

Council for DHH Connections

Meeting Minutes



Location: 1400 E 42nd Street, Raney Hall, Multi-Purpose Room

Date: June 19, 2025

Time: 3:00-5:00pm

Facilitator: Bethany Colson

Agenda Items

Introductions

1. Provided list of organization and point persons
2. Representatives in attendance:
 - Kelsey Spurgin, Ball State University
 - Bethany Colson, Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education
 - Davina Brimmer, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services
 - Rachel Ross-Kroemer, Indiana Council of Administrators in Special Education
 - Nancy Holsapple, Indiana Department of Education
 - Eden Bezy, Indiana Department of Health
 - Christina Commons, Indiana First Steps
 - Mariana Barquet, Indiana Hands & Voices
 - Kim Kause, Indiana School for the Deaf
 - Chelsea Byard, Indiana University
 - Kelly Bailey, Purdue University
 - Lindy Powell, St. Joseph Hearing + Speech

Who Do You Know Scavenger Hunt

1. Icebreaker to encourage one on one connections among representatives

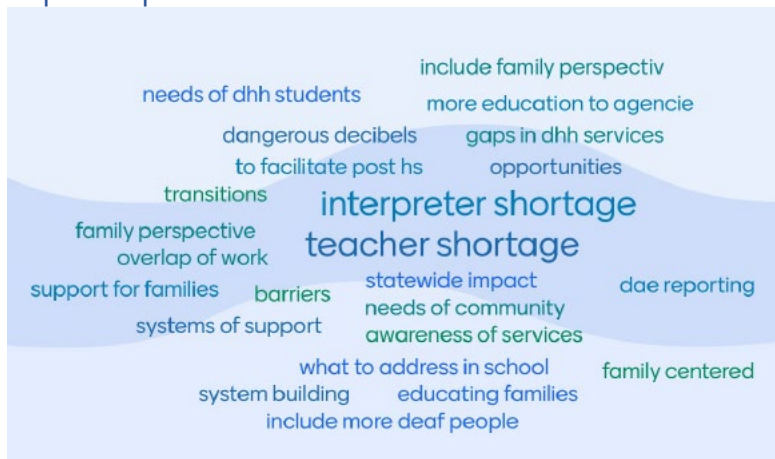
Purpose Exploration Activity

1. Small group work – create ~15-word purpose statement for this council
 - a. *To spread awareness to all Hoosier families and professionals about the wellbeing (education, language, support/services) of deaf and hard of hearing children.*
 - b. *Gathering diverse perspectives to collaborate openly on new initiatives and opportunities which support professionals, deaf and hard of hearing children and youth, and their families.*
 - c. *Building trust and collaboration among stakeholders to support shared goals and successful outcomes for deaf and hard of hearing students.*

Quarterly Meeting Prioritization

1. Mentimeter prompts & responses:

- How would you find value in these council meetings?
 - Pre-planning; awareness of topics in advance; agenda
 - Small groups for strategic collaborations; share & receive feedback from full council
 - Information from each organization – what services they provide
 - Identify specific challenges & create resources
 - What do we need from each other that helps close gaps for students & families
- Topics important for this council to discuss



- Ranking of five core purposes
 - First:
 - Building relationships to support a seamless and collaborative process in the implementation of support and services
 - Second:
 - Collaborate, share perspectives, identify issues, and provide input regarding supports and services for deaf and hard of hearing children
 - Third:
 - Discuss and align to best practices in the service and education of deaf and hard of hearing children
 - Fourth:
 - Facilitate the dissemination of information about programs/organizations on this council to broaden impact and support sustainability
 - Fifth:
 - Inform the council about programs and services being implemented for the benefit of deaf and hard of hearing children
- Ideas on how to work toward each purpose

- Building relationships
 - Time for one and one and small group conversation, with discussion questions around key topics, including the 'who' and 'why' of represented organizations
 - Openness and willingness to connect and assist where needed
- Collaborate
 - Survey across the state to determine and focus on high-issue topics
 - Council organizations all contribute to a list of issues and agree on priorities for discussion
 - Data-driven, solution-based conversations
 - Focus on quality improvement – looking at the bigger picture: what is the actual problem, how can it be improved
 - Address misconceptions
- Discuss and align
 - Topical issues in small groups
 - Share out on how each organization strives to meet best practices
 - Review/reflect on current best practice documents and research/literature
 - Consider statewide data: graduation rates, state assessment results
- Facilitate dissemination
 - Meeting minutes
 - Newsletter
 - Document with all organizations and contact information
- Inform the council
 - File sharing amongst the council – allowing dissemination of documents from other organizations
 - 5 min presentations to learn about each organization/program
 - highlight new programs/services/initiatives
 - bring forward new initiatives/programming from organizations to each meeting

Connecting Beyond Meetings

1. Review of organizations represented- others to consider
 - a. InTRAC/Relay Indiana
 - i. Not initially included due to focus on adult population- Devina Brimmer to connect to determine interest/fit on the council
 - b. Butler University – College of Communication – MA in Deaf Education
 - i. Lindy Powell to connect Dr. Fox with the Center
 - c. Family 2 Family
 - i. Group consideration: how to engage organizations/programs whose primary focus is not deaf and hard of hearing children with this council
2. Who to include in connections

- a. Multiple members of organizations to participate in ongoing discussions and sharing of information – furthering relationship building, collaboration, and facilitation of information about programs/organizations on this council
- 3. How to engage between meetings
 - a. Email listserv
 - b. Facebook group or other platform allowing for messaging
 - c. Shared platform for document sharing
- 4. Facilitation of meetings
 - a. Agreed in benefit of facilitator aside from Center representative
 - b. Suggestion of sharing this responsibility across organizations
 - c. Consideration of funding sources for an outside facilitator

Next Meeting – 9/18/25
