

STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL- EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING INFANTS

Friday, April 28, 2023

12:00-2:30 p.m.

Children's Hospital ~ State Street Conference Center ~ New Orleans

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order at 12:17 by *Jill Hudson, Chair*
2. Roll completed by *Theresa Nicholls, Secretary*
 - A. Council Members Present
 - a. Dr. John Carter
 - b. Dr. Debbie Cowan
 - c. Dr. Cindy Voelker
 - d. Dr. Paul Remedios
 - e. Meleah Miller
 - f. Dr. Ellis Arjmand
 - g. Theresa Nicholls
 - h. Jill Hudson
 - i. Caitlyn Robinson
 - j. Susannah Boudreaux
 - k. Jazmyne Lemar (designee for Jana Broussard)
 - i. Council Members Absent: Dr. Ashley Argrave-Smith, Marbely Barahona, Jana Broussard
 - B. Program/Public Present
 - a. Terri Ibieta, LA EHDl
 - b. Dr. Danielle Mercer, LA EHDl
 - c. Dana Hubbard, LA EHDl
 - d. Dr. Joel Jones, LCMC Health
 - e. Rachael Nelson, PPEP
 - f. Elisabeth Gill, Interpreter
 - g. Sylvie Sullivan, Interpreter
 - h. Jennifer Guerrieri, Interpreter
3. Review and Acceptance of Agenda/Minutes – *Jill Hudson, Chair*
 - 4/28/23 Agenda
 - Dr. Delgado made a motion to discuss Deaf-Blind Awareness week as an agenda item, with a second motion by Ms. Miller.
 - Approved by vote of the council and item added as number 6 on today's agenda.
 - Ms. Boudreaux made a motion to accept agenda with the addition, with Dr. Delgado second.
 - Vote to accept was approved by unanimous vote of council.
 - 1/27/23 Minutes
 - Motion to accept made by Dr. Arjmand, second by Dr. Carter.
 - Approved by unanimous vote of the council.
4. EHDl Program Updates – *EHDl Team*
 - *Terri Ibieta*: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Report – *Terri Ibieta*
 - Improving Timely Documentation, Reporting and Analysis of Diagnostic and Intervention Data Through Optimization of EHDl Surveillance Practices and information Systems
 - *Terri Ibieta*: Early Intervention

- Results of review of data regarding influence of race/ethnicity for those declining early intervention. Results revealed no statistically significant difference between the groups. Dr. Delgado asked a question about whether the data reflected distinguishment between Hispanic and Spanish Speaking individuals. Program will consult with epidemiologist for clarity.
- *Terri Ibieta: LA Birthing Facility Guidelines*
 - Will be reviewing and revising as needed the guidelines for newborn hearing screening.
- Outreach & Education
 - *Terri Ibieta*
 - Diagnosing Audiologists Virtual Meeting
 - The meeting was very well received, and the group decided to continue to meet twice a year.
 - Region 3 Collaborative
 - Held in February 2023
 - Shared “1, 3, 6” progress for the region, and featured two break-out groups, one for EI and one for hospitals/audiologists for more in depth discussion.
 - School-based Audiologists Presentation
 - Approximately 25% of the school parishes in the state have an educational audiologist.
 - Education related to the ongoing importance of reporting of all students who are newly identified through 5 years of age.
 - National EMDI Conference
 - Held in Cincinnati, Ohio in March, 2023
 - *Danielle Mercer*
 - LA Speech & Hearing Association (LSHA) Conference
 - Presented in late February
 - Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center Lecture
 - March 2023 to the class of audiology students
 - Hot Topics Newsletter
 - sent out to audiologists
 - Hearing Aid Fitting Rates in Deaf/Hard of Hearing Children Identified in Louisiana
 - Poster presentation at National EMDI Conference in March, 2023
 - Dr. Arjmand asked about the high number of children who fell under the “not recommended for hearing aids” category, and impressions following case reviews. Dr. Mercer shared that case review showed that 2/3 were unilateral, and now the recommendation regarding unilateral aiding is shifting, but a number of audiologists do not recommend aiding unilateral losses. Going forward, she will further look into trends regarding aid recommendations.
 - Susannah Boudreaux asked whether other EMDI programs in different states are looking at this type of data regarding hearing aid fittings. Dr. Mercer stated that she has not seen much analysis across states with regard to looking at the data in the same way.
 - Is there correlation between decline of device and decline of intervention?

(Ten Minute Break started at 1:21 and ended at 1:32)

- Late Onset Hearing Loss Awareness - *Dana Hubbard*
 - Partners for Family Health Social Media Awareness slides shared

- Will be on Facebook and Twitter 5/4/23-5/10/23

5. Committee Updates

- Congenital Cytomegalovirus (cCMV) – *Dana Hubbard*
 - House Bill 122 – Proposed bill to mandate screening of all newborns for the early detection of Cytomegalovirus.
- Language Outcomes – *Dr. Natalie Delgado*
 - Outcomes and Developmental Data Assistance Center for EHDI (ODDACE) programs
 - There are eighteen programs across the US already participating in this program.
 - Conversations with Early Steps, Parent Pupil Education Program, ODDACE will continue over the coming months.
 - Early Steps did select the DAYC-2 as their new assessment tool which is one of the required assessments for ODDACE. They are also making their intake process more robust.
- North Louisiana – *Danielle Mercer*
 - Committee --> North Louisiana committee is not meeting at this time.
 - Region 7 audiology meeting was held in late March of this year and the next meeting will be held in late June.

6. New Business

- Deaf-Blind Awareness week -- *Dr. Natalie Delgado*
 - 3rd week of June – DB Awareness/Usher’s Syndrome
 - Suggested a replication of the late onset hearing loss awareness media campaign for deaf-blind awareness.
 - Ms. Ibieta suggested checking with the LSUHSC DeafBlind Project to see if they are planning awareness, and will set up a meeting with the director of the Deaf-Blind Project at LSUHSC Human Development Center.
 - Ms. Nicholls volunteered to reach out to DBP, and LA EHDI will set up a meeting with the Deaf Blind Project, and include any volunteers from the Council.
 - Ms. Nicholls and Dr. Delgado wish to be included.

7. Public Comment

8. Motion to adjourn by Ms. Boudreaux, second by Caitlyn Robinson.

- Approved by vote of the council.
- Meeting adjourned at 1:57pm.

Next meeting: 7/28/2023

Location: TBD ~ Baton Rouge, LA

The 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.