

REALTIME FILE

EHDI  
Planning Committee Meeting  
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>> KARL WHITE: Hi, this is Karl White.

>> MANDY JAY: Hi, Karl.

>> KARL WHITE: Hi Mandy.

>> MANDY JAY: You have Casey and Cathy Harbison.

>> ELIZABETH SCHARDINE: And this is Liz Schardine.

>> KARL WHITE: Okay, now the numbers add up. We've still got a couple of minutes before it's time to start.

Mandy, you'll kind of watch the captioning chat screen to let me know if someone wants to say something that I missed?

>> MANDY JAY: Yes, I can.

(Phone Beeped)

>> KARL WHITE: Hello. Who just joined?

>> LYDIA SERGEANT: Hi. My name is Lydia Sergeant. I'm the Family-based Organization Rep from Missouri.

>> KARL WHITE: Thank you, Lydia. We're glad you could make it. This is Karl White. We're waiting for others to join.

>> CATHERINE HARBISON: Hi Lydia. This is Cathy Harbison.

>> KARL WHITE: Hi, who else just joined?

>> BRIAN SHAKESPEARE: This is Brian Shakespeare.

>> MÜGE CHAVDAR: Hi, this is Müge.

>> KARL WHITE: And then it was Rachel Coleman?

>> RACHEL COLEMAN: Yes.

>> KARL WHITE: Someone else just joined. Who was that?

>> SANDRA BATTISTE: Hi, this is Sandra.

>> KARL WHITE: Another one joined. Who's that?

>> JANET DESGEORGES: Hi, this is Janet.

>> KARL WHITE: Hi Janet.

>> JANET DESGEORGES: Hi!

>> SANDRA BATTISTE: This is Sandra. Sorry about that.

>> VICKI HUNTING: Hi, Vicki Hunting is here.

>> KARL WHITE: Okay, we'll wait just a minute more. Sandra was Sandra Battiste, right?

>> SANDRA BATTISTE: Yes.

>> KARL WHITE: Okay, good.

(Phone Beeped)

>> KARL WHITE: I think you're the only Sandra on the committee. Who else just joined?

>> ERIN SCHUWEILER: Hi, this is Erin from the Kansas School for the Deaf.

>> KARL WHITE: Thanks for coming, Erin.

>> ERIN SCHUWEILER: Mm-hmm.

>> MANDY JAY: Karl, we have Christine Lian and Michelle Koplitz on the chat room with the captioning.

>> KARL WHITE: Okay.

>> KARIN NEIDT: Hello, this is Karin from Washington state.

>> KARL WHITE: Welcome, Karin. Who else just joined?

>> LISA WEISS: Hi, this is Lisa Weiss.

>> KARL WHITE: Hi Lisa.

>> BETHANY APPLEBAUM: And this is Bethany Applebaum from HRSA.

>> KARL WHITE: Great, Bethany. Thanks for coming. Okay. We're one minute after.

(Phone Beeped) Who else just joined?

>> THOMAS HOREJES: Hi, yes, this is Thomas here.

>> KARL WHITE: Hi Thomas. Thanks for coming. (Phone Beeped) And who was that that joined?

>> Hi, this is Marcus.

>> KARL WHITE: From the CC, for everyone else, who is on the line. Okay. So this is Karl White. I suspect we'll have a few more people join. And we'll just incorporate them into the discussion as they come in. But we've got a great group so far. And we are looking forward to your help as we organize the 2020 National EHDI Meeting that will be held in Kansas City, Missouri. This first meeting, we will take most of our time to do

brief introductions so that you all have a better idea of who is on the committee and then to talk a little bit about the history of the meeting and how the committee operates. And we also want to make sure that it's as interactive as possible.

There is a captioning service that captions the meeting. And there are several people signed onto that captioning pod. And if those that are on the captioning need to break into say something, please put a note in the chat room there and Mandy will be watching for that.

So, what I would like to do is to just go through the committee members who are on the line and have each of you do just a sentence or two about who you are and what your involvement is in EHDI. And I took quite a few notes. So to keep us from stumbling over each other, I'll call out names and ask you to introduce yourself in that order. But then if I didn't get your name because people were coming on so fast be sure and step in and tell us at the end.

(Phone Beeped)

So let's start with Brian Shakespeare. So introduce yourself, Brian.

>> BRIAN SHAKESPEARE: Hi, everybody. Excuse me. I'm the Idaho coordinator since 2012. I am the president of DSWWA. That's about it for introductions. If you have any questions, I'll be happy to answer.

