

# EHDI Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

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<b>Meeting Date:</b>	April 21, 2016
<b>Meeting Time:</b>	9:00 am to noon
<b>Meeting Location:</b>	Providence Child Center Foundation
<b>Meeting Purpose:</b>	The purpose of this meeting is for planning coordination and collaboration.
<b>Regular Attendees:</b>	EHDI Advisory Committee and EHDI Staff
<b>Attendees:</b>	<p><b>(Members)</b> Eleni Boston (by phone), Heather Durham, Kelly Farrell-Oliverson, Nancy Ford, Pam Fortier, Patrick Graham (by phone), Anne Heassler, Brenda Irvine, Sharla Jones, Victoria Keetay (by phone), Sheevaun Khaki, Denise Kossover-Wechter, Chad Ludwig</p> <p><b>(OHA Staff)</b> Shelby Atwill, Claudia Bingham, Stefanie Krupp, Heather Morrow-Almeida, Vivian Siu</p> <p><b>(Guests)</b>  Rosemary DiSiervi (Deaf People-United- State Coordinator for Oregon), Olivia Ettinger (AuD student), Iliia Fong (Providence Audiology), Regan Gray (Parent &amp; Lobbyist), Nikki Hinsley (OSHA D/HH Rep), Kristy Karste (Columbia Regional Program), Diana Kincaid (Columbia Regional Program), Molly Krygowski (OHSU extern), Helen Cotton-Leiser (Guide By Your Side/Hands and Voices), Lisa McConachie (Columbia Regional Program), George Okulitch (Parent &amp; Lobbyist), Betty Shuler (Guide By Your Side/Hands and Voices), Brittany Wilson (OHSU extern), Laura Varier (Providence Audiology), Bret Wonderlick (Northwest Regional Program)</p>

<b>Agenda Item, objective and background information</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>1) Welcome, Introductions, Review of Minutes, Nominations – Pam Fortier</b>	<b>9:00-9:20</b>
<p><b>Discussion &amp; action steps:</b></p> <p>Committee Chair Pam Fortier called the meeting to order. Attendees introduced themselves.</p> <p>The committee reviewed the January 21, 2016 minutes. No changes were made.</p> <p>Heather Morrow-Almeida described the role of the Chair and Vice Chair, announced nominations received by email, and called for nominations both verbally and in writing. Nomination forms were passed.</p>	

# EHDI Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

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Healthy People

<p><b>2) EHDI Legislative Opportunities for 2017 – Regan Gray &amp; George Okulitch</b></p> <p><b>Discussion &amp; action steps:</b></p> <p>Regan and George introduced themselves and shared seven legislative ideas that have emerged through stakeholder input for the committee’s feedback (“Legislative Concepts”, attached). It is the very beginning of the process of developing concepts, and they ultimately hope to have broad engagement from the public and stakeholders. They will share updates with the EHDI Program and Advisory Committee and invite everyone to share with your networks.</p> <p>Members provided comments, clarification and feedback, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the ODE Audiology \$ to regional programs was discretionary special education funds (not from EI/ECSE)</li> <li>• request for all audiologists to be included in the loan forgiveness program, not just pediatric</li> <li>• It isn’t only billing that is the issue, but also reimbursement. When patients get stuck with the bill, they are less likely to continue follow-up. Need mandate to spell out what the insurance companies have to cover in specific scenarios (covers one hearing test per year or if there is a risk factor, covers two hearing tests per year). Need to show to insurance companies where they can save money in the long term with data supporting it. Oregon Health Plan is the only consistent payer (pennies, but pay). Insurance plans won’t cover what is considered an educational need.</li> <li>• Can the larger Regional programs help smaller programs with fitting and billing? Regional programs can’t diagnose hearing loss (initial eligibility, esp. with early diagnosis in infants). Then need to go to diagnostic centers, which can be complicated. The complications of getting into the EI program creates a barrier.</li> <li>• How could we do more to educate the Early Learning Council and encourage their focus on children with disabilities?</li> <li>• Maintaining funding for regional audiology services and improving communication to clients is most important.</li> <li>• Northwest Regional no longer offers loaner hearing aids – have no funds for new hearing aids. Have donated old loaners to Heart.</li> </ul> <p>Regan and George requested members to continue to email or bring up ideas. The more people with insight, the better. Legislature is more receptive with more organizations and people involved with legislative requests.</p> <p>Will request update at October Advisory Committee meeting.</p>	
<p><b>3) Early Intervention Criteria Update – Sharla Jones</b></p>	<p><b>10:05-10:15 (delayed to 10:45-10:52)</b></p>
<p><b>Discussion &amp; action steps:</b></p> <p>Met at OED with Nancy Johnson-Dorn, Lisa Darnold, and Linda Brown (in role similar to Ginna Oliver). Provided them with the consensus criteria and recommendations of subcommittee of audiologists.</p>	

