

# **ACDHH & EHDH Advisory Committee Virtual Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2026**

(Minutes are not considered final until approved at the next meeting.)

**Date:** Thursday, May 14, 2026

**Time:** 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Location:** Zoom Meeting Online

**Co-Chairs:** Latrina Harris-Lewis and Fran Altmaier

## **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at **10:07 AM** by Co-Chair **Latrina Harris-Lewis**

## **II. Roll Call**

### **Present Members**

Bibi Ashley

Annie Converse

Katie Rawlings

Germaine Graham

Latrina Harris-Lewis

Heidi Klomhaus

Dani Merrill

Wendy Steuerwald

Lisa Ring

Laura Hocknull

Coleen Haws

### **Guests / Support Staff**

Rob Voreck (ACDHH Community Services Program Manager)

Jael Garcia (ACDHH Business Operations Specialist)

### **Absent Members**

Fran Altmaier

Amber Hansen

Kelly Randall

Coleen Haws

Rob Voreck (ACDHH Community Services Program Manager)

Jael Garcia (ACDHH Business Operations Specialist)

### III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

#### Minutes Reviewed:

ACDHH & EHDI Advisory Committee Virtual Meeting Minutes – April 9, 2026

- Correction noted: Heidi Klomhaus was not present at April meeting and requested removal from attendance list
- Discussion of prior meeting summary included:
  - Journey Through Screening and Beyond materials
  - Family Survey updates
  - Deaf Mentor Program updates
  - Tabled items due to time constraints
    - EHDI grant review,
    - community updates)

**Motion to Approve (with correction):** Annie Converse

**Second:** Dr. Wendy Steuerwald

**Outcome:** Approved with noted correction

### IV. Old Business / Tabled Items

#### 1. Journey Through Screening and Beyond Materials (1–3–6 EHDI Timeline)

##### Key Discussion:

- Concern regarding wording of 3-month milestone:
  - Whether it implies delayed referral vs diagnostic evaluation
- Clarification:
  - National EHDI goal is **diagnostic evaluation by 3 months**
- Recommendation for consistency with national standards and urgency

##### Proposed Language Changes:

- Replace “referral to pediatric audiologist” with:
  - **“Evaluation by a pediatric audiologist”**
- Add clarification at top:
  - **“EHDI Goals” or “EHDI Guidelines” (to be verified for correct terminology)**

##### Additional Discussion:

- Avoid using “completed” to reduce emotional pressure on families
- Maintain consistent, parent-friendly milestone language:
  - 1 month: screening
  - 3 months: audiology evaluation
  - 6 months: early intervention services (if needed)

##### Action Item:

- Verify official EHDI terminology (guidelines vs goals)

## 2. QR Code and Resource Access (Journey Materials / Magnet)

- Proposal: Use **single ACDHH QR code** for simplicity
- Families will be directed first to ACDHH Family Services Specialist (Latrina Harris-Lewis)
- ACDHH will coordinate referrals to:
  - AzEIP
  - ASDB
  - Deaf Mentor Program
  - Dessert Voices
  - etc
- Supporting materials (phone, videophone, TTY) included on magnet
- AzEIP website are already in the printed letter

## 3. Family Survey Initiative

- Updates ongoing:
  - Final review of English, Spanish, ASL versions
  - Video and link accessibility confirmation pending
- Postcard distribution previously completed (to be shown next meeting)
- Incentive: stroller organizer
- Accessibility and access review ongoing

## 4. Family Resource Booklet

- Purpose:
  - Outreach tool used at hospitals, schools, audiology clinics, and community events
  - Covers **0–21 services**
- Content concerns:
  - Too lengthy (approximately 8 pages)
  - Frequent updates required due to changing agencies and contact information
- Discussion:
  - Consider simplifying into leaflet or streamlined format
  - Evaluate sustainability and resource burden
- Request:
  - Electronic copy to be shared with committee for review

## Break

The meeting paused and resumed at approximately 11:10 AM.