>> KARL WHITE: Just for feedback, Brian. You're breaking up just a little bit. But we got 90% of what you said.

>> BRIAN SHAKESPEARE: I apologize. I'll be careful about that.

>> KARL WHITE: That's okay. Okay, Rachel Coleman?

>> RACHEL COLEMAN: I'm in Salt Lake City, Utah. I'm the executive director of the American Society for Deaf Children, and the mother of a deaf 22-year-old, Leah.

>> MÜGE CHAVDAR: This is Müge. I'm the program manager of the AAP EHDI program. This will be my second year on the EHDI planning committee. Yeah.

>> KARL WHITE: Thanks, Müge. Janet?

>> JANET DESGEORGES: Hi, everyone. I'm the executive director for Hands & Voices Headquarters. I'm also the mother of a young, deaf, hard of hearing adult. And I have been to every single one of the EHDI conferences, which may help or hurt this committee. (Chuckling) Thanks.

>> KARL WHITE: Thanks, Janet. Lydia?

>> LYDIA SERGEANT: Hi. I am the mom of a daughter who is hard of hearing plus I am also a family partner for the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and I work with families who have children who are deaf and hard of hearing. (Phone Beeped)

>> KARL WHITE: Thanks, Lydia. Liz?

>> ELIZABETH SCHARDINE: Hi, I'm Liz Schardine. I'm audiologist and coordinator for the Kansas Newborn Hearing Screening Program. I've been coordinator since 2007 and I have also attended every conference since then.

>> KARL WHITE: Great. Cathy Harbison?

>> CATHERINE HARBISON: Hi, I'm the EHDI coordinator for the state of Missouri. I'm based in Jefferson City, Missouri, which is right in the middle of the state.

>> KARL WHITE: Karin?

>> KARIN NEIDT: I am the Washington state EHDI program coordinator and this is my third year on the EHDI planning committee.

>> LISA WEISS: Hi, this is Lisa. I'm in Denver, Colorado. I'm the mother of a 17-year-old who is deaf and uses cued speech. I've been on the family advisory committee for I don't know, six or seven years. I'm with Hands & Voices and Cued Sign. I'm also a special education attorney for 20 years.

>> KARL WHITE: Great. Bethany?

>> BETHANY APPLEBAUM: Hi, everyone. I'm one of the EHDI program project officers in MCHB.

>> KARL WHITE: Okay, Thomas Horjes?

>> THOMAS HOREJES: Hi, I'm the assistant provost for student success at Gallaudet University. This is my third year on the planning committee and I'm looking forward to working with you all.

>> KARL WHITE: Marcus?

>> MARCUS: I'm the team lead for the EHDI program at CDC. I've also gone to most

of the EHDI conferences and appreciate the opportunity to join the call today.

>> KARL WHITE: Thanks for being here. Vicki Hunting?

>> VICKI HUNTING: Hi, this is Vicki Hunting. I work for Hands & Voices Headquarters. I've been associated with the EHDI meeting for ten years and I also am a quality improvement advisor. That's it for me.

>> KARL WHITE: Okay, thanks.

>> VICKI HUNTING: Oh, and I'm the chair of the state stakeholders. I forgot about that. The most important piece. (Chuckling)

>> KARL WHITE: That's right. Okay. Sandra?

>> SANDRA BATTISTE: Good afternoon. I'm one of the project officers for the EHDI program at HRSA and I've been with HRSA for about two and a half years now.

>> KARL WHITE: Great. And Christine Liao?

>> CHRISTINE LIAO: Hi, this is Christine from the Association of University Centers on Disability or AUCD.

>> KARL WHITE: Michelle Koplitz? Michelle is typing on chat. Hi, I'm Michelle and I'm a project officer working with the HRSA EHDI team. I've been with HRSA EHDI program for a little over three years now. Thanks, Michelle.

And then Erin from the Kansas City School for the Deaf?

>> ERIN SCHUWEILER: Hi. I'm from the Kansas School for the Deaf and I'm the coordinator of the statewide birth to three program.

>> KARL WHITE: Okay. And then Mandy?

>> MANDY JAY: Hi, I'm Mandy Jay and I'm a program coordinator with NCHAM and also the mother of two children who are deaf, two children total, who have hearing loss.

>> CASEY JUDD: I'm the contract and event planning for EHDI. I help with all the logistics with AV, CART, expo hall, hotel, things like that.

>> KARL WHITE: There were a couple of beeps. Anyone who hasn't introduced yourself now, let us know who you are.

