

**March 2025
President's Notes**



Dear Membership,

I hope this message finds you all doing well and getting excited for the DSHPSHWA meeting and National EHDI Conference which is now less than one week away! While we will miss our federal partners, we are excited to see all of you and hear about the great things you are doing in your state and territories! For new EHDI Coordinators, welcome to the EHDI community. This year's meeting will be slightly different than in years past. We will use the time to learn from each other on topics you submitted and are providing an inspirational speaker to help us with the ongoing changes that we are experiencing! For ease of reading, I have inserted headers below.

DSHPSHWA Membership Meeting and Extended Afternoon Session (in place of the mandatory EHDI Coordinator/Family Leadership Meeting)

- **Membership Meeting (Sunday Morning - 7:30 am-12:00 pm)**
 - As originally planned, the annual membership meeting will be Sunday morning. [Optional: State Gift Exchange](#) – If you wish to participate in the gift exchange tradition, please bring a gift that represents your state or EHDI program. \$15-20 limit or less! We will also have a light breakfast the morning of our meeting with breakfast sandwiches (gluten free and other dietary needs will be honored), fresh seasonal fruit, coffee and hot tea.
- **Extended Session (Afternoon - 1:30-4:00pm)**
 - After the lunch break, return to meet during this extended period that was originally intended to be the required EHDI Coordinator Grantee meeting. As Family Leaders were intended to participate in the EHDI Coordinator Grantee meeting, they are welcome and encouraged to attend this replacement extended afternoon session as well! They are a very important part of the EHDI team. We do encourage the EHDI Coordinator and EHDI Family Leader from each state to sit at different round tables in the afternoon to maximize lessons learned from other states and territories!

Both the morning and afternoon meetings will take place in Rooms 317-318. I have included copies of the agendas in one PDF!

[Daylight Savings Reminder](#): Yep, daylight savings time will go into effect while we are in Pittsburgh. Time will change over Saturday night. It will "spring forward" so we will be losing an hour the night before the DSHPSHWA meeting. Please make sure your alarms are set accordingly and you may want to get to bed earlier.

DSHPSHWA Open Board Position Nominees

Every year we have board position openings on the DSHPSHWA Executive Board because of the staggered terms. We do this intentionally so there is not a completely new set of board members. I have included the nominees below that we will vote on at the meeting Sunday morning!

- Co-President Elect – Clare Camacho (Federated State of Micronesia) and Julie Walker (WA)
- Member-at-Large (Liz Schardine (KS) – current, interested in continuing)
- Secretary/Treasurer (Tara Carroll (SC) – current, interested in continuing)
- Vice-President – Membership (Liza Then (RI) – current, interested in continuing)

We will take any additional nominations the day of the meeting from the floor prior to voting. Stephanie McVicar (WY) and Daphne Miller-Stewart (VA) will become your official Co-Presidents at the end of our DSHPSHWA Membership Meeting as Tammy moves into the role of Past President!

DSHPSHWA Strategic Plan

Each year the board develops a strategic plan based off previous experience and membership input on the activities to be accomplished throughout the year. Typically, we take time at the annual membership meeting to review our progress. This year, we are using that time for a round table activity based on membership feedback and to bring you all a national speaker! It is still important to share our progress, so I have attached the strategic plan with a column highlighted in bright blue that shows a completion date. You will also find rows below an activity where more information was provided about work group activities or a specific activity we followed up on and the outcome also in bright blue!

The strategic plan for 2025-2026 will be sent out within a couple of months of the next membership meeting after the newly elected board is able to meet. If you have suggestions, please reach out to one of the board members!

DSHPSHWA Membership Directory

You will find a copy of the updated [membership roster](#) on the [DSHPSHWA website](#). This document includes all states/territories, even if you have not attended a DSHPSHWA meeting in the last year. The document also includes contacts for our federal partners. If you see a smiley face instead of a picture by your name please send a selfie, work or personal picture to be included. Send your picture to the DSHPSHWA mailbox, dshpshwa@hotmail.com or text Ginger Mullin's work number, 1-217-606-1294. Be sure to include your name and state/territory so we get it in the correct location in the guide. We will be sending around a hard copy at the meeting for review and updates as well. After the updates are completed, the guide will be sent out to the membership.

Personally, the guide has been so helpful when making referrals for a family from one state/ territory to another, reaching out to learn more about a project or presentation you may have seen at the national EHDl meeting or in locating a leader from another state so you can speak with them or introduce yourself at the National EHDl Conference. A big **THANK YOU** to Liza Then (RI), Tara Carroll (SC) and Liz Schardine (KS) for putting together this directory!

Thank You

Finally, I want to take this time to say thank you for allowing me to serve as President of DSHPSHWA. I have served as your President during two different terms over the last 19 years that I have worked as the EHDl Director for Iowa. Your faith and support in me have been greatly appreciated, especially as you are constantly being asked to do more with less. I have seen some amazing programming through the years. Your tireless efforts to identify deaf and hard of hearing children in a timely manner and provide family support and resources do not go unnoticed. I see the countless hours, the communications when coordinators are ill, stressed or just need a reminder we are all in this together and offer a helping hand. Please continue to take care of yourself and each other. Self-care is what sustains our energy and motivation and can be a tool of resilience to help us move through challenging times. Kindness is still key as it boosts satisfaction, happiness, and our physical and mental well-being. Thanks for all you do!

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Tammy O'Hollearn".

Tammy O'Hollearn
DSHPSHWA President