



**State of Vermont
Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf/Blind Advisory Council
School Age Subcommittee**

January 10, 2024, 3:00- 5:00 pm

Meeting Summary

Present: Co-chairs Sherry Sousa and Sharon Henry; Tracy Hinck; Jen Bostwick; Amelia Briggs; Laura Siegel; Cassie Santo

Absent: Rebecca LaLanne

Guest: Heather Doxsee-Willis (AOE), Linda Hazard (UVMDC DHH ESP), Pam Hoover (UVM CARES), Patti Hodgdon-Dickman (UVMCARES), Michelle John (VT Coalition for NASDSE Guidelines and VT Hands & Voices)

AGENDA

Planning for Parent Educational Meeting

In collaboration with VT Coalition for NASDSE Guidelines and VT Hands and Voices, Tues Mar 26, 2024, 9 am – 1 pm at WSOC (Oak room) will be an educational session for parents (primarily) and providers so that they can learn more about the NASDSE Guidelines, the VT Quality Indicator TOOL and CHECKLIST.

Agenda:

- 9-10 meet & greet/light snacks
- 10-12 School Age Subcommittee will run the Mock IEP and link it to the VT Quality Indicator CHECKLIST;
- 12-1 lunch (on your own and socializing)

Action list:

- Michelle will create and email out the Save the Date and the link to the Registration page to all parents and providers (TODs, SLPs, Audiologist, SpEd Directors, etc)
- Deaf Mentor – with an interest in having someone who is a certified Deaf Mentor as well as experienced in attending IEPs, the subcommittee members suggested Darcie Matthews or Lynn Paquette; Linda will contact each to determine their availability interest. If neither is available, a third option (suggested by Rebecca) is John Pirone. Linda will report back to the subcommittee.
- Tracy will work on securing AV equipment so that the Mock IEP can be recorded for future teaching/training sessions.



- Tracy will give a brief tutorial on the morning of 3/26 to demonstrate the proper use of the amplification system in order to reduce the number of notations of 'indiscernible' in the transcript.
- Changes to the script of the Mock IEP were suggested; in addition,
 - Michelle agreed to assume the role of the kindergarten teacher
 - Sharon/Sherry will discuss who will take the LEA vs facilitator role
 - Amanda will model more parent advocacy during the Mock IEP
- Sharon will schedule a meeting in early or late February/early March to convene the committee practice the new script, etc.

Review of Professionals' Roles in DHH service provision

Cassie has created a draft of a document on which she is/will be requesting the committee's feedback. The purpose of the document is to provide guidelines that support teams with identifying what roles the many providers play in the life of the student who is D/HH (regardless of type of plan), and how to appropriately identify those qualified providers based on student need.

Members provided feedback on a number of the professionals' roles listed in the document, but time did not allow for the discussion of all the roles.

Action list:

- Sharon will update Table and send to Cassie so she can continue to add to the Table;
- the discussion will be continued at the next meeting.

Data Standardization

THE DHHDB Advisory Council has a [legislative mandate](#) to assess "assess the services, resources, and opportunities available to children in the State who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind."

As a starting point, data collection efforts are related to determining who we are serving, what their needs are and their performance so that we can work toward improving educational services for Vermont students who are Deaf/HH/DB. This is a **high priority** for our subcommittee for a number of reasons. Since 2019 when Nine East (a previous AOE grant recipient) closed and stopped serving the DHH population, the data on school age children that had been regularly reported by the AOE grant recipient to the DHHDB Council has been lacking (or absent). The annual OSEP report that VT AOE submits reported in 2021 that 61 school age children (on IEPs) who have a hearing impairment yet this past year, the UVM CARES team reported 321 students receiving services and UVMMC ESP reported 78 – so a huge data discrepancy.

The initial, proposed data set includes domains related to:

- Demographics (age, race, ethnicity)
- Diagnosis (type/severity of loss)
- Communication Mode used
- Technology used



- Student Services provided
- Educational Assessment (academic, language/literacy)

The goal is to collaborate with the AOE to determine a data set that the AOE grant recipient for '24-25 would be required to report. From there, the goal is to work with other vendors across the state to engender cooperation given the reporting can't be mandated.

Action list:

- Sharon to send Heather the excel spread sheet draft with data fields
- In the next 2-3 weeks, Heather will meet with her IT team to determine which of these fields are already collected and report back;
- Sharon will schedule another subcommittee meeting to discuss:
 - Which assessments might be recommended that are age, language and domain appropriate
 - Discuss specific questions that need answering by using these as an adequate data set

When this subcommittee was formed in February 2022, UVM CARES was invited to send a representative but declined to do so (referencing "conflict of interest"), even when the invitation was extended multiple times. However, today Pam Hoover and Patti Hodgdon-Dickman asked to join the DHHDB School Age Subcommittee, which is wonderful. Pam indicated that "UVM has worked out everything so you can go ahead and send emails, I think that's where there was a little bit of a hangup, but we're good to go now."

Note: these summaries along with the closed captioning meeting transcript are posted to: [Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind Council | Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living \(vermont.gov\)](https://dail.vermont.gov/resources/boards/deaf-hard-hearing-deafblind-council). (https://dail.vermont.gov/resources/boards/deaf-hard-hearing-deafblind-council)