>> TONY RONCO: I'm out here in California. I have a 19-year-old daughter who is deaf. My professional background is engineering and operations. This is going to be the 10th year. I'm also the chair for the website evaluation committee and I love doing that. And like Vicki, I'm also one of the quality advisers.

>> KARL WHITE: Thanks, Tony. Anyone else?

>> Hi, this is Stephanie Henry with CDC EHDI team. Thanks for inviting us. I try to attend each conference that funding allows and management approves.

>> KARL WHITE: (Chuckling) Okay. We hope the management keeps making good decisions. (Chuckling) Anybody else on the line? Okay. So as I said at the beginning, my name is Karl White. I'm the Director for the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management, which is the national technical resource center funded by MCHB for the newborn hearing screening and intervention programs. And we are responsible as a part of that cooperative agreement for organizing the meeting. The whole organizers of the meeting are the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, and Hands & Voices. And as you all just heard, we have really a wonderful committee representing many different stakeholders in the EHDI program. So the EHDI National Meeting each year has about 1,000 participants attend. And those participants represent many, many different areas from parents to early intervention providers to audiologists to EHDI coordinators and their staff, federal officials, physicians other healthcare providers. So, it is a very diverse meeting and one of the challenges of the meeting is making sure that we have the information and the activities that are appropriate for those many different stakeholders. Having said that, the national EHDI meeting serves the primary role of being a grantee meeting for all of those states and jurisdictions that have money from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. All 59 states and jurisdictions are currently receiving grants from HRSA or the Maternal Child Health Bureau. HRSA is the Health Resources Services Administration, of which MCHB is a part.

And most of those states and jurisdictions also have money from the Centers for Disease Control. And so this meet provides an opportunity for those grantees to get together to receive instruction and guidance from the funding agency. But it also has grown to include a lot of other people who have an interest in the success of EHDI programs. And we count on you all as members of the planning committee to give us ideas as to how we can continue to improve the meeting. We find that many of the things we've done in the past have worked very well, and so we continue doing those things. But, we always want to be open to additional ideas. Many of you attend other conferences or are in other settings where there are issues that are relevant to the EHDI meeting.

And if you have seen things or have ideas about how to improve things, the planning committee is the area where we can bring those things up and talk about them and explore other possibilities. It seems like every year we try a couple of new things and

some of those things work out wonderfully and some of them don't. But we aren't afraid to experiment a little bit as long as we don't disrupt the overall meeting.

Mandy Jay, on the NCHAM staff, serves as the convener of this meeting, ask you all will be hearing from her on a regular basis. And if you have ideas that you would like discussed as a part of this meeting, either let Mandy know or me know or better yet, send both of us an e-mail saying here is an idea that we would like to bring up at a future meeting of the planning committee.

So the time for having new and different ideas is during the next couple of months. Because once we get into late fall or early winter then the meeting is pretty well set in stone and it's a matter of implementing the plan that we've come up with. As I indicated, we anticipate that much of the meet will be similar to what has happened in the past. But we certainly don't want to preclude suggestions and discussions of new ideas and things that would make the meeting even better.

The evaluations from the 2019 meeting should be posted by the end of this week. We ran into a little bit of logistical difficulty with getting some of the final evaluations in. But I have preliminary numbers, even though you haven't seen them yet. But we will e-mail those to you and they will be posted. I suspect all of you are familiar with the website. So [EHDmeeting.org](http://EHDmeeting.org). And it's constructed right now very similar to how it's looked in the past. But again, at any point we invite your input to how we can arrange that website to be more effective for people who are thinking about the meeting and attending the meeting. If you are not aware of it, as you go onto that site, what you will see now is information for the 2020 meeting. However, there is a drop-down menu where you can click to see past meetings. And if you click on last year's meeting, you will be able to see video recordings of the plenary sessions, PowerPoints, and transcripts for most of the breakout sessions. So anyone who was willing to post their PowerPoint is posted there. And I think we have them for 90% or more. There are a few people who present at the meeting who prefer not to have their PowerPoints posted. But most of them are there, as well as the poster presentations, and that's where we'll have the summaries of the evaluations posted.

And so as you're thinking about how to organize this upcoming meeting, you may want to go to some of the past meetings and see what's been there before. Just in general, and I'll be sending this out to you via an e-mail, but the ratings for the meeting in 2019 were very high, as they usually are, on a five-point scale, with one being low and five being high, most of the ratings were between 4.4 and 4.8. So the plenary speakers were very well received this past year. For example, the first one was a 4.4. The information on unilateral hearing loss was 4.6. The ratings of the state stakeholders meeting that we'll be talking about a little bit later in this session were 4.4. And there are lots of other ratings.

