deaf or hard of hearing be reported to the Iowa EHDI program.

Jim reviewed the *LTF/LTD Per 1,000 Births in Nebraska* handout, noting the dramatic drop in the number lost from 2010-2014.

Kathy B. asked Jim to provide the etiology data on the 76 identified as deaf or hard of hearing in 2014 due to that being a higher than usual number of children identified. Jim replied that he will compile the data and present it at the March 2016 meeting.

XI. Other

There were no other agenda items.

XII. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Linsay Darnall Jr. and seconded by Pete Seiler. The meeting was adjourned at 3:14 pm.

Next Meeting: March, 10 2016 – 1:00 pm at Mahoney State Park, Riverview Lodge

2016 Meeting Dates:

- March 10, 2016
- June 9, 2016
- September 8, 2016
- December 8, 2016

Respectfully submitted by MeLissa Butler, Community Health Educator