July 23, 2020

2 PM MST/4 PM EST3

Attendance:

CDC: Marcus Gaffney, Eric Cahill

DSHPSHWA: Linda Hazard, Marcia Fort

HRSA: Maea Banks, Treeby Brown, Michelle Koplitz, Sandra Battiste

NCHAM: Karl White, Mandy Jay, Alyson Ward

AAP: Jamie Jones

H&V: Candace Lindow-Davies, Janet DesGeorges

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.
   1. **H&V.** Candace shared the creation of virtual reading room. When parents go to a face-to-face appointment with a health care provider, the often spend some time in the waiting room where they can read material, watch videos, or talk with other parents. When they use telehealth to meet with audiologist, or physician, or SLP they don’t usually have these opportunities. H&V has created various online resources so that they can have this experience virtually – tip sheets, profiles of families other families, guides for parents to help make the most of their telehealth experience, etc. H&V is also updating the Lost and Found video.
   2. **AAP.** Jamie Jones is the new representative for AAP. She noted that the suggestions from other states has been very helpful and has been shared with AAPs’s COVID-19 response team.
   3. **HRSA/MCHB.**  The EHDI Federal partners meeting scheduled for Thursday July 30th will include discussions on COVID opportunities for optimism, best and promising practices, managing EHDI programs during this pandemic and sharing EHDI definitions across the programs, etc.
   4. **LEND.** AUCD will present a webinar for post-COVID including resources about telehealth consent forms. Maureen will send the webinar information to Karl to be sent through the EHDI distribution list.
   5. **CDC.** There are 39 recipients for the new CDC NOFO. The CDC did extend the initial deadline by an additional month. The virtual kickoff meeting will be done through a series of webinars.

The advisory committee meeting requirement in the NOFO to hold 2 in-person meetings had a temporary waiver to allow these meetings to take place virtually. However, this waiver has expired and is recommending in-person meetings with the option for remote access for those who cannot attend in person.

* 1. **DSHPSHWA.**  Several EHDI Coordinators have asked about guidance for hearing testing for babies of COVID-19 positive mom’s in the hospital. Marcus asked that these requests be sent to the CDC for routing through the emergency task force on an individual basis.

Linda reminded the federal partners of the importance of getting meeting dates out as soon as possible even if the meetings have been changed to a remote platform. Most organizations need lead time in order to participate.

Many states have carry over money because of COVID and there is confusion how to request carry over to be approved. Marcus responded that questions about carry over of CDC money should be sent to the CDC .

* 1. **NCHAM/NTRC.** The Secretary’s Advisory Committee on blood spot screening includes hearing screening. NCHAM and APHL have been invited to the advisory committee meeting on August 6-7 to present how COVID-19 has affected newborn screening programs in hospitals. Some of the information presented will be similar to the APHL/NCHAM sponsored webinar held in June. If anyone has suggestions for additional information to be included, the information should be sent to Alyson.

NCHAM has added several COVID-19 resources to the website.

NCHAMis collaborating with Harvard Medical School doing a survey of audiologists, ENTs and hospital screening staffs about how COVID-19 has affected the work they do.

NCHAM will be working with AMCHP on two sub awards related to COVID-19. The first project will work with those programs that have self-identified in EHDI-PALS program that they provide tele audiology services to identify how and what they are doing and then use that information to help other programs expand their tele-audiology services . The second project will be developing materials for EHDI coordinators to use to do virtual hospital visits.

1. Other issues or questions:

* When this group first started meeting it was shortly after the pandemic started and we thought discussion would center on post-COVID recovery. How does the recent increase in number of COVID-19 cases and deaths impact state EHDI Coordinators?
* Marcia reported that while there are still many EHDI staff being reassigned to respoind to COVID-19 related issues. Many states have different challenges as some states are in recovery and other states are not that far.
* Emergency planning and responses to hurricanes have also presented a new set of challenges in light of COVID-19. I
* How Early intervention will function in Fall is uncertain as public schools decide what to do with reopening. The emotional state of families is a concern as we look at schools reopening. Families of DHH” children are concerned because these children have additional challenges and needs.
* Some progress is being made with the backlog of referrals as audiology clinics begin to re-open.
* The CDC Lifestyle Survey has not done anything specific related to COVID-19, which would need to go through the Emergency (EOC) Task Force. Marcus will see if a short 3 question COVID related survey could be linked in with a survey already collecting data.
* AAP is planning to do a short COVID-19 survey. Jamie will ask the COVID response team if they could add a couple of COVID related questions to their survey.

**Resources shared during the meeting:**

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

AHRQ’s Easy-to-Understand Telehealth Consent Form

<https://bit.ly/2yRKFg5>

AUCD Webinar: Supporting Families in the Post-COVID World: Using Technology to Maximize Reach and Remain Connected

<https://www.aucd.org/template/event.cfm?event_id=8669&amp;id=379&amp;parent=379>

Training Teachers of the Deafblind and Deafblind Interveners: <https://www.aucd.org/docs/webinars/PresentationSlides_%20DBAW_6242020.pdf>

Another offering from FL3 is a follow-up "Special FL3 Office Hours" for EHDI family leaders on August 6th around COVID-related issues in family support efforts.

**The next EHDI Partners Meeting about COVID-19 is scheduled for Thursday, August 27th at 2 PM MST/4 PM EST.**