I won't go through all those numbers. You will have them and you will look at them. But the meeting has been well received in the past.

What I would like to do now is just take a few minutes. It won't be comprehensive. But those of you who have attended the meeting in the past, which is almost everybody on this committee, and especially some of those who have attended for a long time, could we just take a few minutes and have some of you speak up and tell us what you like most about the meeting?

Or if there are areas where you think that we need to improve, what are some of those areas we should be looking at for potential improvement? And this is one of those things where I can't catch any of your eyes since we're on the phone to say "Now is the time to speak up," so I hope people won't be bashful, and you'll speak up and tell us some of what you've liked about past meetings, or some of the areas where we might be able to improve.

And just as a matter of teleconference etiquette, whenever you say something, if you could say your name prior to your comment.

Go ahead.

>> I will start. I can just tell you that Kansas City has a huge deaf community. Huge. And they're very interactive. I presented this year about deaf culture, and it was very well accepted. I know sometimes we get a lot of bashing for not working with the Deaf community very well, and I would like to see that strengthened a little bit, in different ways to include them more, so they don't feel like they're left out. Just a suggestion.

>> KARL WHITE: Great. I think it's an excellent suggestion. And as we continue the process for the meeting, I suspect we'll find a lot of different ways that we can do that. Let's keep it in mind. Other comments?

>> MÜGE CHAVDAR: This is Müge from AAP. Last year was my first time attending the EHDI meeting. And I really liked that there were so many different types of sessions and there were so many different opportunities to learn about something that you might not even, that might not even cross your attention or to gain more knowledge about a certain topic. So I thought that the diversity of topics was something that I very much appreciated. (Coughing) Excuse me.

>> KARL WHITE: Thanks, Müge. Other comments?

>> HANNA SAWHER: This is my fifth EHDI meeting, and I just think that the state stakeholder meeting is always very important, especially for my state, Wisconsin. We get so much done and a lot of new collaboration comes from it every single time I've attended. So new research projects and new relationships and even more ways to connect families together. So I really, really look forward to that part every year. And I

think it's a really important reason why I go.

>> KARL WHITE: Great. Other comments?

>> ERIN SCHUWEILER: I guess what I think I take the most is I always have at least two or three or sometimes lots more ideas that I can apply right away to my practice. So I really like the presentations are really focused around how you can take this back and use it.

>> KARL WHITE: Great.

>> JANET DESGEORGES: I think for me, I think about this is a grantee meeting and it's so reflective of the EHDI system itself, which is a huge diversity of stakeholders within the EHDI system. So I like that the ability for participants to attend and have that interaction with all different kind of stakeholders that are part of the system.

>> KARL WHITE: Thanks, Janet. One more comment.

>> THOMAS HOREJES: Hi, Thomas here. Okay, in the past several years, especially starting after the EHDI conference in California, which I believe was four years ago, we started seeing more deaf professional attending and presenting at our EHDI conferences. I thought it was nice to see a growth in perspectives from the Deaf community who are starting to become engaged as professionals in the EHDI field. It's always a pleasure to see a myriad of perspectives involved with EHDI. By the way, I have had more or less attended EHDI conferences since 2012, and I also enjoyed seeing more and more students attending EHDI conferences, as well.

>> KARL WHITE: Thanks, Thomas. Okay, this is Karl again. And you'll all have your own takeaways from the comments people have just made. But some of the takeaways that stick in my mind that I would like to emphasize are one, the diversity have attendees at the meeting. And keeping all of those different groups in mind I think is very important.

As we talked about some of the groups that attend the meeting, the importance of listening to people who are deaf or hard of hearing themselves as a part of this meeting. There are four people on the committee who are deaf or hard of hearing and they represent different segments of that community, which I think is also important to remember that there are people who have unilateral hearing loss, and bilateral profound hearing loss, people in the Deaf community who emphasize and use as their primary mode of communication American Sign Language, others that use listening and spoken language or cued speech or signing exact English. And all of those groups are important to us as we try and structure a program and a set of activities that will help people contribute to improving EHDI programs.

We also have six state EHDI coordinators on the planning committee. And so as Janet mentioned, the meeting started out as a grantee meeting. It's expanded so it's included a lot of other people, but it's still at its heart a grantee meeting. And everything we do at the EHDI meeting should be linked in, in some way, to how can we help those state-based early hearing detection and intervention programs do their jobs better. And, you know, there are always new things that they're being asked to do. But at the same time, there are lots of old things that only continue to work well because we continue to emphasize them.

