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

April 25, 2022, 3 pm - 4:30 pm
Meeting Summary

Present: Co-chairs Sherry Sousa and Sharon Henry (joined at 3:45 pm); Tracy Hinck; Jen Bostwick; Laura Siegel; Rebecca LaLanne; Jacqui Kelleher;

Absent: Amelia Briggs;

Invited Stakeholder; Tracy Evans Lusielli, Director, New England Consortium on Deafblindness (NEC)

AGENDA

Welcome & Intro:

- Tracy Evans Lusielli, Director, New England Consortium on Deafblindness (NEC)

- Accepted meeting summary from 04/04/2022 (by committee vote)
  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)](vermont.gov).

Discussion of Working Draft of Quality Standards based on NASDSE (55 min) – Sherry/All

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  The subcommittee reviewed the working draft, discussed, and resolved comments and incorporated feedback from/discussion with Tracy Luiselli-Evans.

  ACTION PLAN:

  To disperse the work to be most efficient and to reduce the length of the document, the subcommittee decided that, for starters, they will take the following steps in order **to focus the document on the core elements (ie, pieces of evidence) that would allow a determination if a particular standard is being met**:

    ✔ Sherry will model Quality Standard #1 (or 2?).

    ✔ Jacqui, Laura, Rebecca, Amelia- review the working draft before Friday 4/29 and resolve comments, make suggestions based on comments and context provided in the meeting today.

    ✔ Before the 5/4/2022 meeting:
- Sherry, Tracy – edit Quality Standards #1&2
- Sharon and Jen - edit Quality Standards #3,4,5

- Update: Additional assessment tools/resources (10 mins) – Sharon/ All

  - Jen recommended that in the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind document pages 39-54 are worth reviewing for Student Academic Outcomes and for Outreach Programs. They do list the type of evidence that was examined during the program review.

  - Jen and Sharon are meeting with Rick Huan (Washington Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youth (CDHY), Washington School for the Deaf) on Monday 5/9

  - Tracy summarized for the group the NH ATN and NH DOE documents (document attached) and inserted relevant points into the working draft for the group to consider. As we work through the draft as a committee, we will consider each of the points that she considered. However, **Tracy did indicate (and Sharon concurred) that after 2 years, there was no actual evaluation of services done.**

  - Jacqui emailed (4/22/22) an update about the achievement data disaggregated by disability:

    "I asked about achievement data for students on IEPs with D/HI (Hearing impairment – IDEA code)/DB taking the statewide achievement tests and received the response that for general assessment and alt assessment, for students with HI/D/DB, there are no grade-levels in the State with more than 10 students – this means the public can only receive a chart with Asterix and no numbers – this is by federal regulations. Every cell with fewer than 10 students needs to be suppressed. Essentially, I can get us total numbers of students in the state or a visual display of performance comparing students with and students without disabilities, but not down to the disability category."

  - Laura spoke with Virginia and Indiana; both indicated that they **DO** have an assessment of DHHDB services. They suggested that she contact Minnesota; Laura will follow up.

- Other dates for stakeholders? (5 mins) – All

  - Jen - Deaf Person – John Pirone – scheduled for May 4 (confirmed)
  - Tracy/Jen – students in high school; on hold
  - Rebecca is reaching out to Stuart Soboleski/Kevin Smith for 5/9, 5/17; she will email Sharon privately by 4/29 to confirm. Also Patti Dickinson

- Jacqui – Case manager/SpEd Director/Administrator – Jacqui will contact these people and invite 1-2 of them on May 25 and/or Wed June 1:

  ✔ LEA Special Education Administrators – Dawn Campbell and Lisa Johnson from SVSU
  ✔ LEA Special Education Teacher/Case Manager – Cassie Santos
  ✔ LEA Special Education Paraprofessional – Dan Comeau
  ✔

- Given the working draft will also be shared with the Full DHHDB Council on 5/19, the subcommittee decided to hold off on any other stakeholders until then. From the Council, there will be input from a DeafBlind adult; in addition, we will continue to engage Tracy Evan Luisielli and Amelia Briggs is on our subcommittee.

- For the record, other stakeholders who could be invited in the future might include:
  ✔ Other audiologists –Deb Rooney (UVMMC); Melissa Clark – Porter; Cynthia Knowlton – DHMC; Kelly Roher – Rutland

  ✔ Sign Language Instructor (Jillian Donelly, John Pirone, Nicholas Lalanne and Bradley Brown

  ✔ DeafBlind Adult (Rene Pellerin, Kevin Richmond)

  ✔ Deaf Adult – Will Pendlebury (Co-chair of the DHHDB Council so he can provide feedback on 5/19)

  ✔ Deaf Educator

- Housekeeping: next meeting dates for May/June (5 mins) – Sharon

  Everyone has received zoom invites. Sharon asked Jacqui to free up her schedule where possible to attend these meetings as her input/expertise is most welcome.

  ✔ Wed May 4, 12-1:30

  ✔ Mon May 9, 1-2:30

  ✔ Tues May 17, 12-1:30

  ✔ Wed, May 25, 10-11:30

  ✔ Wed, June 1, 12-1:30

  ✔ Tues, June 7, 12-1:30

Sharon also shared that the plan of the subcommittee is to:

- Share the working draft will be shared with the Full DHHDB Council on 5/19/22 for their feedback.

- Require that the 'Request for Applications for DHHDB Services' that the AOE will issue in May 2022 will include a statement that the vendor who receives the funding will be required to use the tool

Reflection on group process (5 mins) – Sherry/All

Reflection on group process (5 mins) – The subcommittee members expressed satisfaction group process and acknowledge we have a lot of work to do!

Meeting transcript also available.