September 24, 2020

2 PM MST/4 PM EST

Attendance:

CDC: Eric Cahill, Alaina Flores

DSHPSHWA: Linda Hazard, Marcia Fort

HRSA: Treeby Brown, Sandra Battiste

NCHAM: Karl White, Mandy Jay

AAP: Jamie Jones

H&V: Janet DesGeorges

LEND: Maureen Johnson

1. COVID-19 Updates. Each group provided a brief update regarding activities and observations associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and EHDI.
   1. **H&V.** Janet reported about 200 participants attended the H&V Virtual conference and they did not lose any participants from the beginning to the end of the conference. She shared a couple tips that helped create a sense of community and encouragement even though they were using a virtual platform.

* Presenters spoke into camera rather than just having power point slides and audio
* Presentations were interspersed with several videos including funny, inspirational, and optimistic.
* H&V choose zoom meeting over zoom webinar because the speaker can see who is in the audience which promotes a feeling of being together.

H&V is working on a document that gives guidance about how to make effective referrals between organizations. With so many resources and information being sent out, H&V sees a need for one document for EHDI coordinators that has particular relevance for EHDI.

* 1. **AAP.** The AAP Virtual National Conference and Exhibition will be October 2-5, 2020. The conference schedule, including plenary speakers was released this week and is available on the website. Dr. Anthony Fauci will be opening plenary Saturday, talking about COVID-19: Public Health and Scientific Challenges. Professor Ibram Kendi, from Boston University, discussing Anti-Racism in Health Care will be the concluding Plenary.

Following the conference Jamie will share tips and recommendations with this group for hosting a virtual conference that might be useful for planning the EHDI meeting.

AAP recently released a guide for children who are DHH around communication modalities, *Caring for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs During the COVID-19 Pandemic.*

AAP is in the process of developing a clinical report *Hearing Assessment of Infants & Children: Recommendations Beyond Neonatal Screening*. The report is currently being reviewed by EHDI experts within the AAP

AAP is preparing to release several other new resources: 1) a literature table that has pulled together publications and research that is relevant for EHCI; and 2) implementation tip sheet that was partnered between AAP and Bright Futures. NCHAM will help distribute these resources through the EHDI community o, once they are available.

* 1. **HRSA/MCHB.**  HRSA recently funded many of the EHDI grantees with an additional $10,000 to help them work through some of the challenges that state/territory programs are facing due to COVID-19.

On Tuesday, MCHB hosted a kickoff for the Children with Special Healthcare Needs Summit. Treeby also said MCHB is working to provide a blueprint for the field to be released by next summer. They are hopeful that EHDI participants with share the information about the proposed vision, goals and objectives. Treeby will let us know once the Request For Information (RFI) comes out (hopefully out sometime in October).

* 1. **LEND.** AUCD trying to find ways to collaborate or share resources with other partners in EHDI to support LEND audiology grantees. There is a new funding opportunity: Addressing Needs of People with Disabilities in COVID-19 Local Preparedness Planning, Mitigation, and Recovery Efforts from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) that might be attractive to LEND programs that have pediatric audiology focus.

There are over 50 LEND grantees in the US and 12 of those have supplemental funding to support hearing screening and diagnosis of infants and young children, promote early intervention opportunities for infants and young children, and improve clinical skills of pediatric audiologists. The goals of the Pediatric Audiology Supplement are: 1) to strengthen the focus on screening, treatment, and follow-up in infants and young children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing and who have autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and/or other related neurodevelopmental disabilities (DD); 2) to increase the number of pediatric audiologists with clinical and leadership skills and expertise in delivering care to infants and young children with ASD and/or other DD 3) to enhance the systems’ capacity to increase enrollment of infants/children with ASD and/or other DD confirmed to be deaf or hard-of-hearing into early intervention programs

To receive one of the supplemental grants, a program must have already been approved for the basic LEND grant. When the RFP comes out, Maureen will let the partners group know so we can share with other groups.

AUCD recently met with NCHAM to discuss resources that would be good to share between AUCD and NCHAM.

Maureen resources shared with network The Impact of Coronavirus on Households Across America from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

* 1. **CDC.** The CDC has extended some of the deadlines for reports and other submissions related to EHDI programs.

The CDC is continuing work with Georgia Tech Center for Innovation and Technology focusing particularly on the DHH, Blind, and Blind/Deaf communities. They are currently working on developing a moderator’s guide and instruments they can use to solicit information from those audiences about messages that are important.

Beginning in October, Marshalyn Yeargin-Allsopp, MD Medical Officer, will serve as the Acting Branch Chief of the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities at the CDC and will be invited to participate on future HRSA Partner meetings.

* 1. **DSHPSHWA.** Linda expressed appreciation to HRSA for giving extra time to get final reports and performance measures submitted. With several grant deadlines at the same time, EHDI Coordinators are feeling overwhelmed. Staff serving on emergency committees for COVID are not able to help the way they normally do. EHDI Coordinators are struggling with not getting the work done that is so important to the program and families.

Breaking up AMCHP grant deadlines into two cycles was direct result of previous discussions with this group.

* 1. **NCHAM/NTRC.** NCHAM continues to update resources on our website to provide support for providers and leaders and will be posting another infographic next week.

NCHAM has been collaborating with Harvard Medical School doing a survey of audiologists, ENTs and hospital screening staffs about what’s happened in newborn hearing screening progress as result of COVID-19. Most of the surveys have been returned and we are beginning the analysis of the data. Karl asked if there are a few states who could provide information from Jan 2019 with data for comparison. We are hoping survey results will be published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

NCHAM is moving forward with two AMCHP projects: 1) develop materials to assist with virtual hospital site visits; and 2) using the EHDI PALS database to identify people doing tele audiology and then using those people to assist others. Those projects will be finished by March 31st.

The National EHDI meeting is scheduled February 28-March 2, 2021. NCHAM has been meeting with HRSA staff and the EHDI Planning Committee to discuss whether that meeting will be held in person, virtual, a hybrid, or a meeting that focuses primarily on EHDI coordinators.

We are finalizing surveys, similar to the H&V survey, to get feedback on if people would be attending and what issues would make it easier for them to attend. . We are hoping to make a decision by mid-November for that meeting and will keep you all informed as we move forward.

**Resources shared during the meeting:**

<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/caring-for-children-and-youth-with-special-health-care-needs-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

<https://www.magnetmail.net/actions/email_web_version.cfm?ep=8pY2bWEUMkas97fFQdExK-dVlcr1_XgUVtHa7f1JIGA1U54QwqE96pTpOkMjX1FC6tSEWbbgb4jvLNC4BkQUtUks2uTsf6IXYmBAbA_xU-KZMwS2GVp9OTo4ohm9tYvh>

<https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/research/2020/09/the-impact-of-coronavirus-on-households-across-america.html?rid=0034400001rmHxPAAU&et_cid=2219727>

**The next EHDI Partners Meeting about COVID-19 is scheduled for Thursday, October 22nd at 2 PM MST/4 PM EST.**