So I know last year I heard a lot of discussion from people about the fact that the hearing screening, most of which is hospital based is successful, but it's not going to be automatically successful if we don't continue to pay attention to it and making sure that those screening programs are getting the support and assistance they need to remain at the top of their game.

So we also, Thomas Horeges talked about the expanding student population and the expanding participation of people who are deaf and hard of hearing in the meeting. Another group that has expanded substantially in the past few years are parents of children who are deaf and hard of hearing. And again, we have a wide variety of those people on the planning committee and at the meeting. For the last two years family members has been one of the, if not the, largest category of people attending the meeting. And we have five parents, no, six parents of children who are deaf and hard of hearing on this committee. So your perspective is very important to us.

And in some ways it's the families of children, not only those who are deaf and hard of hearing, but those who are being screened in hospitals. So the data that CDC reports under the leadership of Marcus Gafney and Stephanie Henry, who are on this call, say that we're up around 98% of children who are born in the U.S. receive newborn hearing screening. And in some ways, that is our constituency, those 4 million babies a year who receive newborn hearing screening.

Now the fact that most of them pass that screening doesn't mean that making sure that our programs are responsive to and focus on the needs of those families isn't a very important aspect for us to continue looking at. So this is a great group. And it's a very heterogenous group and we really depend on all of you giving us input on how to make this meeting as successful as it's been in the past.

>> TONY RONCO: Karl, I wanted to add something. I was fumbling with mute before on the conference. And I agree with everyone on the conference topics. They were fantastic. But also on the logistics. It was very well done. Not only on the networking spaces that were provided, but having like a remote help desk. And so all of that was, I thought really facilitated people getting around from place to place and also facilitated people to be able to network with not only fellow professionals, but with other people

throughout the EHDl system.

>> KARL WHITE: Thanks, Tony, for mentioning that because it's a good segue to remind me to mention the work that Casey Jud who is on the call through Judd Conference Services. Casey has been with us for so many years now. There is so much about this meeting that runs like a well-oiled machine because of Casey and the people he works with, whether it's the AV company who provide those services and the interpreting and CART providing people. But also things just like making sure there is enough coffee available in the morning and that the registration system moves smoothly.

Even though we think, and the evaluations would suggest that that's been done very well in the past, we need to continue to pay attention to it and make sure it continues to function well in the future. And if there are little things we can do to continue to improve that and make it even better, then we want to pay attention to that. And you, as planning committee members are the eyes and ears that enable us to continue to do that well. So both in ramping up and preparing for the meeting, but also as we're on site, we depend on planning committee members to give us feedback about what's working well and what's not working so well.

Okay, any other final comments? I almost cut Tony off and I didn't mean to. Anybody else trying to get in?

All right. So on the agenda, how we all work together, item number three. And item number four, the planning committee role. We already talked a little bit about working together. These phone calls that will happen once each month, and there are minutes to the phone calls that are posted on a website so you can go back and refer to those. In the next notification we give for our meeting, we'll give you the URL to see those minutes.

The planning committee is the one that comes up with ideas. And we hope that these committee meetings will provide an opportunity for you to voice those ideas. But if you have ideas outside of those monthly meetings, then be sure and let us know. And like I said, you can e-mail me or Mandy and get it on the agenda.

The USU Conference Management Services works with Casey to develop the registration system, the systems for submitting abstracts. One of the roles that we hope that you will all play is to encourage those people who you have contacts with to consider submitting papers for either posters or presentations at the EHDl meeting, or for the instructional sessions that happen on the day prior to or the day following the meeting.

The instructional sessions have grown in terms of the number of sessions that are

offered, but also the number of people who attend those sessions in the last several years. So both last year and the previous year, we had almost 500 people who attended one of the instructional sessions prior to or following the meeting. And there will be a call for submissions that will go out. And we will distribute that as broadly as we can to people who have previously attended the EHDI meeting or to other constituency groups that we're aware of. But I think the most effective way for that to happen is for you all as members of the planning committee to encourage people who you think have a message to provide to consider submitting a proposal for an instructional session or for a presentation or for an abstract or for a poster.

