



**State of Louisiana**  
Louisiana Department of Health  
Office of Public Health

**LOUISIANA BIRTH DEFECTS ADVISORY BOARD**

**May 16, 2025, 10:00 a.m. - noon**

**Location:**  
Benson Towers  
1450 Poydras Street  
New Orleans, LA 70112  
Room 2024

**Meeting link for members of the public:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85913208682?pwd=PQeRxK3HivZB7iuoTSJNPELr8YgbfV.1>

Phone: 1 309 205 3325 Conference code: 859 1320 8682 Passcode: 9twukP

**Meeting Minutes**

- I. Call to Order
  - a. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Julie Johnston, LBDMN Program Manager
- II. Roll Call & Introductions – Quorum was not met
  - a. The following stakeholders were present:
    - i. Dr. Gina Lagarde- LDH Medical Director & Administrator, Region 9
    - ii. Kate Friedman –OPH Environmental Health Tracking Network
    - iii. Kathleen Aubin – OPH Environmental Health Tracking Network
    - iv. Claudia Loston- Family Resource Center
    - v. Jasmine Thomas – BFH Boards, Commissions, and Councils Strategy and Operations Lead
  - b. The following staff were present:
    - i. Rebecca Majdoch
    - ii. Julie Johnston
    - iii. Christy Patton
    - iv. Curitessia Criff
    - v. Tracy Zehner
  - c. The following board members were absent:
    - i. Marshal St Amant
    - ii. Duane Superneau

- III. LBDMN Updates – The meeting was informational only due to lack of quorum.
  - a. Board membership- Rebecca Majdoch shared that Bureau of Family Health Boards, Commissions, and Councils Strategy and Operations Lead Jasmine Thomas is working with the Louisiana Department of Health Legislative & Regulatory Affairs Office to recruit for vacant member positions as specified in the [authorizing statute](#) as well as additional subject matter experts. Please submit recommendations to Julie Johnston.
  - b. Program Sustainability- Rebecca Majdoch reviewed that LBDMN is fully supported through the Title V Maternal and Child health Block Grant that includes state matched funding. LBDMN budget is not affected by current federal changes.
  - c. Surveillance – Julie Johnston shared that LBDMN is meeting the highest standards of timeliness and exceeding program goals for identifying and processing potential cases. In fiscal year 2025, LBDMN identified 3661 potential cases, processing 95% within 30 days. LBDMN completed 89% of 2024 births within 16 months. The national standard is 99% within 24 months.
- IV. Referrals – Julie Johnston shared that since 2022, LBDMN identified 4,569 children born in 2020–2025 who may benefit from a referral needs assessment. LBDMN collaborates with the Family Resource Center to conduct individual referral needs assessments with families and facilitate appropriate referrals for them. LBDMN identifies children within two years of age to optimize early intervention services to mitigate developmental risks.
- V. 2024 Legislative Report – Julie Johnston reviewed the [2024 Legislative Report](#) and discussed birth defects data findings of 2019-2021 births.
- VI. Poster Presentation- Orofacial Cleft Case Review: A Pilot Study in Louisiana was accepted for presentation at the 2025 National Birth Defects Prevention Network in Denver June 28-July 1.
- VII. New Business including Stakeholder Updates
  - a. Kate Friedman representing Environmental Public Health Tracking Network – completing data migration to Tableau and expects to publish birth defects data within the next month.
  - b. Claudia Loston announced Family Resource Center is hiring another Resource Specialist to handle the volume of birth defects and prematurity related referrals. Services are available in Spanish now. Materials are available in Spanish, Vietnamese, and Arabic.
  - c. Dr. Gina Lagarde commented on progressive work of LBDMN and encouraged the program to present data findings to other LDH programs and AAP clinicians.
- VIII. Public Comment – no comments
- IX. Adjourn
  - a. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Name  
Date  
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Future meeting details will be posted to  
<http://wwwcfprd.doa.louisiana.gov/boardsAndCommissions>

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