May 28, 2020

2 PM MST/4 PM EST

**Attendance:**

**CDC:** Marcus Gaffney, Eric Cahill, Alina Flores

**DSHPSHWA:** Linda Hazard, Marcia Fort

**HRSA:** Bethany Applebaum, Maea Banks, Sarah Beth McLellan, and Treeby Brown

**NCHAM:** Karl White, Mandy Jay, and Alyson Ward

**AAP:** Christina Boothby and Müge Chavdar

**H&V:** Janet DesGeorges and Lisa Kovacs

**LEND:** Maureen Johnson

1. **COVID-19 Updates.** Each group provided a brief update regarding activities and impacts of associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and EHDI.

**H&V.** H&V has finished with COVID-19 specific office hours. Regular FL3 office hours and scheduled Zoom classes and other events are available on the master calendar of upcoming events at handsandvoices.org. Janet reported that the biggest concern related to COVID-19 continues to be vulnerability for D/HH patients and the increase in questions about home based services.

The H&V Family Leadership Conference is currently scheduled for September 18-20, 2020, in Nashville. A survey is being sent to typical participants asking questions about COVID-19 and if they would be attending if the conference is held as scheduled. Survey questions include questions about funding, exposure to COVID-19 if funders will allow travel and concerns about having to self-isolate when they return home from the conference. Plans for a virtual conference are also being discussed.

As part of the Better Hearing Screening Month series of webinars, Lisa did a webinar on innovative ways some FBOs have used to provide family to family support. Some families are requesting virtual family support over in-person family support to continue after COVID-19. She observed that the pandemic has put new energy into family support providers.

1. AAP. The main concern of AAP is the lack of children getting well-child visits. AAP continues to refresh COVID-19 related information on the webpage.
2. HRSA: Treeby reported that Telehealth awards are still in process. She also said the HRSA staff will be unable to travel for the remainder of 2020. The COVID webpage as well as the Children with Special Healthcare Resource page continually being updated.
3. AUCD: Maureen said the UCEDD tips sheet listed on the website shares resources to provide guidelines as states reopen. Resources from Office of Special Education are also available. As part of National Safety Month, a town hall is scheduled for June 2nd on sharing strategies for public health.
4. CDC: The CDC continues to look at how to collect and report the 2019 and 2020 data HSFS (Hearing Screening and Follow-up Survey) data that will be impacted by what states are doing to respond to COVID-19. They met with the EHDI data committee last week to share different ways to work with the data. There will be an impact on the data for infants born during the end of 2019 and 2020 that will be seeking follow up services.

In support of Better Speech and Hearing Month, the CDC website Feature, developed in collaboration with NCHAM and H&V, will highlight work being done by EHDI programs during COVID-19. The feature will also include resources and other information being shared by HRSA Partners and ASHA, as well as Sound Beginnings program in Utah and the H&V program in Kentucky. Marcus send link to Karl for distributing through the EHDI distribution list.

1. DSPSHWA: Linda observed that travel to the H&V leadership conference is going to be difficult because the general consensus is that states are not going to be able to authorize travel. This restriction will also apply to grantees.

Marcia reported that DSPSHWA has been working with NCHAM to finalize the new Mentorship Program for EHDI Coordinators. All new coordinators since September 2019 have now been matched with a mentor.

1. NCHAM: Karl reported that the webinars during BHSM have gone very well. Three of the five coffee-break webinars were done by the partners on this call and we appreciate the support. The webinars have received strong evaluations. A new feature has been added for the last 2 coffee-break webinars. Participants can now request a certificate of participation and approximately 85% of participants have requested the certificate. All of the webinars were recorded and will be captioned and posted on infanthearing.org.

NCHAM participated in virtual meeting with NewSTEPS program May 21st. The webinar had so many people registered they had to change platforms at the last minute which resulted in difficulties with live captioning. The webinar will be captioned when posted on the website.

MCHB has awarded funding to expand telehealth services for medical providers and families in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The four recipients of MCHB awards include AMCHP, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP); Family Voices, and the Center of Excellence in Maternal and Child Health Education, Science and Practice at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. At the suggestion of MCHB, several of the grant recipients have contacted NCHAM for information regarding telehealth for newborn screening. NCHAM met with AMCHP to discuss ideas to use telehealth more extensively and the kinds of resources that could be used.

NCHAM is working with Lylis Olson and Stacy Calendar to a stakeholder discussion guide which should be ready later this week.

Marcia and people from EHDI chats have been discussing what audiologists are doing to keep families safe and have received good responses of things that different states and clinics are doing, and Alyson is compiling a document summarizing know what providers are doing as well as questions families can ask providers prior to their appointment about precautions they are taking to keep patients and families safe.

Many 3rd and 4th year university audiology students are not getting the required number of clinical hours and may be looking for work to do because of the basic nature of audiology clinics being so small. Is there anything we can do to encourage states to reach out to those programs with additional clinical hours or experience for those students? Marcia responded that there are limitations around what can actually count for clinical time for these students as well as the requirement for state licensure supervision. DSPSHWA may revisit this issue.

**Resources shared:**

<https://handsandvoices.org/fl3/resources/8reasons-ehdi.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/features/deaf-children-covid19-support.html>

**The next EHDI Partners Meeting about COVID-19 is scheduled for Thursday, June 15th at 2 PM MST/4 PM EST.**