October 22, 2020

2 PM MST/4 PM EST

Attendance:

CDC: Eric Cahill, Marcus Gaffney

DSHPSHWA: Linda Hazard, Marcia Fort

HRSA: Maea Banks, Michelle Koplitz, Sandra Battiste, Sarah Beth McLellan

NCHAM: Karl White, Mandy Jay

AAP: Jamie Jones, Hope Barrett

H&V: Janet DesGeorges, Lisa Kovacs

LEND: Maureen Johnson

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

**H&V.** **Hands & Voices** is working with their chapters to eliminate problems caused by the pandemic wherever they can and to mitigate the negative effects when elimination is not possible. The overall strategy is to incorporate the impact of COVID with solutions in ongoing work. H&V recently presented a webinar looking at the causes of child abuse and solutions of child neglect and how COVID-19 has affected them.

The FL3 has developed a new parent tip resource for families on the topic of early intervention directed towards parents that can be used by professionals and family-to-family support programs.

A webinar will be held on October 29, 2020 at 11am MST “Eight Reasons to say YES to Early Intervention: Supporting Families During the time of COVID-19 to discuss the infographic and how to incorporate some of the solutions of the 8 reasons.

H&V has been meeting with LEND on upcoming projects they will be collaborating on.

H&V has also been working on developing a communication plan to disseminate COVID news and resources.

As a part of their HRSA grant, H&V has developed an electronic database to track TA requests. Since June there have been 122 TA requests from 48 states and territories. Ten of the 122 requests were specific to COVID.

H&V is partnering with Family Voices to get a national survey out to parents about telehealth services.

 **AAP**. AAP met with an EHDI subcommittee last week to discuss telehealth, particularly some of the challenges specific to those living in rural areas. They are planning to write up rural telehealth successes.

AAP has been meeting monthly with Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) directors to discuss access to care during the pandemic. They have developed a good resource related to flu vaccines and how families can access these resources. Jamie will check to see if AAP has any information about whether children’s COVID rates are on the rise.

**HRSA:** Maea reported that due to COVID a lot of states have experienced a large back log in newborn hearing screening, but they are now making good progress. Some states have had screening issues with a lot of no shows and delays due to cleaning between appointments which has resulted in screening timelines not going to be what we hoped they would be. To resolve these issues some states are trying to be creative by purchasing equipment and bringing new audiologists in to assist with the backlog.

MCHB/DSCSHN's is seeking public input on  [A Blueprint for Change: Guiding Principles for Advancing the System of Services for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) and Families](https://mchb.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/mchb/MaternalChildHealthTopics/rfi-cyshcn-blueprint.pdf). Michelle announced that a draft of the Blueprint was released requesting feedback from stakeholders by November 30th. MCHB has asked that the partners share the link with list serves and constituents.

<https://mchb.hrsa.gov/maternal-child-health-topics/children-and-youth-special-health-needs>

**LEND:** The AUCD Annual Conference, Achieving Equity – Leading the Way in the Next Decade will be held December 7-9, 2020, as a virtual conference.

# The newly formed National Technical Assistance and Training Center on Disability Inclusion and Emergency Preparedness through AUCD's National Center on Disability in Public Health seeks input from local emergency or public health preparedness planners. The Center's goal is to build capacity through and with local disability and/or chronic and mental health organization affiliates to increase disability inclusion at the local emergency planning level. Through training and technical assistance, we want to increase the involvement of disability stakeholders' at local emergency planning activities. <https://www.aucd.org/template/news.cfm?news_id=15056&parent=16&parent_title=Home&url=/template/index.cfm>?

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The Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP) is working with Child Trends to develop a resource for Title V Maternal and Child Health agencies that can help them more effectively work with state education leaders to make informed school reopening decisions that prioritize health for all. AMCHP is looking for this work to be led by those most impacted by what we are now recognizing as a double pandemic of COVID-19 and systemic racism (<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=h2EQi5iSOU-N6zK2EScr6a9TfimpbMxHidZouaq1h6JURURJQUZKM1QxTks2UFBESEczMTJLSjdSQi4u>)

Maureen also shared the link for an interactive infographic to help families navigate the Early Childhood Technical Assistance (ECTA) website for COVID-19 resources and information that help support their children's learning and development. The resource, developed by ECTA and the Center for Early Childhood Data Systems (DaSy), also received extensive contributions from several parent training and resource centers from across the country.<https://ectacenter.org/~pdfs/topics/disaster/ECTA-COVID-19-Family-Resources.pdf>

The OHSU University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities recently created series of 4 animated video modules on Telehealth. They were designed for adults with I/DD and, more specifically, for people who use communication supports. They would also be appropriate for kids (and families), and individuals who experience cognitive or language or literacy challenges. The videos were produced with support from the WITH Foundation, in partnership with Community Vision- Assistive Technology Lab, a community-based disability organization.

<https://www.ohsu.edu/university-center-excellence-development-disability/telehealth-and-you>

**CDC:** The CDC is conducting the annual Hearing Screening and Follow-up Survey (HSFS) for 2019 data. This data should give us the first look at the nationwide impact of COVID for kids born in the last quarter of 2019.

 **DSPSHWA**: DSPSHWA is looking for additional people to be redeployed temporarily due to increased testing that is happening.

**NCHAM**: Karl has been working with people from Harvard Medical School to do a survey to determine the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on newborn hearing screening using HiTrack data. This included an online survey of audiologists and hospital-based screening coordinators. The monthly screening statistics from 5 states were analyzed for the period from January 2019 through August 2020. Karl shared some findings from this project which have been submitted for presentation at the next meeting of the Association for Research in Otolaryngology

In response questions about an increase in the number of home births and the average length of stay of parent after birth, Karl will work with the CDC and AAA to see if this information is available.