I think one of many very successful instructional sessions for the past couple of years has been a session that the DPSHWA group has put together on grant writing. It's been very well attending. That's just one -- it's the directors of speech and hearing programs in state health and welfare agencies. It essentially overlaps, not 100%, but very strongly with the state EHDI coordinators. And there was a situation where they all got together and said we need to be better grant writers, and let's take a time when we're all at the EHDI meeting anyway, and let's put a session on and they did it from within their own ranks. I think there are lots of other such opportunities. And we would encourage all of you to think about how you can take advantage of so many different stakeholders being at the EHDI meeting and then work with us as a committee to see if there is a way that we can support that. I think the work that Janet DesGeorges and the Hands & Voices Group, which is the recipient of the FL3, Family Leadership in Literacy and Learning put together a list of all of the family-based organizations that have contracted with EHDI programs. And that was a great addition to the meeting. And I think it was very worthwhile for those people. So that was not something we had done in the past.

So I mention both of those examples, of which there are dozens of others, as examples of things that we are willing to try new things all the time. And so we want to be thoughtful about it.

We don't want it to just be helter-skelter. But it's by being willing to try those new things that the meeting has continued to improve year to year.

Soon, we will be setting up subcommittees. So there will be a subcommittee on the state stakeholders' meeting. There be a subcommittee on the poster awards, subcommittee on student activities, on parent activities. Hanna Sawher who is on the committee again this year led the committee for the last couple of years and they made great progress on the different ways of involving students in this EHDI meeting. And those students really are the future of EHDI. So we're very grateful for all that work. And then most of the work of this committee will be what happens in between meetings as a part of those subcommittees. And so Mandy will be sending out to all of you soon the subcommittee structure we've used in the past. And if you would like to be on a particular subcommittee, please let us know. If you see a different subcommittee that we ought to be thinking about, please let us know.

We will be issuing a request for submissions for presentations and posters in the coming months. We use all of the members of the planning committee to help us to review those submissions. In addition, we will recruit another 20-30 people to assist with those reviews. So we will get, if it's anything like the past few years have been, we will get about 225-250 submissions. We want to make sure that those submissions are relevant to the purpose of improving EHDI programs and that they follow the guidelines that we as a committee will lay out. Historically we've accepted 80-85% of the submissions. But all of them are approved. And we want that review process to be a reasonable process that encourages high-quality submissions. We don't want it to be overly restrictive. But it is an important part of the quality control.

We also will be recruiting, and this is mostly relevant to the people in Kansas or Missouri. For every EHDI meeting we try to include a fair number of people on the planning committee from the area or the state where the meeting is being held. This year it's in Missouri, but it's very close to Kansas, and so we have people from both Kansas and Missouri being a part of that. And we will be recruiting room monitors that assist us in making sure that the meetings stay on time and that evaluations are collected and that if any glitches with the AV system or other things happen that they can get help. And so we'll be reaching out to some of you Kansas and Missouri people to help us identify those people. It's a very dynamic, interactive committee. And you will learn a lot more about it as we go on. About half of you have been on a planning committee before. We try not to put people on a committee forever, since it is a lot of work. But we have a few of you who have served a very long time that are in some of the more technical aspects. The work that Tony does on the website review and Vicki does on the state stakeholder meetings would be very hard to transfer that knowledge that they have that's helped to make those things run smoothly.

So we just look forward to working with you. Any questions or comments about how the committee is structured and how the activities play out from what I've just gone over?

Okay. Then, so, one of the things if you move onto item number six on the agenda, that we want you to begin thinking about as soon as possible and giving us feedback is the basic structure of the meeting.

So as the meeting has been structured for the last two or three years, we have three plenary sessions.

Prior to that, we had four plenary sessions. We moved from four to three plenary sessions for two reasons. One was that there was consistent requests from people to have more hour-long sessions at the meeting in the breakout sessions. We still have mostly 30-minute breakout sessions. But by having one fewer plenary session, we were able to add about a dozen hour-long breakout sessions. The other reason we went from four to three was that we found that there were a fair number of people who had to leave the meeting early and so the attendance at that final breakout session was not as good as we would have liked. And so we experimented with going back to three,

and it seems to have worked well. But that's on the table for discussion and input. If people would like more or fewer plenary sessions now is the time to begin thinking about that. And when I say now, I don't mean today.

But during the next six weeks, we ought to be thinking about and making decisions to the structure of the meeting and if there's going to be changes.

