



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

March 07, 2022, 3 pm - 4:30 pm
Meeting Summary

Present: Co-chairs Sherry Sousa and Sharon Henry; Tracy Hinck; Jen Bostwick; Amelia Briggs (joined at 3:45); Jacqui Kelleher (joined at 4 pm);

Absent: Pam Hoover (UVM CARES) was withdrawn from the committee as of 03/06/2022; Laura Siegel (on vacation)

AGENDA

- Welcome; review of Norms; acceptance of 2/23 Meeting Summary (10 mins) - Sherry
- Discussion of tools/resources currently available for assessing the quality of DHHDB programs (35 mins) – All
 - ✓ **Tracy** agreed to follow up with Kym Meyer, [Public School Partnerships \(PSP\)](#) in MA;
 - ✓ **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
 - ✓ **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)
 - ✓ **Jen and Sharon** agreed to look at the NASDSE Guidelines and how Ch 9 can be utilized in our work
 - ✓ **Sharon** agreed to contact ODDACCE in Colorado and the Education Policy person at NAD
- Additional assessment tools/resources (15 mins) – Sharon/All
- Other stakeholders who should be invited/scheduled (15 mins) – All
- Housekeeping: shared file space; next meeting dates for May/June (5 mins) - Sharon
- Reflection on group process (10 mins) – Sherry/All

Welcome provided by Sherry Sousa; group voted to accept the 2/23 Meeting Summary. The summary along with the Closed Captioning file for 02/23/2022 will be posted on the DAIL website by Laura Siegel when she returns from vacation. These 2 documents will be in lieu of the meetings being recorded.

Discussion of tools/resources currently available for assessing the quality of DHHDB programs.

After discussing each resource in detail, the committee agreed:

- 1) To focus on the NASDSE Guidelines, Ch 9 and translate the 10 guidelines into quality standards that can be used to assess the quality of DHHDB programs. Jen and Sharon have started a document on the shared drive and other members can edit/add as well.
- 2) That the NASDESE Guidelines focus only on DHH; thus, further research is needed to include appropriate standards for the assessment of DB and DB+ services
- 3) That the ppt that Jacqui shared has State's Performance Plan data; however, these data are not very helpful for assessing the quality or impact of DHHDB programs given it is not disaggregated by disability, and these data are more at a 'macro level.' In addition, some of these data rely on parent responses which is typically very low.

In addition,

- 4) Amelia connected with Tracy Luiselli-Evans (Director of the New England Consortium for Deaf Blindness); Tracy shared the type of data that they have on DB students (<https://www.nationaldb.org/info-center/national-child-count/>). Tracy agreed to speak with our committee.
- 5) Tracy indicated that Kym Meyer did not have any assessment tools to share; however, she is very interested in our work.

For the next meeting (Monday, April 4, 3 - 4:30 pm), the committee members agreed to:

- 1) *ALL:* Read NASDSE, Ch 9 and put comments into the document ('Adaptation of the NASDESE Guidelines for Assessment of DHHDB Services 03 01 2022' under the NASDSE folder) on the GoogleDrive;
- 2) *Jacqui* to send achievement data (NAPE) disaggregated by disability, if possible.

Additional assessment tools/resources

Committee members to follow up on contacts:

- ✓ Tracy – All Together Now NH
- ✓ Jen/Sharon – meeting pending with Rich Haun, Washington Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youth (CDHY), Washington School for the Deaf
- ✓ Sharon – NAD (Sarah Honigfeld); ODDACCE (Allison Sedey)
- ✓ Laura – Scott Falcone (SC), Laurent Clerc Deaf Education Center, Montana

Stakeholders: The committee agreed to contact the following to see if they are willing to speak with the committee (if that can be scheduled) or just talk to the committee member:

- 1) Amelia - Tracy Luiselli-Evans (appropriate standards for the assessment of DB and DB+ services)
- 2) Jen - Deaf Person – John Pirone
- 3) Sharon – Michelle John, President VT H&V
- 4) Tracy/Jen – student in high school; Sharon – student in college who went through the VT system
- 5) Jacqui – Case manager/SpEd Director/Administrator – Jacqui will post in the weekly email ('Field Notes')

Shared file space: all committee members received an invitation to the GoogleDrive space and all confirmed that they have access. As work is advanced, committee members will document in the appropriate file (eg, 'Contacts to follow up on 03 01 2022).

Meetings for May/June: *Jacqui, Jen and Laura* still need to complete the Doodle poll this week.

Discussion of UVM CARES letter: Margaret Overman sent a letter (dated 03 06 2022) to all DHHDB School Age Subcommittee members and Spenser Weppeler, Chair, DHHDB Council [also included were Megan Tierney-Ward, Sabine Perry and Darren McIntyre (UVM CARES)], indicating that Pam Hoover would be withdrawn from the Committee.

Spenser Weppeler responded on 03/07/2022, indicating that the subcommittee work will move forward given its legislative mandate under state statute (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.

He also pointed out that all Council members who are also on the School Age Subcommittee are required to adhere to the Governor's Executive Code of Ethics. Sharon and Sherry have shared *EO 19-17 Executive Code of Ethics* with the subcommittee and all agree to adhere to them in a professional manner.

Lastly, the scope of work of the School Age Subcommittee was clearly outlined in the letter of invitation (letter 02 01 2022) that went to both Directors of UVMMC ESP and to UVM CARES when they were invited to nominate committee members from their respective agencies. In fact, the letter included the language from the Statute (33 V.S.A, § 1602) as well as a link to the statute.

All subcommittee members expressed an interest in having a member from the UVM CARES team (non-Director) on the subcommittee.

Reflection on group process – subcommittee members are excited about the progress and the work that is being done.

Meeting transcript also available.