



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

June 7, 2022, 12 pm – 1:30 pm

Meeting Summary

Present: Co-chairs Sherry Sousa and Sharon Henry; Laura Siegel; Chris Case (proxy for Jacqui Kelleher); Tracy Hinck; Jen Bostwick; Rebecca LaLanne, Amelia Briggs

Absent: Jacqui Kelleher

Invited Stakeholder: LEAs Dawn Campbell and Lisa Johnson, SVSU District

Minutes from this meeting were approved by email given 06/07/2022 was our last meeting. The vote

was:

- Jen Bostwick – yes
- Sharon Henry – yes
- Sherry Sousa – yes
- Jacqui Kelleher – yes
- Amelia Briggs – yes
- Tracy Hinck – yes
- Laura Siegel – yes
- Rebecca LaLanne - yes

AGENDA

Welcome & Intro (2 mins):

- Sharon welcomed Chris Case, Division Director of Student Support Services, AOE; he is sitting in for Jacqui Kelleher who is attending a conference this week. Lisa and Dawn are attending their 2nd subcommittee meeting.
- Accepted meeting summary from 06/01/2022 (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 Report to AOE and DHHDB Council (20 mins)- Sharon/All

All Committee members, in addition to Chris Case, discussed and revised the draft of the report to the AOE and the DHHDB Council:



- Cover letter – Chris Case suggested that the letter should be addressed to Secretary of Education Daniel French with a copy to Jacqui Keller and Chris Case.
- Recommendations – committee members suggested wording changes and those were incorporated. Both Sherry and Chriss suggested that the recommendations should be kept more broad rather than specific at this point in time.
- Description of subcommittee process - all committee members agreed with the level of detail that described the committee process – no changes made.

Scoring Rubric (25 min) – Sharon/All

Committee members reviewed and discussed the proposed scale for evaluating evidence submitted based on the Vermont Quality Indicator Tool for DHHDB Services. This tool would be used by qualified reviewers who are engaged to review any data submitted based on the Vermont Quality Indicator Tool. All committee members agreed on a 4-point scale (1-4) and wanted the percentage demarcations added as a way to assist reviewers (e.g., 0-25%; 26-50%; 51-75%; 76-100%, respectively corresponding to 1, 2, 3, 4).

Update: Additional assessment tools/resources (5 mins) – Sharon/All

- The Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind document pages 39-54 are worth reviewing for Student Academic Outcomes and for Outreach Programs.

Jen indicated that, at this point in time, there is nothing to add from the Colorado document that would assist in improving our Vermont Quality Indicator Tool for DHHDB Services.

Other dates for stakeholders (5 mins) – Sharon/All

Jacqui shared via email the written feedback from LEA Special Education Teacher/Case Manager Cassie Santos (Middlebury School district). Cassie commented on a previous draft of the Vermont Quality Indicator Tool for DHHDB Services; her comments were very positive with regard to the importance of this work/tool and how helpful the tool will be.

Chris Case announced that Cassie will be joining the AOE starting July 1, 2022; she will replace Alex Langevin and will also sit on the DHHDB Council as the AOE representative. Chris shared that Cassie has a background in low incidence disabilities. Sharon commented that given Cassie's positive feedback about the Vermont Quality Indicator Tool, the opportunity to collaborate with the AOE on moving the effort forward is promising.

Sharon had solicited feedback from a student who is Deaf and who went through the system in Vermont from birth – 12th grade. The major take away was two-fold: 1) the critical role that qualified ASL interpreters play in student success; also, the willingness of an interpreter to show up to class 10-15 min early and stay afterward for the socialization/'small talk' aspect of a classroom session; 2) the



opportunity to be immersed in ASL with peers and adults who are proficient in ASL (this student joined a Deaf family on a weekly basis after school in order to be immersed in ASL). Both of these points are addressed in the NASDSE Guidelines and thus in the Vermont Quality Indicator Tool.

Dawn Campbell and Lisa Johnson did not offer any stakeholder feedback on the cover letter, the scoring rubric or the appendices.

Appendices (10 mins) – Sharon/All

The subcommittee reviewed the list in the appendices one more time.

Jen indicated that the Vermont Communication Plan is not yet ready to share (the AOE is still reviewing it). The Vermont Communication Plan is based on the model developed by the New Jersey DOE. Thus, in the appendices, a link to the New Jersey Communication Plan will be provided with a statement that the Vermont Communication Plan will be made available and distributed once finalized.

Regarding the list of qualified providers, Jen will provide a link to the endorsement for TODHH. The link to the Transcript Review Worksheet from AOE will be deleted.

The item regarding interpreters was revised to:

- a. Educational Interpreter
 - Recommended minimum qualifications in Vermont include having a score of 4.0 on the Educational Interpreter Proficiency Assessment (EIPA).
 - A national certification (e.g., [Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf](#)) is also acceptable.
 - A BEI certification (Basic or above) is also acceptable.
- b. Communication Facilitator
 1. to assess someone's ASL skills, the [American Sign Language Proficiency Interview](#) (ASLPI) or the [Sign Communication Proficiency Interview](#) (SCPI:ASL) are two commonly used tests.
 - At this time there are no minimum scores established in Vermont; the adequacy of the proficiency of the ASL skills is determined by team when considering the needs of the student

The subcommittee unanimously agreed to drop the last item in the Appendices (Recommended list of reliable, valid tools for assessing children (3-22 yo) who are DHHDB). Development of this list would be best done by a group of professionals in the field who are familiar with the tools.



Discussion of the Working Draft of the Vermont Quality Indicator Tool (15 min) – Sherry/All

The subcommittee did not have any further revisions to the Tool. In the Introduction, Sharon will add a reference to the Appendices.

Reflection of process – All

The School Age subcommittee accomplished a tremendous amount of high-quality work very efficiently by working in a very collaborative manner – thank you all for your participation!

The process going forward is:

- Sharon/Sherry are liaising with Spenser Wepler, Chair, DHHDB Council to finalize the process.
- The report to the AOE will come from Spenser; the cover letter will be addressed to Secretary French with a 'CC' to Chris Case and Jacqui Kelleher (per Chris Case's suggestion today). The report should be sent out by mid-June once Sharon finishes the final formatting.
- The report to the DHHDB Council will be sent out 2-3 weeks prior to the July meeting (date to be determined as the 7/21 is in the process of being moved) in order to give Council members ample time to review the materials.

Meeting transcript also available.