## **V. New Business**

### **1. Newborn Screening Video Updates (Videos 5 & 6)**

- Videos under revision due to feedback
- ASL and interpretation review required
- Deaf advisory consultation to include:
  - Bibi Ashley or Amber Hansen
  - Cameo (ASL/CDI consultant and interpreter support)
- **Key issues identified:**
  - Facial expressions too serious
  - Tone not conversational or welcoming
  - Spoken voiceover lacks natural warmth
- **Production focus:**
  - Improve emotional tone alignment (ASL + spoken English)
  - Ensure clarity and accessibility
  - Interpreter coordination and possible re-recording
  - Budget supports revisions

### **2. EHDI Grant Review**

- Tabled until next meeting due to Fran Altmaier's absence
- Fran to provide full grant update and fiscal overview

## **VI. Community & Professional Updates**

### **Heidi Klomhaus**

- **Shared retreat experience:**
  - Team-building in Cave Creek
  - Training on early intervention and language outcomes
  - Guest speaker: Karen Putz (leadership and motivation)
- **Annual Family Picnic:**
  - 185 attendees
  - Families from multiple regions (Tucson, Prescott Valley)
  - 39 families directly engaged
  - 9-10 community sponsor tables
  - Resources, backpacks, raffles, and outreach provided
- **Upcoming events:**
  - Splash pad playdates
  - Back-to-school readiness events
  - "Panelpalooza" (parent, teen, and Deaf/Hard of Hearing panels)
- **CMV Collaborative Grant updates:**
  - CMV Journal Resource Guide (family-focused support and reflection tool)
  - "Who's on My Team?" magnetic tracking board for providers
  - QR code outreach materials (including sanitizer-based QR tools)

## **Dr. Wendy Steuerwald**

- Phoenix Children's Audiology Event:
  - "Hear and Connect: A Family Audiology Event"
  - Date: August 8, 2026
  - Focus: children with hearing aids and families
  - Participation:
    - Laura Hocknull (AzEIP presentation)
    - Heidi Klomhaus (resource table)
    - Dani Merrill (Desert Voices table)
- Event still in planning stages

## **Annie Converse**

- ICC Meeting Announcement:
  - May 21, 2026
  - 10:30 AM-1:00 PM
  - Open to public
  - Accessibility accommodations available via email

## **Dani Merrill**

- ICC engagement support:
  - Seeking families receiving early intervention services to share lived experience
  - 10-15 minute storytelling opportunities during ICC meetings

## **Germaine Graham**

- Shared personal update:
  - Daughter participated in school band (United Sound program)
  - Highlighted inclusive school experience
- Deaf Camp Announcement:
  - Dates: July 13-17, 2026
  - Ages: Pre-K-6th grade (including siblings and CODAs)
  - Focus: ASL and bilingual learning
  - Cost: \$175 per camper (with discounts and scholarships available)
  - Sponsorship opportunities available
  - Location: Broadway Christian Church (East Valley)
  - Camp is not faith-based despite church location
  - Volunteer and resource participation welcomed

## **Lisa Ring**

- Northern Arizona event planning:
  - Tentative date: July 14, 2026
  - Prescott area family event
- Navajo Nation outreach:
  - Considering virtual or supported in-person model
  - Seeking sponsorships for gas cards and travel support
- Requested collaboration with Hands & Voices and partners

## **VII. Next Steps / Action Items**

- Finalize Journey Through Screening materials (1-3-6 language revisions)
- Verify EHDI terminology (guidelines vs goals)
- Complete Family Survey rollout
- Share Family Resource Booklet electronically for review
- Continue QR code simplification plan (ACDHH centralized access model)
- Continue Newborn Screening video revisions and ASL consultation
- Resume EHDI Grant Review with Fran next meeting
- Confirm July meeting format (in-person vs virtual)
- Potential July in-person meeting tentatively scheduled (July 9)

## **VIII. Adjournment**

**Motion to Adjourn:** Annie Converse

**Second:** Dani Merrill

**Time:** 11:37 AM