

**STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL
for the
EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING INFANTS**

Quarterly Meeting

**Friday, January 27, 2023
12:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.**

*****In person*****

Governor's Press Room
900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) is a national initiative supporting the early identification of infants who are deaf or hard of hearing through screening, audiological evaluation, enrollment in early intervention and family-to-family support services.

The overarching goal of the support provided through the EHDI program is to maximize opportunities for communicative and linguistic development for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Without appropriate opportunities to learn language, these children will fall behind their hearing peers in communication, cognition, reading, and social emotional development.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 12:02 PM by Jill Hudson
2. Roll Call by Theresa Nicholls, Secretary
 - a. Council Present (sign in sheet)
 - i. Leigh Anne Norman
 - ii. Jill Hudson
 - iii. Jana Broussard
 - iv. Gina Easterly
 - v. Nicole DeLeon designee for Marbely Barahona
 - vi. Theresa Nicholls
 - vii. Natalie Delgado
 - viii. Caitlin Robinson
 - ix. Cindy Voelker
 - x. Natalie Delgado
 - xi. Ashley Argrave
 - b. Council Absent
 - i. John Carter
 - ii. Ellis Arjmand
 - iii. pediatrician (vacant)
 - iv. deaf person (vacant)
 - c. Program/Public (sign in sheet)

- i. Danielle Mercer, BFH-EHDI
 - ii. Dana Hubbard, BFH-EHDI
 - iii. Dawne McCabe, BFH-EHDI
 - iv. Terri Ibieta, BFH-EHDI
 - v. Shane Bates, BFH
 - vi. Amanda Perry, BFH
3. Open Meetings Law – *Shane Bates, Legislative and Policy Lead, Bureau of Family Health*
4. Approval of Agenda: *Jill Hudson*
 - a. Meeting agenda approved by unanimous vote of council.
5. Review and Acceptance of Minutes: *Jill Hudson*
 - a. Motion by Jill Hudson, Second by Gina Easterly. Vote unanimously approved revisions/acceptance of minutes.
 - i. Acceptance of July 2022 minutes after proposed revisions by Gina Easterly and Natalie Delgado were made.
 - ii. Acceptance of October 2022 minutes after proposed revision by Leigh Anne Norman was made.
6. Meeting dates/locations/times for 2023
 - a. Motion by Jana Broussard, Second by Theresa Nicholls. Vote unanimously approved.
 - i. 4/28/23 12-2:30 pm, New Orleans, LA (Children’s Hospital)
 - ii. 7/28/23 12-2:30 pm, Baton Rouge, LA
 - iii. 10/27/23 12-2:30 pm, New Orleans, LA
7. EHDI Program Updates – EHDI Team: *Terri Ibieta, Dana Hubbard*
 - a. Early intervention updates
 - i. Family survey results shared.
 - ii. EI Data shared:
 1. Decline in acceptance of referral/enrollment;
 2. Revised flow chart picturing the progression from identification to early intervention for children identified as deaf or hard of hearing;
 3. Created new fax to PCP to notify when patient declines EI
 4. Added follow-up calls at 2 years of age for children who were initially enrolled in EI, but didn’t continue with services.
 5. Jana Broussard suggested we look at the number of non-white families declining
 - b. Electronic materials request
 - i. Provided examples of parent-facing materials that can be ordered.
 - ii. Dr. Delgado asked about whether the new electronic form could also be created in ASL.
 1. Terri Ibieta suggested that the language committee explore the option of the alternative format. Jana Broussard with the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf noted they have used a company for this service.

- c. Upcoming events
 - i. Diagnosing Audiologists meeting
 - ii. Region 3 EHDI Collaborative meeting
 - d. Community Awareness
 - i. 5/4/23 to 5/10/23: Late Onset Hearing Loss Awareness Week. Some of the activities that could be explored:
 - 1. Address in quarterly newsletter sent to the audiologists in the state;
 - 2. Explore opportunities to partner with other agencies for hearing screenings;
 - 3. Include BFH communications specialist in discussions;
 - 4. Dana Hubbard suggested that the group look forward and consider an annual recurring awareness plan to be developed over time,
 - 5. A motion was made by Theresa Nicholls and seconded by Jill Hudson to create a community awareness committee. The motion was not voted on and was amended, after some discussion by the council, by Jana Broussard to have an outside meeting for interested council members to discuss the opportunity to support community awareness. This amended motion was made by Jill Hudson and seconded by Ashley Argrave. It was accepted by a quorum vote of the council.
8. Jill Hudson made a motion to extend this council meeting time for an additional 20 minutes until 2:25. The motion was seconded by Dr. Delgado. The meeting extension was approved via a quorum vote of the council.
9. Committee Updates
- a. North Louisiana – Leigh Anne Norman
 - i. Will arrange database training for Ark La Tex ENT in Shreveport so they can electronically enter FSR information
 - ii. Discussed cases of children with permanent hearing loss in NW LA
 - iii. Identified Follow up Service Reports that need submitting
 - iv. Discussed the ongoing need for more Medicaid hearing providers in NWLA. LDH is open to “exploring” having an audiologist fill in at the Region 7 health unit but the problem remains finding an audiologist who can meet that need.
 - v. Ochsner Shreveport will soon be down to 3 audiologists as one is leaving the facility. They are looking to replace the position with another audiologist
 - b. Language Outcomes – Natalie Delgado
 - i. Committee met twice since last council meeting.
 - ii. EI procedures were streamlined with a flow chart depicting identification through referral, adding in a step for recalling at age 2 for those that declined referral, services, unable to contact, inactivated, etc.

- iii. Reviewed current data in LA EHDI IS, and discussed the Outcomes for Developmental Data Assistance Center for EHDI programs. ODDACE recommends two required assessments (DAYC2 and MacArthur Bates) along with supplemental assessment. A meeting will be arranged with an ODDACE representative to learn more. Visit <https://www.colorado.edu/center/oddace/about-oddace>
- iv. Early Steps is currently working to identify a new assessment tool. The DAYC2 is being considered.
- c. cCMV – Danielle Mercer
 - i. LA EHDI is sending faxes to PCPs monthly for children reported with CMV as a risk factor on their newborn hearing screening forms, but no follow-up reported.
 - ii. To date, there are 19 children born in 2022 reported with CMV. 11 have received follow-up testing (2 identified as D/HH – both did not pass newborn hearing screening), 1 is deceased, and 7 have no follow-up reported (1 declined – palliative care/medically fragile). This translated to 6 faxes sent, 1 had follow up, 1 verified tested CMV negative.
 - iii. Ochsner Baptist reports they receive weekly reports through their EPIC reporting system of all babies screened for CMV and the results of the testing. Those testing positive are scheduled for follow-up diagnostic testing (unsedated ABR). They report that the number of babies identified is very low with the targeted screening.

10. New Business NONE

11. Public Comment NONE

12. Adjourn

- a. Motion by Jill Hudson, Second by Jana Broussard

Next meeting: 4/28/2023 12-2:30

Location: Children’s Hospital State Street Conference Center, New Orleans, LA