



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

May 04, 2022, 12 pm - 1:30 pm

Meeting Summary

Present: Co-chairs Sherry Sousa and Sharon Henry; Tracy Hinck (*joined at 12:30 pm*); Jen Bostwick; Laura Siegel; Rebecca LaLanne; Jacqui Kelleher; Amelia Briggs;

Absent: no one 😊

Invited Stakeholder; John Pirone, EdD, Lecturer/Program Coordinator, Department of Leadership & Development Services American Sign Language Program, University of Vermont

Agenda

- **Welcome & Intro** of invited stakeholder John Pirone
- By committee vote, the **Meeting summary of 04/25/2022** was accepted.

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://www.vermont.gov/deaf-hard-of-hearing-deaf-blind-council-disabilities-aging-and-independent-living).

- **Discussion of Working Draft of Quality Standards** based on NASDSE Guidelines - Sherry/All (including feedback from/discussion with Dr. John Pirone)

Members the language and implications of using “Standards” vs “Benchmarks” vs “Quality Indicators.” The use of the word ‘Standards’ has implications for the AOE which could potentially slow down their adoption of the assessment tool. Thus, the committee agreed upon “Quality Indicators.” Edits were made in the working draft accordingly.

- All Committee members and Dr. Pirone then discussed and edited Quality Indicators #1-4. These revisions will serve to guide the revisions of the remaining Quality Indicators prior to the 5/9 meeting:

#5: Jen and Sharon

#6, #7, #8: Sherry and Tracy

#9, #10: Jen and Sharon

All Committee members agreed to review these NEW revisions prior to the 05/09/2022 meeting.

- Update: Additional assessment tools/resources
 - Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind; the short story is Colorado did not assess either! However, 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 (5/9/22) at 11 am and will share with committee members at the 1 pm School Age Subcommittee meeting that day.
 - What from the State of Virginia documents, if any, are helpful for us to focus on **for assessment** in order to incorporate/review into our Working Draft? This discussion is tabled until the 5/9 meeting.
- **Other dates for stakeholders:**
 - Stuart Solboleski will join us May 9th 1-2:30p; Kevin Smith will join us May 17th 12-1:30p
 - Jacqui agreed to:
 - ✓ confirm with her contacts with date/time of their attendance. She will download the most recent draft of the Quality Indicators 3-4 days before the particular meeting that the stakeholders will attend so they have time to review.
 - ✓ download the working document and email the document to any contacts who can't attend in person and ask for written feedback by **5/15**. If helpful, she will provide to them the context for the document, by sharing the meetings from 4/4/2022 (also posted publicly on the DAIL website).
 - ✓ Contacts include:
 - 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

- **Update from Meeting between DHHDB Council Chair and AOE**

At the request of the AOE, Spenser Weppler (Chair, DHHDB Council) met with Chris Case, Division Director for Student Support Services at the Agency of Education (AOE) on Friday 4/29, to provide clarity on the assessment tool for determining the quality of DHHDB services in Vermont. There was confusion around the intent and the use of the assessment tool; Spenser clarified that the tool would not be used to assess the grantee applications. Spenser and Chris discussed the process and timeline going forward on sharing of the assessment tool with the AOE and how to work most efficiently, effectively, and collaboratively on behalf of the Vermont children who are DHHDB. The School Age Subcommittee will write a report with recommendations to the AOE.

- **Reflection on group process**

- There will full participation by all subcommittee members for this meeting which was appreciated and helpful. The group has a lot of momentum and will continue to focus on producing the best evaluation tool possible and then focus on effective and timely implementation in collaboration with the AOE.

Meeting dates for May/June:

- 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