

## **Description of the State/Territory Stakeholders' Meeting**

At the 2023 Annual EHDI Conference, time is provided to help attendees maximize what they learn at the conference and to use the new knowledge to improve their state's/territory's EHDI system when they return home. One session has been set aside for attendees to discuss priorities and initiatives for their state/territory EHDI systems. Each state's/territory's meeting will be designed and led by the EHDI Coordinator or the EHDI Coordinator's designee. This meeting time should be used to benefit the EHDI program, EHDI system, EHDI direct services, and/or the EHDI process as it pertains to your state's/territory's current needs. This meeting is open to all EHDI system stakeholders; audiologists, advocacy/family-based support organizations, medical providers/professionals, Early Intervention, students, educators, families of children with hearing loss, D/HH individuals, etc.

The overall goal of the EHDI Program is to support the development of state/territory programs and systems of care to ensure that children who are deaf or hard of hearing (DHH) are identified through newborn, infant, and early childhood hearing screening and receive a diagnosis and appropriate early intervention to optimize language, literacy, cognitive, social, and emotional development.

### **Preparing for the State Stakeholders' Meeting**

Prior to the meeting, participants are encouraged to reflect on the status of their state's/territory's EHDI system and what they would like to learn from the sessions. Meeting participants may receive information from their EHDI Coordinator to review prior to the meeting.

- EHDI Coordinators are encouraged to communicate with registered attendees from their state/territory prior to arrival in Cincinnati for preliminary planning and to discuss priorities and initiatives.
- Preliminary information via email or conference calls prior to arrival could include the introduction of attendees to promote networking among participants from the same state/territory (e.g., name, title, role in the EHDI system); topics/sessions of interest at this EHDI meeting; a summary of the goals and objectives for your state's/territory's HRSA and/or CDC grant prior to the conference. You may be asked to assist your state's/territory's EHDI program in achieving those goals and objectives.
- There could also be discussions about future activities related to:
  - Increasing health professionals' engagement within and knowledge of the EHDI system,
  - Improving access to EI services and language acquisition,
  - Improving family engagement through working with family-based organizations, partnership and leadership within the EHDI programs and systems, and
  - Diversity and inclusion plans in the EHDI system
  - Quality Improvement (QI)/Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) plans related to these activities; progress, successes, and barriers in implementing the QI Plan/PDSAs.

### **During the State Stakeholders' Meeting**

**Monday, March 6, 2023** - 8:30am - 9:30am *and* 9:45am -10:45am – The opening Plenary and Stakeholders' Meetings will be repeated; ½ the states/territories will attend the opening Plenary, and ½ will attend their Stakeholders' meeting. Then those who attended the plenary will go to their Stakeholders' meeting, and Stakeholder attendees will go to the plenary. This change will allow greater flexibility in assigning meeting space and interpreting for those who requested it in advance. If you are not attending a Stakeholders' meeting, feel free to choose which plenary to attend.

While EHDI programs are expected to fulfill similar objectives, strategies for how they fulfill those objectives differ due to differences in demographics and how states/territories are organized. EHDI Coordinators have been directed to design the agenda for your state's/territory's meeting in a manner that will advance their EHDI priorities, goals, objectives, and activities.

The Stakeholders' Meeting should include defining EHDI priorities in the state/territory and devising a strategy for the attendees to gain as much information as possible during the meeting. For example, a state/territory group might review the Meeting Program Book and decide how to coordinate attendance at sessions so that representatives can attend sessions that are most relevant to priorities for their state/territory. The meeting should include a discussion on the goals and objectives of the program and the status of current initiatives. All registered Annual EHDI Meeting

attendees are invited to be active participants in the discussions.

Evaluations for the Stakeholders' session will be provided. Please ask each participant to complete an evaluation form and turn them in before leaving the Annual Conference. Feedback about the stakeholders' session is very helpful in planning next year's conference. Thank you and enjoy the 2023 Annual EHDl Conference!