



**State of Vermont  
Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf/Blind Advisory Council  
School Age Subcommittee**

**March 6, 2024, 1:30- 3:30 pm**

## Meeting Summary

*Present:* Co-chairs Sherry Sousa and Sharon Henry; Tracy Hinck; Jen Bostwick; Amelia Briggs; Laura Siegel (DAIL); Cassie Santo (AOE); Rebecca LaLanne; Pam Hoover (UVM CARES); Patti Hodgdon-Dickman (UVMCARES),

*Guest:* Linda Hazard (UVMCMC DHH ESP), Michelle John ( VT Coalition for NASDSE Guidelines and VT Hands & Voices)

## AGENDA

### Data Standardization

THE DHHDB Advisory Council has a [legislative mandate](#) to assess “assess the services, resources, and opportunities available to children in the State who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind.”

As a starting point, proposed data set includes the following domains in order to answer specific questions about this population:

1. Who is being served?
  - Demographics (grade, race, ethnicity)
  - Diagnosis (type/severity of loss/laterality/onset)
  - Communication Option used (ASL, Cued Speech/language, Listening and Spoken language, Total communication (English-based sign system and speech))
  
2. What are their needs?
  - Technology used (CI, HAs, laterality, Hearing Assistive Technology)
  - Type of Plan (EST, IEP, 504)
  - Student Services provided (ASL/Bilingual Services, Consultation and Technical Assistance, Direct Instruction, Educational Audiology, SLP, Sign Instruction, Other Services: Evaluations, Peer to Peer Opportunities)



### 3. What are the academic outcomes?

- Educational Assessments (academic based on State Testing for starters); in the future discuss which assessments for language/literacy should be administered, by whom.

#### Action list:

The DHHDB Council would recommend to the AOE that these data comprise a recommended minimum data set collected by the AOE grant recipient initially for '24-25. The group recognized that professionals in the field must work together with other providers (eg, CVU, Bennington, NEK) in order to get accurate data across the state. Thus, the goal is to work with other vendors across the state to engender cooperation given the reporting can't be mandated.

#### Planning for Parent Educational Meeting

In collaboration with VT Coalition for NASDSE Guidelines and VT Hands and Voices, Tues Mar 26, 2024, 9 am – 1 pm at WSOC (Oak room) will be an educational session for parents (primarily) and providers so that they can learn more about the NASDSE Guidelines, the VT Quality Indicator TOOL and CHECKLIST.

#### Agenda:

- 9-10 meet & greet/light snacks
- 10-12 School Age Subcommittee will run the Mock IEP and link it to the VT Quality Indicator CHECKLIST;
- 12-1 lunch (on your own and socializing)

#### Action list:

- The group discussed potential 'bumps' that could be introduced into the Mock IEP. The Mock IEP participants [Michelle, Amelia, Jen, Tracy, Jon Berliner (if available)] will:
  - Schedule a practice meeting to choose/ incorporate the bump(s) into the Mock IEP
  - Revise the script accordingly.
  - Email the revised script to all Mock IEP participants.

#### Review of Professionals' Roles in DHH service provision

Cassie has created a draft of a document on which she is/will be requesting the committee's feedback. The purpose of the document is to provide guidelines that support teams with identifying what roles the many providers play in the life of the student who is D/HH (regardless of type of plan), and how to appropriately identify those qualified providers based on student need.

Members provided feedback on a number of the professionals' roles listed in the document.

#### Action list:

Cassie will make the revisions and share the next draft with the group.



Note: these summaries along with the closed captioning meeting transcript are posted to: [Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind Council | Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living \(vermont.gov\)](https://dail.vermont.gov/resources/boards/deaf-hard-hearing-deafblind-council). (<https://dail.vermont.gov/resources/boards/deaf-hard-hearing-deafblind-council>)