

Meeting Minutes

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

Friday, July 28, 2023

628 North 4th Street – Bienville Building, Room 173 – Baton Rouge, LA

1. Called to Order at 12:23 – *Jill Hudson, Chair*

- Council agreed to delay start due to traffic incident (members en route)
- Reviewed communication standards and established break time

2. Roll Call – *Theresa Nicholls, Secretary*

- Council members present: Dr. John Carter, Dr. Cynthia Voelker, Dr. Paul Remedios, Theresa Nicholls, Dr. Ashley Argrave-Smith, Dr. Natalie Delgado, Meleah Miller, Susannah Boudreaux, Marbely Barahona, Jill Hudson, Debbie Cowan, Broussard via designee Vanessa Magnon
- Council members absent: Dr. Ellis Arjmand, Jana Broussard, Caitlyn Robinson
- EHDI Program present: Danielle Mercer, Dana Hubbard, Dawne McCabe
- Stakeholders present: Caroline Nailor-Oglesby (Early Steps program manager), Marissa Ramos (SLP)
- Interpreters present: Sylvie Sullivan, Lissa Gill, Jennifer Guerrieri

3. Review and Acceptance of Agenda/Minutes – *Jill Hudson, Chair*

- 7/28/23 Agenda
 - 1st motion to accept by Susannah Boudreaux, 2nd by Ashley Argrave
 - Approved by unanimous vote
- 4/28/23 Minutes
 - 1st motion by Ashley Argrave, 2nd by Debbie Cowan
 - Approved by unanimous vote

4. EHDI Program Updates – *EHDI Team*

- Overview – *Dana Hubbard*
 - Outreach
 - Region 9 Collaborative – June 2023
 - Early Head Start Regional Conference – July 2023
 - Diagnosing Audiologists – August 2023
 - Region 2 Collaborative – September 2023
 - Unite Learning Community
- 2022 Hospital Scorecards – *Dawne McCabe*
 - Scores based on specific criteria regarding a Hospital's Policy and Procedures, and Data Monitoring/LA EHDI-IS
 - Dr. Remedios asked about how long we have been doing the call back
 - Will be adding loss rate\
 - LA Scorecard average is 96% for 2022, highest average we have had since implementation of scorecard
 - An "N/A" might be on scorecard if they are unable to fulfill the criteria (i.e., no NICU at the hospital)
 - Data reported in a 5-tier system
 - The greatest area of difficulty (lowest scores) was refer rate
 - Looking at 5 changes to the scorecard system to be implemented by the year 2024
 - 1. Any baby with NICU stay to be screened with ABR for the 2024 scorecards
 - 2. Will track any data entry mistakes made at the hospitals and score them on these mistakes

3. Will track the timeliness of the correction those data errors
4. Looking at the data regarding the accuracy of the test reporting in the LA EHDI database. There has been an uptick in erroneous test results. This started about 2 to 3 years ago. The bulk of the errors are around three certain hospitals.
5. Will look at follow-up rates and make that part of the score. Data is taken on it now but it is not part of the scorecard. Hesitant to do this in the past because birth hospitals don't have control over what happens afterwards. Decided to change it because we are finding that much of what the family does is dependent on what happens in the hospital.

1:32 10-minute break, reconvened 1:42

5. Committee Updates

- Congenital cytomegalovirus (cCMV) - *Dr. John Carter*
 - Legislative session Act 177 - Provides relative to the standard of care and payment for congenital cytomegalovirus screening of newborns. Act 177 states that a healthcare provider will administer appropriate testing for CMV if a newborn does not pass the newborn hearing screening, or if based on professional judgement, is in the best interest of the child.
 - Original bill proposed blood screening; succeeding versions changed screening to a urine or saliva screen, but ultimately it passed without specifying screening methodology, or reflexive practice
 - It passed not as originally written, but it *is* a start.
- Language Outcomes – *Ashley Argrave-Smith*
 - Health Resources Services Administration Supplement: released a funding opportunity to develop a plan to track language acquisition in deaf or hard of hearing children. The award will be announced in late August/early September, and will be for a 6-month period.
 - Analyzing data from various tracking systems
 - Partnering with ODDACE (Outcomes for Developmental Data Assistance Center for EHDI programs) will allow us to compare our data to other states nationwide.
 - Two assessments will be required.
 - DAYC-2 (Developmental Assessment of Young Children-2, Early Steps is in the process of adopting this assessment, as well)
 - MacArthur Bates Developmental Inventory is able to assess students who use signed communication system
 - PPEP uses SKI-Hi. Looking at other assessments, as well.

6. Community Partner Updates

- Early Steps - *Caroline Nailor-Oglesby, Director for Early Steps*
 - Looking into Hearing and Vision screening for LA Early Steps
 - Purchasing OAE equipment to conduct hearing screenings upon intake
 - ARBOR funds requested to purchase 40 to 50 OAE screeners for intake coordinators
 - Will be doing the DAYC-2 trainings
 - Screening results will be brought by parents to physicians
- Hands and Voices (H&V) – *Marbely Barahona on behalf Nicole DeLeon*
 - Guide by your Side program from newborn up until 100 years
 - 18 new contacts in the last month
 - Monthly virtual Parent Chats
 - Family events

- Joined PPEP program activities in different regions
 - Cued speech training
 - Upcoming: fundraising event the end of the Fall
 - Leadership meeting in Michigan: 3 parent guides and 1 Deaf guide will attend
 - Parent-Pupil Education Program (PPEP) – *Dr. Natalie Delgado*
 - New Orleans/Southeast D/HH teacher
 - New Superintendent for Special School district
 - Switching curriculum for families to learn ASL as part of their home program.
 - Monthly family events, next one in September
 - 9/12 next virtual workshop
 - Data regarding providing summer services: Reported that the bulk of the families served said they would prefer not to have services in the summer.
 - Dr. Delgado announced her new role as Executive Director of LSD
7. New Business
No new business was submitted by email.
8. Public Comment
- Self-Introduction of *Marissa Ramos, an SLP Early Steps provider*
 - Rise and Sign Therapy
 - Caroline from Early Steps announced that they are accepting recommendations for SICC (state council) advisors
9. Adjourn at 2:23
- 1st motion to adjourn by Susannah Boudreaux, 2nd by Natalie Delgado
 - Approved by unanimous vote

Next meeting: 10/27/2023
Brent House Conference Center, Classroom 2
1512 Jefferson Highway | New Orleans, Louisiana 70121