



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

May 17, 2022, 12 pm - 1:30 pm

Meeting Summary

Present: Co-chairs Sherry Sousa and Sharon Henry (joined at 12:20 pm); Laura Siegel; Rebecca LaLanne; Jacqui Kelleher; Amelia Briggs

Absent:: Tracy Hinck; Jen Bostwick;

Invited Stakeholder; Kevin Smith

AGENDA

Welcome & Intro:

- Kevin Smith – is an adult who is hard of hearing and also is a foster parent of a child who is Deaf
- Accepted meeting summary from 05/04/2022 and 05/09/2022 (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 \(vermont.gov\)](https://dail.vermont.gov/resources/boards/deaf-hard-hearing-deafblind-council). (<https://dail.vermont.gov/resources/boards/deaf-hard-hearing-deafblind-council>)

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

All Committee members and Kevin discussed and edited Quality Indicators #9 and #10. Sherry shared with the group the new format that she created for the provider/programs to use to submit their evidence.

ACTION PLAN:

Prior to our next meeting (05/25/2022), each committee will review the reformatted document and put her initials in the box for any evidence and/or indicator that could possibly be eliminated. As it stands, the document is too long and cumbersome which could decrease the adoption of the tool in practice.

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



- Jen indicated 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. This agenda item was not discussed given Jen was not in attendance today.

Decide/discuss how do we disperse the other work that needs to go into the document— (10 min) – Sherry/All

Given the Jen and Tracy were not here today, we moved this agenda item to next meeting (5/25/2022). Jacqui will review the list and suggest any appendices that would be helpful to the AOE.

- 1) Re-formatting of the document – Sherry
- 2) Writing introductory paragraphs, process to date, etc - Sharon
- 3) Appendices – collation of documents/evaluation tools used by providers that are evidenced based/best practice, etc (these will be linked in the document)
 - a. Communication/Language Plan
 - b. AAA guidelines (#7 pages 19-28 addresses Implementation and Validation Procedures)
 - c. Template for classroom observations
 - d. Template for educational session of General Education teachers
 - e. Template for functional evaluation in the classroom, other environments
 - f. Assessment tools for regular supervision and evaluation of Service Providers
 - g. Recommended list of reliable, valid tools for assessing children (3-22 yo) who are DHHDB (see Appendix E, page 64 of “Guidelines for Working with Students Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Virginia Public Schools” as one list of possibilities)
- 4) Definitions for Qualified Providers/professionals of DHHDB services
- 5) Definitions/testing available to determine proficiency of qualified ASL Interpreters
- 6) Qualifications of reviewers who would review evidence submitted based on use of tool
- 7) Evaluation scale to judge the quality and merit of the evidence submitted by DHHDB providers through use of this tool- Sharon
- 8) Are we missing any elements? Jacqui, was asked to comment on any items that would be helpful to add but she was unable to do so.

At the next meeting (5/25/22), members will be asked to consider which of these tasks are you willing/able to take on so we can complete the document in a timely manner and report to both the DHHDB Council and the AOE.



Other dates for stakeholders? (5 mins) – All

- Jacqui – confirmed that Lisa Johnson from SVSU will join us for 5/25/2022 and that Dawn Campbell from SVSU can join us Wed June 1:
- LEA Special Education Teacher/Case Manager Cassie Santos and LEA Special Education Paraprofessional Dan Comeau have or will provide written feedback via email to Jacqui on the draft document.

Update on meetings with AOE (5/9/22 and 5/11/22) (5 mins) - Sharon

On **Monday, May 9th**, Sherry, Sharon, Spenser and Jacqui met with Chris Case, Division Director for Student Support Services at the Agency of Education (AOE); on **Wed, May 11th**, Sharon, Spenser met again with Chris. In both meetings, we 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 to implement a robust evaluation process on behalf of the Vermont children who are DHHDB. The DHHDB Council and the AOE share to common goals which serve as the basis for our need to collaborate: 1) high quality services for Vermont children who are DHHDB; and 2) the use of the NASDSE Guidelines which were referenced in BOTH the 2021 and the 2022 RFP that the AOE released for bid.

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

The subcommittee members have completed the initial review of the 10 Quality Indicators. Our goal now is to make the document more succinct and complete the Appendices.

Meeting transcript also available.