

HELP ME GROW ADVISORY MEETING

DATE: May 12, 2026,

TIME: 10 AM

LOCATION: VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

Members in Attendance	
Daphne Evans, Aguida Atkinson, Audrey Cooper, Jamie Naudain, Vik Vishnubhakta, Jenny Grady, Megan Hayes, Erin Nescott, Debbie Finch, Diane Frentzel, Kristina Horton, Trinetta Redinger-Ramsey, Lauren Kelley, Sarah Williams, Jen Fromme, Roberta Banks (Admin Asst)	
Paulina Gyan, (Facilitator)	
Agenda Item	
Welcome/Introductions	Paulina Gyan <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provided an overview of the day's agenda.
Discussion Points	<p>Due to a conflict in the date the Reach Out and Read presentation was postponed</p> <p>DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING DATA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vik provided an analysis of the PEDS developmental screens within pediatric practices. The data was from the past 15 months.• For that period, approximately 8,300 unduplicated children were screened with the state PEDS online platform.• Majority of the results were Paths D/E results showing that most of the kids screened generally met their developmental milestones, with fine motor and receptive language skills being slightly lower.• Regarding the geographic distribution of PEDS screens across Delaware's 18 zip code zones, some high-risk areas like Kent County had high screening rates while other areas like Wilmington had lower screens. This is attributed to the number of pediatric practice using the PEDS instrument in Kent County as opposed to Wilmington.

- *Within that timeframe, the pediatric practices implementing the CHADIS portal, administered 1572 ASQ screens. These screenings were conducted at two of the practices, Rainbow Pediatrics and Bear Internal Medicine.*
- *Vik mentioned that the data indicates a concerning trend of increased communication domain failures, particularly in receptive language.*
- *This could be related to COVID-19's impact on socialization or could affect Spanish-speaking families.*
- *For next steps, it was suggested to consider an analysis of Spanish-speaking family data through the Office of Early Learning (OEL) to better understand communication challenges and engaging with pediatric practices to gather insights about specific families experiencing communication issues.*
- *The CHADIS pilot practices also administered 21,000 Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (MCHAT) screenings. These 21,000 unduplicated children were screened over a specific timeframe, which was higher than expected when screenings typically occur alongside pediatric checks.*
- *The CHADIS practices made 238 referrals to early intervention over the 15 months, primarily to birth-to-3 and Child Find programs, and most referrals were processed within one to two days.*

SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

FACE – Family and Community Engagement – Daphne Evans

- *Daphne provided updates on outreach activities conducted by the FACE committee since January 2026, including events like online Books, Balls and Blocks sessions, presentations to the Delaware Afterschool Network, and partnerships with sororities for community initiatives.*
- *The committee has upcoming events planned at the Delaware Children's Museum and Woodlawn Library and will meet with the faith community to establish regular meeting schedules.*

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

- *Vik and Erin reported they have been working on the Help Me Grow annual report, which is currently under review by Crystal Sherman before publication.*
- *Megan presented updates on the community stakeholders subcommittee, focusing on educating about Help Me Grow and bringing community partners and pediatricians together, with each subcommittee partner submitting an about-us slide for better understanding.*

CENTRALIZED ACCESS POINT – HMG@211 – *Deb reported staff participation of outreach efforts in the ff:*

- *851 contacts (calls, texts, emails)*
- *Attended 10 outreach events*
- *Processed over 200 home visiting referrals*
- *Processed over 1400 ASQs*
- *Reached out to 80 referrals from WIC*
- *Assisted 5 families with receiving laptops*
- *215 children were referred to early intervention services with Birth to Three.*

CHALLENGES

- *Handling Difficult Calls*
- *Know Your Rights - Interacting with ICE and Law Enforcement*

PROGRAM UPDATES:

CHADIS Project:

- *Continue discussion to streamline the referrals through CHADIS platform – opportunities for improvement.*
- *White paper completed on the CHADIS project – ready for publication- Vik and Chadis staff.*
- *Total Screens (12/24 to 11/2025) • 7,123 (ASQ, MCHAT, PEDS)*
 - *Total Referrals – 183*
- *Average time from referral creation to agency – 1-2 days*

	<p>HMG Simulation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans for Kent County simulation event are in progress. • Date: October 15, 5:30 -7:30 pm • Location: Agric Museum, Dover <p><i>The date conflicts with the Making a Difference Conference, which is the next day. Diane Frentzel suggested perhaps joining the conference as a workshop session. Paulina thinks it's a win-win solution and will follow up with Diane.</i></p>
Conclusion	
	<p>HEALTH PROVIDER OUTREACH</p> <p><i>Megan reported the sub-committee met on Feb 25, March 25 and April 22</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>They focused on how to educate and raise awareness of community resources and referral agencies.</i> • <i>Also addresses how they can bring community partners to network and learn of their programs.</i> • <i>The sub-committee started with providers represented within the CHPO sub-committee and had presentations on the following:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Delaware 211 - <i>Help Me Grow, Standby Me, PROJECT Thrive, First State Out of School, etc.</i> ○ Delaware Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatricians – <i>Mission, Core Values, Personnel</i> ○ University of Delaware Center for Disabilities Studies – <i>Learn the Signs Act Early, Family SHADE</i>

Any Other Business and Wrap Up

- *Megan also reported on progress of the Pediatric Residency Advocacy Community Experience (PRACE) a longitudinal, experiential curriculum to complement existing pediatric residency curriculum at Jefferson University Medical School.*

Next Meeting is scheduled for July 14.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81217510537?pwd=wwQfatbLNg32hbRILLBGA0dfohObFy.1>

Meeting ID: 812 1751 0537

Passcode: 690629