

**MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
OFFICE OF CHILD & ADOLESCENT HEALTH ● BUREAU OF EARLY INTERVENTION**



**Early Hearing Detection and Intervention in Mississippi (EHDI-MS)  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**December 6, 2019 ● 12:30 – 4:00PM  
MS e-Center @ Jackson State University  
1230 Raymond Road, Jackson, MS 39204**

<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>AFFILIATION</b>	<b>ROLE</b>
Zoom	C.G. Marx (Chair)	<i>Univ. of So. Mississippi</i>	Audiologist/Personnel Prep
	Alyce Stewart	<i>MS State Dept of Health</i>	Title V: Newborn Screening
	Ashley Grillis	<i>UMMC, Audiology Clinic</i>	Audiologist
X	Augusta Bilbro	<i>MS State Dept of Health</i>	Title V: CYSHCN Program
X	Ben Wagenknecht	<i>State Office of the DHH</i>	Adult DHH
	Callie Daniels	<i>MS Hands &amp; Voices</i>	GBYS Deaf Guide
Zoom	Charlotte Warfield	<i>Magnolia Speech School</i>	Early Interventionist
	Christina Perigoe	<i>Univ. of So. Mississippi</i>	Personnel Prep
	Christopher Spankovich	<i>UMMC, Audiology Clinic</i>	Audiologist
	Claude F. Harbarger	<i>UMMC, ENT Clinic</i>	ENT
	Haley Rishel	<i>Univ. of So. Mississippi</i>	Early Interventionist
	Jane Luter	<i>Univ. of So. Mississippi</i>	Personnel Prep
	John McMahon	<i>MS Hands &amp; Voices</i>	GBYS Deaf Guide
	Julie Seawright	<i>MS Hands &amp; Voices</i>	GBYS Parent Guide
X	Kaye Carr	<i>SKI*HI Early Intervention</i>	Early Intervention Provider
	Kim Ward	<i>Univ. of So. Mississippi</i>	Audiologist/Personnel Prep
	Kolesha O' Quinn	<i>State Office of the DHH</i>	DHH Family Member
X	Krista Guynes	<i>MS State Dept of Health</i>	Home Visiting Program
Zoom	Laura Gremillion	<i>MSD: SKI*HI Early Intervention</i>	Early Interventionist
	Leigh Ann Leonard	<i>Forrest General Hospital</i>	Newborn Hearing Screener
	Lori Ates	<i>MS Hands &amp; Voices</i>	GBYS Parent Guide
	Marilyn Johnson	<i>MS State Dept of Health</i>	Title V: MCH Block Grant
	Rebecca Lowe	<i>Univ. of Mississippi, Speech &amp; Hrg</i>	Diagnostic/EI/Personnel Prep
	Sandra Edwards	<i>Mississippi School for the Deaf</i>	Early Intervention Provider
	Susie B Phillips	<i>Amer. Acad. of Ped., MS Chap.</i>	AAP Chapter Champion
X	Valecia Davis	<i>MS State Dept of Health</i>	Part C of IDEA
X	Valerie Linn	<i>Magnolia Speech School</i>	Early Intervention Provider
	Virginia "Austin" Harrison	<i>Amer. Acad. of Ped., MS Chap.</i>	AAP Chapter Champion
	Wendy Rosas-Altieri	<i>MS State Dept of Health</i>	WIC Representative
	Ykeya Springer	<i>MS Hands &amp; Voices</i>	GBYS Parent Guide

**Additional Attendees:**

Stacy Callender, *EHDI-MS Director*  
 Lakeshia Unger, *Hearing Follow-Up Coordinator*  
 Shante Lampkin, *Hearing Data Entry Clerk*  
 Bevin Glass, *Interpreter*  
 Chandra Laird, *Administrative Assistant/Referral Coordinator*  
 Marty Chunn, *Hearing LTF/D Consultant*; Lara Monico, *Hearing O/T Consultant*

## MINUTES

### **Welcome/Introductions**

The meeting was called to order by C. G. Marx, Chair, at 12:51 p.m. All participants were welcomed and introduced themselves.

### **Review and Approve Minutes**

Meeting minutes from the Sept. 6th meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

### **Committee Updates**

The membership and purpose of each committee was shared.

#### ***Professional Education*** – Kim Ward (C), Ashley Grillis, Rebecca Lowe

The purpose of the Professional Education Committee is to provide guidance on the training for the various professionals involved in the EHDI system. No update was provided by the committee.

#### ***Family Engagement*** – Julie Seawright (C), Sandra Edwards, Ben Wagenknecht

The purpose of the Family Engagement Committee is to provide guidance on communications with and support for families as well as engagement strategies for supporting family leadership. Julie Seawright has stepped down as the Chair and Dr. Edwards has retired, so the team will need to be revamped. No update was provided by the committee.

