

## Newborn Hearing Screening Committee: Workgroup

September 13, 2005

### Minutes

The meeting was held in the conference room at the Virginia Department for Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Richmond from 9:30-3:00.

#### **Participants:**

Carol Wiegler, Pat Dewey, Ellen Austin, Karen Durst (substituting for Beth Tolley), Freida Helbert, Jennifer Hutson, Susan Shaw, Debbie Pfeiffer, Ruth Frierson.

#### **Celebrations:**

- Dept. of Health was **funded for the full amount requested**. Plans to meet with the Partnership to write a MOA. \$1500 was included for funding for this Workgroups project(s) and this will be rolled over into the Partnership's grant. SKI\*HI training will continue, \$\$ for EI to take 5 online classes (\$400 @). Debbie and Ellen are to keep group updated on online classes/courses and trainings.
- Pat included monies to increase staff in the area of follow-up. Ruth is interested in expanding her duties to include different areas of need.

#### **Announcements:**

- NECCI training scheduled for Nov 4-5 has been cancelled.
- Two day workshop with Kathryn Wilson (AVT) at Children's Hospital, Norfolk, Nov. 3 & 4. Topic: Meeting the needs of students who are D/HH in the Mainstream. Registration information: [www.agbell.org](http://www.agbell.org)
- **Send all upcoming workshops/trainings to Karen Durst, [Karen.Durst@co.dmhmrzas.virginia.gov](mailto:Karen.Durst@co.dmhmrzas.virginia.gov).** She will distribute to all Part C programs and providers.

**Where are we going?** Carol and Pat reported that the replication grant, BEGINNINGS, and meeting with Joni Alberg, Director (NC program) has been delayed due to Joni's health. It appears that a limited amount of money and resources will actually be available to Virginia. Pat will email Joni to get some clarification and check on her availability.

- **Library Resources:** Pat was able to allocate "left over" funds from the previous grant and "kits" were being prepared to address the needs of Part C providers with information for parents of newly diagnosed children with hearing loss. A sample of the materials was available for inspection. The materials will be housed at the

- VDDHH library and be sent to programs postage paid both ways. Ellen suggested including ordering information in each kit so that programs could purchase materials they liked. **Debbie** will ask Deana for a list of the materials **and** will contact SKI\*HI inquiring about “train the trainer” possibilities for VA.
- **Review of Mary Koch’s “Choices in Deafness: Revisited”**, a CDC teleconference on August 23. Beth made copies of the PowerPoint. Main idea: best practice now is parents of newly diagnosed children with hearing loss **DO NOT** have to make decisions so early in child’s life. Wait, watch, learn and then find the best method to use with your baby. Discussion followed. **Carol** will get information on if and when this will be offered again.
  - **Assessment of Local Systems Capacity to Provide Entitled Services to Infants and Toddlers.....** document was shared. Part C will distribute and use document to assess training needs and areas. The survey was adapted by the Part C staff from Debbie’s form that was used during the PREP preparations.
  - **“Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis & Treatment (EPSDT) Hearing Aid Procedural Guidance”** – from Medicaid, clarifies reimbursement for hearing aid (HA), eligibility, etc. Pat reported that Tricare (military insurance) will also be covering HA. Document provided by Beth. Karen and Beth will make Part C providers aware of this.

## What’s Next!!

### Develop a “First Responder” Program.

- All agreed that there needs to be a **geographically-based program**, one person available to meet with families as soon after a child is diagnosed as possible.
- Brainstormed: Identified areas of the state based on data from the VDH as follows: **Proposed Regions:** (based on 100 babies @ year)
  - Northern VA: east (DC) – 15 families    west (Loudoun, et.al) 15
  - Tidewater: east (VA Beach) 15    west 15
  - Richmond: 20
  - Shenandoah Valley: 15
  - Southwest: 5 (Danville/Blacksburg)
- Need for 6 or 7 staff
- Where to get the personal: Part C, Care Connection, Public Schools, Health Dept.?
- use of SKI\*HI curriculum, plus other.

### Qualifications for personal

open-minded, desire to learn and commitment, face to face travel, intense training, unbiased, background in Deaf Ed, Early Childhood, SLP or experience working with children with hearing loss.

### **Plan for the Next 3 Months**

- **Pat:** write job description (duties and qualifications) and suggested letter that could go to the agencies identified (see above) that might be able to provide personal. She will email this to workgroup for feedback.
- **Debbie:** meet with Deana and look at budget for MOA and “first responder issues”, send VNOC application to Carol for adapting to this project.
- **Carol:** look at application.

### **Timeline:**

Pat drafts letter -----emails to group-----groups sends-----Pat disseminates-----  
by 9/30 feedback to Pat letter by Oct. 28  
by Oct 21 meeting

-----send out to stakeholders and -----begin looking at training  
get reply by Nov. 30 with names and contact info. needs.

**October 21: 9:00-10:00 Workgroup meets before Newborn Hearing Screening Committee:** Focus on issues: First Responder: Assignments, etc.

### **Future Focus:**

- Training needs: who, what, where, when
- Personal: applications
- Programs willing to allocate time for “first responder”
- Help from BEGINNINGS???

**Goal: Have a First Responder Program in Place mid 2006!!**

### **Meetings:**

**Oct. 21 - 9:00-10:00** (prior to NHSC)

**Dec. 8 - 9:30-3:00** (location to be announced)

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