



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

February 23, 2022, 11:30 am – 1 pm
Meeting Summary

Present: Co-chairs Sherry Sousa and Sharon Henry; Tracy Hinck; Jen Bostwick; Amelia Briggs; Jacqui Kelleher; Laura Siegel

Absent: Pam Hoover (on vacation)

AGENDA

- Welcome/Intro/Ground rules, expectations and operations of this committee (15 mins) - Sherry
- Scope of work and timelines (20 min) – Sharon
- What tools/resources are currently available for assessing the quality of DHHDB programs? (25 mins) - All
- Homework – review of available assessment matrices (15 mins) – Sharon
- Next meeting dates for March/April and then May/June (5 mins) – All
- Reflection on group process (10 mins) – Sherry

Welcome provided by Sherry Sousa, Co-Chair, School Age Subcommittee. Committee members provided an introduction and agreed to group norms for conducting meetings. Committee members include:

- Sherry Sousa, WCSU Superintendent, Co-Chair of School Age Subcommittee (ssousa@wcsu.net)
- Sharon Henry, DHHDB Parent Member, Co-Chair of School Age Subcommittee (sharon.henry@med.uvm.edu)
- Laura Siegel, Director of Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, and DeafBlind Services (Laura.Siegel@vermont.gov)
- Jacqueline Kelleher, State Director of Special Education (Jacqui.Kelleher@vermont.gov)
- Amelia Briggs, DHHDB Parent Member (ameliabriggs@gmail.com)
- Jen Bostwick, Program Supervisor, DHHDB Educational Services Program EHDI/UVMMC (jennifer.bostwick@uvmhealth.org)
- Tracy Hinck, Educational Audiologist, DHHDB Educational Services Program EHDI/UVMMC (tracyaudiology@gmail.com)
- Pam Hoover, Consultant, Teacher for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, and CARES team consultant mentor (Pamela.Hoover@uvm.edu)

All were present today except for Pam Hoover.

Sharon Henry reviewed the **scope and purpose** of this subcommittee which is to fulfill the legislative mandate under Vermont Statutes (33 V.S.A, § 1602) to assess the services, resources, and opportunities available to children in the State who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind. (see: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/33/016/01602>).

After discussion at the full DHHDB Council meeting on January 20, 2022, the School Age Subcommittee received its charge on February 1, 2022. February 23, 2022 is the first subcommittee meeting and a report to the DHHDB Council is due in June.

All members present agreed to the scope of this work which will include development of assessment rubrics/tools with metrics for assessing the quality and impact of DHHDB Services in Vermont. This includes services provided by:

- UVMDC DHHDB Educational Services Program
- UVM CARES (which received the AOE Grant for '21-'22), and
- other providers in the State.

After discussion, the group also indicated that doing **the work needed to actually collect the data will be a goal of this subcommittee as well.**

The group brainstormed **tools/resources that are currently available for assessing the quality of DHHDB programs** and each member agreed to review some:

- 1) Tracy agreed to follow up with Kym Meyer, [Public School Partnerships \(PSP\)](#) in MA;
- 2) Jen and I agreed to look at the NASDSE Guidelines and how Ch 9 can be utilized in our work
- 3) Amelia agreed to contact DeafBlind resources to see if they have any assessment rubrics/resources that would be helpful in our work; she will also follow up with the Minnesota Collaboration
- 4) Jacqui agreed to email to Sharon the 17 indicators that are part of the State's Performance Plan, and a list of other metrics/data that could be available broken down by disability (eg, achievement data, graduation rate, drop-out rate)
- 5) Sharon agreed to contact ODDACCE in Colorado and the Education Policy person at NAD

Next meeting dates:

Monday, March 7, 3 - 4:30 pm
Monday, April 4, 3 - 4:30 pm
Monday, April 25, 3 - 4:30 pm

Sharon will send out a doodle poll for the May and June dates

Reflection on group process – each member was asked to rate the group's adherence to the agreed upon norms on a scale of 0 (no adherence) to 5 (excellent adherence). All ratings were a '5.'

Meeting transcript also available.