



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

November 28, 2022, 3:00-4:00 pm

Meeting Summary

Present: Co-chairs Sherry Sousa and Sharon Henry; Laura Siegel; Cassie Santo (AOE replacement for Jacqui Kelleher); Tracy Hinck; Jen Bostwick; Rebecca LaLanne,

Absent: Amelia Briggs

Invited Stakeholder: LEAs Dawn Campbell and Lisa Johnson, SVSU District

AGENDA

Welcome & Intro (2 mins):

- Sharon welcomed Cassie Santo, Inclusive Practices Coordinator, AOE; she will replace Jacqui Kelleher who has left the AOE for another position

Updates on review of tool (20 mins)- Sharon/Cassie/All

- Feedback from 2 meetings with Cheryl DeConde Johnson

Sharon, Sherry, Michelle John, and Linda Hazard have met twice with Dr. Cheryl DeConde Johnson who is providing 4 webinars about the NASDSE Guidelines to Vermont. Cheryl has very positive feedback about the tool, including the rating scale. She was not aware that Vermont was doing this level of work and is interested to be kept apprised as the tool is beta tested in January 2023. Cheryl will read the pieces of evidence that support each quality indicator and provide feedback as needed. We discussed including a sample of 10 students (5 on 504s, 5 on IEPs) as a starting point.

- Feedback from AOE

Cassie indicated that she and Chris Kane met with Darren McIntire and Linda Hazard in September. The internal review at the AOE is complete and now external reviewers are reviewing the tool (VTIRD), Vermont Hands & Voices, to name a few; Cassie is in the process of following up with others as well (NECDB, HLAA, VANCRO, Vermont Family Network, VADB). She



will keep the subcommittee apprised of the status of the review. Cassie indicated that at this point in time, the AOE will not be mandating the use of the tool.

- Discussion with Joan Macy, Kansas State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind

Jen and Sharon met with Joan on 11/01/2022 to discuss our process for developing the Vermont Quality Indicator Tool for D/HH/DB services. When we met via zoom, we told Joan that our subcommittee was meeting 11/28/22 and we would ask the group about sharing a draft of the tool with Joan. All subcommittee members agreed that we should share the tool with Joan as yet another way to solicit feedback. Sharon will send the draft of the tool this week.

Planning Next Steps (30 min) – Sharon/All

- Conference in May VSA/VCSEA Conference

Sherry shared that a spot (Thursday May 18, 2023) has been reserved for a presentation about the Vermont Quality Indicator Tool for DHHDB Services. There are about 500 people who attend (administrators, principals, superintendents, Special Education Directors, etc). Our subcommittee will plan the presentation in January/February using a Googledoc (to be shared) and then a follow up meeting in February and again in March (and more if needed)

- Vendor to beta test tool starting Jan 2023

Sharon has met with Linda Hazard several times this fall to discuss a beta implementation of the tool; Linda is targeting a start date of January 2023 with one district and would like to bring on another district later in the spring. Our subcommittee will meet with Linda in March/April to discuss any issues, examine data, etc. and this experience will be discussed/presented at the May 2023 VSA/VCSEA Conference.

Next meeting – All

The School Age subcommittee will meet again in February and March (with additional meetings as needed) to plan the presentation for the May VSA/VCSEA Conference and to debrief about the beta test of the tool. Sharon will send out a doodle poll in early December so that dates/times can be secured now.

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>)