Another change over the last four years has been moving from a paper program book that was 80 pages long to a very condensed summary of sessions that's only a few pages long, and then focusing on an electronic app that people would use for the basic, what's historically been program book information. We've used the same app for the last three years now. We think it's working fairly well. But we would certainly welcome feedback if you've been to conferences and seen different apps or different approaches of what goes in the app, what goes in a hard copy book, how we communicate with meeting attendees. That's important to begin thinking about right away. And there's always a cost-benefit tradeoff there. The app we're using is definitely in the middle of the road in terms of features and cost. And if we were willing to spend \$20,000 instead of \$15,000 there are apps that definitely have more features. And we need to make sure that the meeting breaks even in terms of income and expenses.

So we want to hear all of your ideas. Some of the ideas that cost more money we may not be able to implement, but we certainly ought to talk about them and see what makes sense.

Networking time is something that gets talked about in every evaluation. People always enjoy the networking time that is available. That's the one area where they would like to have more. And see if there's ways we can do more networking time without interfering with other parts of the meeting.

And then related to the structure of meeting, several of you mentioned in your comments the state stakeholder meeting. So those of you who haven't been at EHDl before, following the opening plenary on Monday morning, we have what we call a state stakeholder meeting where we set aside space in the venue for all the people from South Dakota, and every one of the other 59 states and jurisdictions to come together with their EHDl coordinator and talk about how they can improve EHDl programs in their state. We find that there are a lot of people who attend the National EHDl Meeting who are not active participants in their state advisory meetings. And this may be the only time, especially if they're from a geographically large state, it may be the only time that they're able to sit in the same room with their EHDl coordinator and talk about activities that are being pursued by the state EHDl program and the ways that they can work together most effectively to accomplish those goals that they have. The state stakeholder meetings are always rated very high, but they're also a real challenge. And we don't want to go into great detail today, but I wanted to kind of raise some of the issues that we're confronting with those and then Vicki Hunting may want to chime in just a little, too, to get you thinking about that, and examining ways that we may need to

reconsider what we've been doing with state stakeholder meetings.

So in a nutshell, we need to find space in the venue where the conference is being held for 59 different meetings. And those meetings will range from having 5 people to 100 people. And finding space to do that is a challenge when many, if not most of those meetings, have people who are communicating using American Sign Language. So having a good listening and visual environment so those people can participate in the meeting is a challenge at times.

And it's also a challenge to be able to find enough American Sign Language interpreters to cover all of those meetings. Eight-ten years ago only 10 of those meetings would have someone who was using American Sign Language. And so we could easily accommodate that since we have American Sign Language interpreting for all of the breakout sessions and there are 12 of those at a time. And so we were able to staff those state stakeholder meetings easily. That's become a bigger challenge as we have more and more deaf people attending the meeting, which is great.

I'm not suggesting that we want to cut back on the number of people who are deaf and hard of hearing who attend the meetings. But we need to make sure that we provide support so that they can effectively participate in those meetings. And as the state stakeholder meetings have attracting more and more people who are deaf and hard of hearing, that's becoming a challenge.

So the group of people who organized the state stakeholder meetings last year and a number of years now came up with a number of suggestions that they were the first to say that all those suggestions were not equally plausible, but just to get brainstorming going, one idea would be to have regional meetings instead of state meetings so we would only have 12 or 15 or maybe 20 of those meetings instead of 59 meetings. So that would make it easier to find space that is good listening and visual environments, and also easier to staff from an interpreting perspective the number of meetings that need to be done.

The second possibility would be to hold state stakeholder meetings at the same time that we hold the opening plenary, but only hold them for half the group, and then to repeat the opening plenary a second time. And so you would have half the group in a plenary, half in the state stakeholder meeting during the first time slot and then you would flip that during a second time slot.

The third option is to do that with the reception that happens on Sunday night to again flip-flop and have half the people attend the reception and have half the state stakeholder meetings and then flip that group.

A fourth possibility is to secure, which means pay money for, additional space at the venue where we are so we would have more appropriate environments for listening and visualizing. That will work at some venues, but not at others. Like the venue we were

in last year, there was lots of extra space that had we been willing to pay for it could have been contracted. But in some venues where we have held this meeting, we're pretty well using the entire venue right now.

A fifth option is to say state stakeholder meetings have served their purpose and advisory committee meetings that happen back at the state outside of EHDI meeting times, maybe we ought to stop holding the state stakeholder meeting, and devote that time to more breakout sessions. That's certainly a possibility.

Vicki, have I forgotten any of the basic options that your committee suggested we consider?

