



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

Location
Bienville Building, 173
628 N. 4th Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Meeting link
<https://zoom.us/j/91479470279>

Meeting Minutes

- I. Meeting Called to Order** at 12:08 p.m., *Dr. Ashley Argrave, Chair*
 - a. Reviewed meeting and communication standards
- II. Roll Call:** *Jana Broussard, Secretary*
 - a. Council members present: John Carter, Cynthia Voelker, Ashley Argrave-Smith, Jana Broussard, Marbely Barahona, Debbie Cowan, Caitlyn Robinson, Natalie Delgado, Susannah Boudreaux
-Quorum established 10/14 members present.
 - b. Council Members Absent: Jill Hudson, Theresa Nicholls
 - c. Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program Present: Dana Hubbard, Terri Ibieta, Thomas Hess
 - d. BFH Staff: Jasmine Thomas
 - e. Public Present: Nicole Deleon, Hands & Voices
 - f. Interpreters present: Sylvie Sullivan, Jennifer Guerrieri
- III. Council Vacancies** – *Dana Hubbard, EHDI Program Manager*
 - a. a hospital administrator
 - b. a deaf person
 - c. a parent of a child who is deaf or hard of hearing using spoken language
 - d. a speech and language pathologist
 - e. an otolaryngologist/otologist

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

- a. 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- N/A

VI. Approval of July 2025 Agenda (vote) – Dr. Ashley Argrave, Chair

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

VII. Approval of April 2025 Minutes (Vote)- Dr Ashley Argrave, Chair

- a. First motion to approve by Susannah Boudreaux, seconded by Marbely Barahona.
- b. Approved by unanimous vote

VIII. Hospital Scores 2024

- a. Presented by Terri Ibieta (EHDI); provided overview of hospital score charts for 2024. All hospitals received allotted points based on criteria. Screening rates were fulfilled at over 98% with a statewide average of 99.94%. All but one hospital in compliance for signature. See report.

IX. Council Member Onboarding

- a. Presented by Dana Hubbard (EHDI); reviewed Bureau of Family Health new Boards, Commissions, and Councils Orientation Guide. See handout.

X. Workgroup Update: Law

- a. Presented by Jana Broussard; provided update to recent meetings with the workgroup designated to review and make recommendations to the existing EHDI law. Work is in progress.
- b. Workgroup met on 7.1.25 and 7.25.25.
- c. Workgroup members are as follows: Jana Broussard, Secretary, Chair of committee, Susannah Boudreaux, Office of Public Health Representative; Dr. Ashley Argrave Smith, teacher of the deaf/hard of hearing, Chair of Council; Caitlyn Robinson, Louisiana Department of Education representative; Caroline Nailor-Oglesby, EarlySteps Director; Dr. Natalie Delgado, Louisiana Association of the Deaf representative, Executive Director Louisiana School for the Deaf, Vice Chair council; Dana Hubbard, EHDI Program Manager and meeting facilitator.

XI. New Business

- a. Request made by Dana Hubbard, EHDI Program Manager for consideration of a motion to add update about EHDI staff to agenda.
- b. First motion to approve by Jana Broussard, seconded by Natalie Delgado.
- c. Approved by unanimous vote
 1. System Development Coordinator responsible for analyzing data and following up with audiologists/families has resigned.

2. Data Coordinator responsible for hospital screening scorecards has resigned.
3. Remaining staff will keep operations running as smoothly as possible. Program hopes to open positions in the future.
4. Federal impacts for EHDI were discussed - Cuts to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention EHDI team at the federal level; LA EHDI submitted the new five year cooperative agreement as anticipated. Program notified that new awards would not be made at the time, however the option to apply for a 6th year supplement extension was available. Award granted for one more year. Council discussed ways in which it can support EHDI staff during this transition. EHDI program manager mentioned to continue with the work, consider ways to improve the program, stay engaged with council work by bringing issues from the field to committee to initiate change.

XII. Public Comment

- a. N/A

XIII. Adjourn

- a. Meeting motion to adjourn by Natalie Delgado, seconded by Paul Remedios.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 1:03pm.