### **Business**

#### ***Elect Chair & Vice Chair for 2019-2020***

- Ben Wagenknecht was nominated and elected Chair Elect
- Kim Ward was nominated and elected Vice-Chair Elect

#### ***Nominations for members***

- Stacy C stated that she received 3 nominations for new membership which were Caitlin Ramage (Parent), Jennifer Wiles (audiologist, JSU), and Courtney Turner (Audiologist, USM).
- Existing members who requested to be reappointed are: Kim Ward, Marilyn Johnson, Valerie Linn, Koleshia O'Quinn, Krista Guynes and Laura Gremillion.

#### ***Billing of Hearing Screenings***

Ms. Callender updated the EHDI-AC on the issue regarding the billing of hearing screenings. Families have been receiving bills for newborn hearing screenings which are included in the newborn birth package for Medicaid and most insurers. This was confirmed with the Division of Medicaid and the MS Department of Insurance. However, the use of outsourcing companies has led to the billing of families directly for these screenings, for which the hospitals have technically already been reimbursed.

After the previous EHDI-AC meeting, Ms. Callender and Dr. Marx drafted a letter to be shared with hospitals outlining their obligations under MS code 41-90 to ensure all newborns are screened for hearing impairment.

The EHDI-AC discussed who should sign the letter and who should receive a copy. It was agreed to send a copy of the letter to all birthing hospitals. Ms. Bilbro suggested also sending the letter to the hospital association, so leaders understood the implications of the decision to outsource screenings. It was recommended the chair, past and present, with the vice-chair sign the letter.

### ***Communication Ad Hoc Committee***

Ms. Callender recommended the EHDI-AC form and ad hoc Communication Committee to create a quarterly newsletter. Ms. Linn and Ms. Carr agreed to form a committee.

### **Program Updates**

#### **Personnel Changes**

- Brandi Jones joined the EHDI-MS team as a Hearing Follow-up Coordinator.
- Jack Liu has left as the Data Manager and is focusing on data systems.

#### **Website Update**

- Ms. Callender demonstrated updates to the EHDI website ([msdh.ms.gov/EHDI](https://msdh.ms.gov/EHDI))

#### **Natus/iCMS Update**

- A new contract has been proposed to go into effect after January 2020 to shift the iCMS system to being hosted by Natus. This would allow non-MSDH personnel to access it directly.

#### **EHDI-MS Conference**

The EHDI-MS conference is scheduled for Feb. 4-5, 2020. The two-day conference will have one day of traditional conference keynote and break-out sessions and another day of meetings and targeted trainings. MS Families as Allies will lead a family leadership training on Feb 5<sup>th</sup>. The two themes being considered are: *It Takes a Team* and *Bridging the Gap; Connecting Families, Adults who are DHH and Providers*. Recommended keynote speakers include Rachel St. John (pediatric otolaryngology specialist, JCIH Member), Djenne-Amal Morris (parent, Hands & Voices), and Johnnie Sexton (Director, The Care Project).

#### **Funding and Grant Activities**

Ms. Callender informed the EHDI-AC that EHDI-MS expects to be awarded a four-year grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to fund the program in Mississippi. Under this new grant, the EHDI-MS will work with the EHDI-AC to develop a number of action plans to implement improvement related to:

- **Expanded screening:** The EHDI-MS has two years to develop a plan to capture screening results for children screened from birth up to three years of age. These screenings should improve the identification of children with late onset hearing loss.

- **Communication & Diversity Plans:** This plan developed in the first year of the grant requires identifying meaningful communication strategies with families and providers and identifying populations/geographic areas/other variables of inequity to develop targeted strategies to engage diverse partners in the EHDI system.
- **Sustainability Plan:** This plan developed in the first year of the grant requires the identification of efforts to sustain the system after Federal funding ends.
- **Early Childhood Engagement Plan:** This plan developed in the first year of the grant requires the identification of efforts to engage early childhood partners in the system. Some of this work has already begun with Kim Ward serving on the early intervention/early childhood special education Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) Strategic Planning Team (SPT), which is working on quality improvement and personnel standards as recommended by the JCIH.
- **Family-to-Family & DHH Adult-to-Family Support:** Under this grant, the EHDI-MS will support a new system for providing Family-to-Family and DHH-Adult-to-Family support to families by six months and nine months respectively. Unlike under the previous grant, these funds may be used directly by the program to hire consultants.

### **Public Comments**

No public comments were shared.

### **Committee Meetings**

The Committees meet separately for 15 minutes to set upcoming meeting dates.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.