



State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Office of Public Health

**ADVISORY COUNCIL
FOR THE EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING INFANTS**

**Friday, April 25, 2025
12:30-2:30 p.m.**

Location

Benson Tower, Ste 2024
1450 Poydras Street
New Orleans, LA 70112

Meeting Minutes

- I. Meeting Called to Order** at 12:30 *Jill Hudson, Chair*
- i. Reviewed communication standards and established break time.
- II. Roll Call:** *Theresa Nicholls, Secretary*
- i. Council members present: Dr. John Carter, Dr. Cynthia Voelker, Theresa Nicholls, Dr. Ashley Argrave-Smith, Jana Broussard, Marbely Barahona, Jill Hudson, Debbie Cowan, Caitlyn Robinson, Dr. Natalie Delgado
-Quorum established 10/14 members present.
 - ii. Council Members Absent: Susannah Boudreaux, Dr. Paul Remedios
 - iii. Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program Present: Danielle Mercer, Dana Hubbard, Terri Ibieta, Thomas Hess
 - iv. Public Present: Ivette Perez (Guidance, Outreach, and Language Development GOLD), Claire Hess (Ochsner Audiologist)
 - v. Interpreters present: Sylvie Sullivan, Jennifer Guerrieri (virtual), Stefanie Nadeau
- III. Council Vacancies** – *Theresa Nicholls, Secretary*
- i. a hospital administrator
 - ii. a deaf person
 - iii. a parent of a child who is deaf or hard of hearing using spoken language
 - iv. a speech and language pathologist
- Dana Hubbard, EHDI Program Manager, reported that applications for all vacancies have been received, however, the Governor has not made any appointments yet.
- IV. Mandate Review** – *Dana Hubbard, EHDI Program Manager*
- i. There is a new requirement to review the mandate of the Council at each meeting. The information that was shared with the Council included hard copy and website link to Revised Statute 46:2261-2267. A review of the program and Council charges ensued.
- V. Public Comment on Agenda**
- i. Natalie Delgado made a request for the addition of new business to today's agenda –

- to re-convene the Law Committee to review the statute bylaws.
- ii. First motion made by Natalie Delgado, seconded by Jana Broussard.
- iii. Approved by unanimous vote.

VI. Approval of April 2025 Agenda (vote) – Jill Hudson, Chair

- i. First motion to approve by Natalie Delgado, seconded by Debbie Cowan.
- ii. Approved by unanimous vote.

VII. Old Business

- i. Approval of Minutes (vote) – Jill Hudson, Chair
 - a. January 2024 Minutes: No comments
 - b. July 2024 Minutes: No comments
 - c. October 2024 Minutes: No comments
 - d. January 2025 Minutes: Meeting cancelled
 - First motion to accept all meeting minutes made by Natalie Delgado, seconded by Ashley Argrave-Smith.
 - Approved by unanimous vote.
- ii. 2025 Meeting dates/times (vote) – Jill Hudson, Chair
 - a. Quarter 2: April 25, 2025: 12:30-2:30 p.m.
 - b. Quarter 3: July 25, 2025: 12:00-2:30 p.m.
 - c. Quarter 4: October 24, 2025: 12:00-2:30 p.m.
 - Comment made by John Carter requesting whether attendance for remainder of meetings can be via Zoom. Dana Hubbard reported that is pending with the Bureau of Family Health Director.
 - First motion to accept proposed dates/times made by Jill Hudson, seconded by John Carter
 - Approved by unanimous vote.
- iii. 2025 Officer elections (vote) – Jill Hudson, Chair
 - a. Nominees accepted via poll prior to Quarter 4 2024 meeting
 - b. No quorum for Quarter 4 2024, Quarter 1, 2025 to vote
 - c. Vote for Chair: Ashley Argrave-Smith – unopposed
 - d. Vote for Secretary: Jana Broussard - unopposed
 - Motion to vote for Chair, Secretary made by Cindy Voelker, seconded by Debbie Cowan.
 - Approved by unanimous vote.
 - e. Vote for Vice Chair: Nominees: Debbie Cowan and Natalie Delgado
 - An anonymous paper vote was held; revealed a majority vote for Natalie Delgado as Vice Chair

VIII. Louisiana Assessments: Demographics, Outcomes, and Possible Next Steps -

Allison Sedey, Ph.D., CCC-A, CCC-SLP

University of Colorado-Boulder – Speech, Language, & Hearing Sciences

- i. Slide presentation with explanation of the outcome data.
- ii. Data looked at results from Round 1 of EHDI conducted assessments in Louisiana with comparison to 17 other Early Language Outcomes programs in the United States.
- iii. Dr. Sedey was confident that data were a well-represented assessment.
- iv. Natalie Delgado questioned about ethnicity versus race in the data analysis and about the combination of White and Hispanic individuals in the data. Dr. Sedey replied that these data follow the categories according to the US Census.
- v. Ashley Argrave-Smith inquired about the less than 50% Black persons represented in the data. Dr. Sedey replied that the percentages are consistent with the population percentages for the state of Louisiana, and reminded that the assessment was only a snapshot at that point in time, with 147 assessments

completed among children birth-age 3 in Louisiana and identified as deaf or hard of hearing.

- vi. Motion made by Jill Hudson, seconded by Jana Broussard, requesting the Language Outcomes committee have a virtual follow-up meeting with Dr. Sedey to look more closely at the language data.
- vii. Approved by a unanimous vote.

IX. New Business

- i. Due to time constraint, Natalie Delgado made a motion for the council meeting to extend to 2:45 p.m., seconded by Jana Broussard.
- ii. Natalie Delgado motioned to form a Committee to look for a possible revision to the law and bylaws regarding the addition of the outreach director from Louisiana School for the Deaf to the required council membership. Seconded by Jana Broussard.
- iii. Approved by unanimous vote of the council.
- iv. Natalie Delgado nominated Jana Broussard as chair for this committee. Jana Broussard accepted nomination.
- v. Approved by unanimous vote of council.

X. Public Comment

- i. Natalie Delgado, LAD representative, shared that LAD is hosting a conference June 26-28, 2025.

XI. Adjourn

- i. Meeting motion to adjourn by Natalie Delgado, seconded by Theresa Nicholls.
- ii. Meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.