



**Virginia Supplemental Early Language and Literacy Resources
for Deafness/Hard of Hearing (VA SELLR-DHH) Project
Advisory Committee Lead Agency Work Session**

June 5, 2023

Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Conference Room, 1602 Rolling Hills Drive, Suite 203
Henrico, Virginia 23229

Minutes of Meeting

Members Present: Wanda Council, Virginia Department of Education; Eric Raff, Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing; Terri Nelligan, Department for Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, Infant and Toddler Connection of Virginia

Others in Attendance: Dr. Brenda Seal, Educational Consultant (virtual); Bernice McCormack and Lorelei Schanstra, American Sign Language Interpreters; and Lexi Hill, Governor Fellow, Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Members of the Public: Briana Bates, Michelle Long, Trea Smith, and Jennifer Witteborg

Ms. Council welcomed the lead agency representatives and guests to the meeting at approximately 9:10 a.m. The participants introduced themselves.

Ms. Council, Mr. Raff, Ms. Nelligan, and Dr. Seal engaged in the review and discussion of the final recommendations from the advisory committee members who attended the final advisory committee meeting on May 4, 2023. In consideration of the advisory committee members' recommendations, the lead agency representatives selected language developmental milestones resources for Virginia parents to use for tracking and monitoring their child's language acquisition and developmental stages toward English literacy. Language evaluation and assessment tools that professionals may use with children who are deaf and hard of hearing were also selected by the lead agency representatives. Ms. Council noted the selected resources and tools may be appropriate for use with children who utilize American Sign Language, English, or both, and with spoken language and cued speech. It was also noted that the appropriate authorization from the authors and publishers may be required prior to utilizing the selected tools and resources. Ms. Council confirmed she will notify the advisory committee members of the final selections by June 30, 2023.

Additional discussion was held regarding the anticipated process for disseminating the parent resources, training professionals in the use of the selected assessment and evaluation tools, and collecting and reporting data.

Public Comment: Ms. Bates commented on her appreciation for the work of the advisory committee and for improving Deaf education with support from Deaf role models.

Ms. Witteborg commented on the process for legislation being passed regarding children who are Deaf and hard of hearing in Virginia and recommendations for the parent resource document.

Due to intermittent technological difficulties, the meeting time was extended. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:45 p.m.