>> VICKI HUNTING: Hi Karl, this is Vicki. Another option is to leave it at as it is and make no changes. I don't think any of us believe that's the way to go, but it's option. We did a lot of discussion and started listing some pros and cons. It's something we need to spend a bit more time on in the next month or so and iron this out. Some of the options that Karl outlined would definitely change up the schedule. When you change up the schedule, it changes all kinds of other things, too. So I would just ask you to think about these things and if you have comments or other options or ideas or pros and cons to one idea or another to contact myself or, you know, Mandy or Casey or Karl to share that information. And it's something we need to figure out in the next 6-8 weeks.

>> KARL WHITE: I want to emphasize Vicki's timeline there. If we're going to make some changes, and certainly one of the options is to leave it like it is. But if we are going to make changes, we need to make that decision sooner rather than later because it will have a domino effect even on things as basic as how many presentations do we accept. You know, if we were to say that state stakeholder meetings have served their purpose and we're going to do something else, then that would open up time to do other things. So we need to decide fairly soon.

>> VICKI HUNTING: Just a couple of other comments. Karl mentioned earlier on the call the feedback from the overall annual meeting survey. We also do a separate evaluation for state stakeholders. It's the same rating scale on a 5-point scale. The Likert scale. It goes from strongly agree to strongly disagree. And all of the questions, the averages across all of them range from 4.19 and 4.54. And for the questions that was asked was the stakeholder meeting useful, the average was 4.54. So it was the highest. And so we really need to take into consideration, you know, people's feedback. The comments that we got on the evaluation range from this is awesome, we need more time, to you know I just can't hear in the rooms. They were too crowded. They covered a full range. Only eight people indicated they disagreed or strongly disagreed and those eight people did not even provide comments to how it could be better. I feel like the possibility of it going away feels kind of slim based on the feedback that we did get. But it certainly is on the list as an option.

>> KARL WHITE: Thanks, Vicki. We're about out of time. So one of the things that we want you to start thinking about quickly also is plenary presenters and topics. Finding plenary speakers I think is the most challenging aspect of organizing this meeting. And I think during the last few years that's worked out really well. And that depends on all of you. And finding people who have a message that is appropriate for 1,000 to 1200 people who range from parents to speech language pathologists to physicians to EHDI coordinators is a challenge. Just to be really up front, one of the things that the coorganizers feel strongly about is that those plenary sessions should not be used in any way to promote a particular communication modality. And so we have really said those presentations need to focus on how to improve EHDI programs or some aspect of an EHDI program. There was a session last year on avoiding burnout, which is certainly something that is very relevant to everybody, even though it's not an EHDI-centric topic. It's still relevant. And we have had situations if you go back six or eight or ten years where those plenary sessions, some of the plenary sessions were focused on why American Sign Language is better than listening and spoken language, even though that wasn't what the committee intended it to be when they invited the person, that's what it became. And vice versa, too. I mean, and so we really want to keep the meeting focused on improving EHDI programs and to support parents' ability to make decisions, to get information, and to change their mind along the way so that families are feeling supported and valued however they choose to communicate with their children. And the plenary sessions are not a time to be advocating for this methodology versus that methodology.

Having said that, we really depend on all of you to come up with ideas for great plenary speakers. We don't have a lot of money to pay plenary speakers. We cover their travel and a very modest honorarium. You will see some meetings of the size that we're talking about who are willing to pay \$10,000 to a speaker to come address their plenary session. We can't afford to do that. We haven't ever done it. And we have still found some really great plenary speakers. So put your thinking caps on and start looking for and considering people who you think will be great plenary speakers and we'll be talking about those at our next meeting.

Okay, at the bottom of every agenda there is homework to be done prior to the next meeting. So you've got homework assignments: Review the abstract track and scoring criteria that were in the minutes. We didn't talk about those a lot, but you can read those.

Ideas for plenary speakers.

And then also look at the website and think about how we should do a better job with social media kinds of things.

Okay?

Any questions or comments?

Hearing none, we appreciate -- let me just check, Mandy, did we have any come in over the chat?

>> MANDY JAY: No.

>> KARL WHITE: Okay, good. So thank you all for taking time today. We look forward to meeting with you on June 10th. And I will be doing much less talking on June 10th. And you'll all be doing more talking. And we're excited about and grateful that you've been willing to be on the planning committee and look forward to working with you. If you have questions or concerns, let us know, and we'll do our best to address them.

>> Thank you, Karl.

>> KARL WHITE: Good-bye.

>> Thank you, Karl.

>> Thank you.

>> Thank you, everyone. Thank you, Karl. Have a productive week!

>> Thank you, bye.

(The meeting ended)