# EHDI Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

*Healthy Places,  
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<p>ODE will need to estimate the increased case work load for programs if new criteria implemented. EHDI has provided estimates, but Regional programs have also been requested to provide numbers.</p> <p>OSD – Family weekend event (focused on literacy at home) this coming weekend. Will have a Spanish interpreter and ASL interpreter.</p> <p>Action: Forward new draft of eligibility criteria to group</p>	
<p><b>4) Break, Stretch, Vote, Gallery Walk and Networking</b></p>	<p><b>10:15-10:30 (10:30-10:45)</b></p>
<p><b>5) EHDI Data Update – Vivian Siu</b></p>	<p><b>10:30-10:55 (10:53-11:08)</b></p>
<p><b>Discussion &amp; action steps:</b></p> <p>Vivian Siu gave the quarterly data update, attached.</p>	
<p><b>6) OAD Update, Community Assessment – Chad Ludwig</b></p>	<p><b>10:55-11:05 (11:08-11:15)</b></p>
<p><b>Discussion &amp; action steps:</b></p> <p>Community Needs Assessment</p> <p>Bill effort resulted in \$200,000 to do community needs assessment. Western Oregon University will conduct the assessment, focusing on 2 models: community-based participatory research, and community advisory board. Currently generating survey questions to send to IRB to be approved (about 45 day process). Meetings will be held in June-July all over the state (urban and rural), including town halls, focus groups and key informational interviews across the state. The focus age range is “womb to tomb”. All individuals with hearing loss or associated with those with hearing loss (connecting impairments to services) are invited to participate. Must write legislative report due in December.</p> <p>Q: Why was the original bill declined? Felt they needed more information, evidence/data/research specific to Oregon. Need to demonstrate the State is failing and money is needed. Initial proposal was very inclusive for all hearing impairments.</p> <p>If people are interested in participating, they should reach out to Chad directly.</p>	
<p><b>7) NW Regional Program Overview – Bret Wonderlick</b></p>	<p><b>11:05-11:30 (11:15-11:42)</b></p>
<p><b>Discussion &amp; action steps:</b></p> <p>Bret provided an overview of the process of referring and being evaluated for early intervention services, as well as the specific services offered by NW Regional.</p> <p>Q: Can parents seek reimbursement from insurance if private pay to NWR ESD. Depends.</p> <p>Q: Other funding sources: Stoneridge Kids: private fund; Gary Anderson Fund (private) – Tillamook area only</p> <p>Healthshare has accepted NWR ESD as DME hearing aids provider in Washington County – contract forwarded to administration/superintendent for review. Will</p>	

# EHDI Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

*Healthy Places,  
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<p>increase dispensing. Hoping to be up and running for the Fall. Other CCOs have proven more challenging to move forward with contracts.</p> <p>Once students are school-age, they can bring an IEP with hearing impaired eligibility (code 20). Kids with hearing aids with a 504 plan can't access services, they are referred to private provider. However, 504 can be written into contract to obtain services.</p> <p>Bret may request a letter of support and justification from the EHDI Advisory Committee as he works to contract as a DME provider with other CCOs.</p> <p>Member comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Molds are the biggest cost for private pay parents because ears growing (replacing every 3-4 months)</li> <li>• Otocon has a hearing aid loaner program that provides aids for technically only 3 months. Age restriction but may be flexible (call them directly).</li> <li>• Question about which regionals offer loaners: Columbia Regional and Willamette ESD (often able to get newborns their own aids immediately)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>8) Hands &amp; Voices Chapter/GBYS Update – Helen Cotton-Leiser, Betty Shuler</b></p>	<p><b>11:30-11:50 (11:42-11:58)</b></p>
<p><b>Discussion &amp; action steps:</b></p> <p>Hands and Voices is a non-profit, parent driven, parent run organization and international organization. Guides are all parents. In OR, guides are assigned regionally but other factors are considered.</p> <p>H&amp;V has a program, Guide By Your Side, which provides mentoring and support for children from birth to 3yo. GBYS assigns families (paid) guides that offer parent support, 1-1 as well as family activities, and help navigating systems, getting appropriate and timely interventions. Able to provide ASL interpreters.</p> <p>Action: Contact Betty/Helen if interested in joining the board of Hands and Voices</p> <p>Need to fill position in Salem, trying to fund a position on the other side of the mountains. (Eleni will put the word out to who she knows in the Salem area).</p>	
<p><b>9) Announce New Chair and Vice-Chair – Pam Fortier</b></p>	<p><b>11:50-11:55 (11:45-11:48)</b></p>
<p><b>Discussion &amp; action steps:</b></p> <p>New Chair is Eleni Boston Vice Chair is Heather Durham</p>	
<p><b>10) Other Business, Next Meeting Details, Close of Meeting – Pam Fortier</b></p>	<p><b>11:55-noon</b></p>
<p><b>Discussion &amp; action steps:</b></p> <p>Nikki Hinsley introduced herself – affiliated with OSHA. Eleni asked if Nikki could make some contacts with deaf and hard of hearing PLT so teachers are aware of continued liaison and aware of OSHA conference.</p>	

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<p>Tentative meeting dates and locations:</p> <p>August 18, 2016 – Columbia Regional Program, 833 NE 74<sup>th</sup> Ave, Portland October 20, 2016 – Providence Child Foundation Center, 833 NE 47<sup>th</sup> Ave, Portland January 19, 2017 – TBD April 20, 2017 – TBD July 20, 2017 - TBD</p>	
<p><b>Items for future meetings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul>	