

## Louisiana Birth Defects Monitoring Network Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, July 23, 2010, 3:00 pm  
OPH State Laboratory  
3101 West Napoleon Ave  
Metairie, LA

Attendees:

*Dr. Floyd Buras, Chair*

*Dr. Susan Berry, Children's Health Services*

*Jasmine Gregoire, OPH, LBDMN*

*Keybo Griffin, OPH, LBDMN\**

*Dr. Joseph Hicks, OPH, LBDMN*

*Julie Johnston, OPH, LBDMN*

*Dr. Lyn Kieltyka, OPH, Maternal and Child Health*

*Dr. Yves Lacassie, LSU Health Sciences Center*

*Brianna Lyons, OPH, LBDMN*

*Dr. TaraChandra Narumanchi, Tulane University\**

*Darcie Olexia, OPH, SEET*

*Judy Otto, Spina Bifida*

*Nancy Roach, OPH, LBDMN\**

*Knesha Rose, March of Dimes*

*Cheryll Sheard, OPH, LBDMN*

*Kim Williams, MCH*

*Adrienne Katner, OPH, SEET*

*Eman Williams, OPH, SEET*

*Dr. Regina M. Zambrano, LSU Health Sciences Center*

*\*via teleconference*

### **I. Welcome/Introductions:** *Dr. Floyd Buras*

Dr. Buras called the meeting to order. Those present and participating via teleconference introduced themselves and stated their affiliations.

### **II. Announcements:** *Dr. Susan Berry*

Dr. Berry introduced Dr. William Joseph Hicks, Program Manager of Louisiana Birth Defects Monitoring Network (LBDMN). Prior to joining LBDMN, Dr. Hicks served as a Program Manager for Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals' (DHH) Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS). Dr. Hicks brings experience with human factors, clinical medicine, quality improvement and DHH surveillance systems in OPH and OAAS.

Dr. Berry reported on the LBDMN CDC grant award of \$205,000 for 5 years; the award will allow the program to provide statewide coverage of birth defects. The first year of grant funding will be used to acquire a database, Epidemiologist, Coder, additional staff, and laptops/supplies. The program will increase prevention and referral activities including publishing a revised resource guide to be distributed to families across the state.

### **III. LBDMN Program Update:** *Dr. Joseph Hicks*

Dr. Hicks expressed his pleasure for the opportunity of leading LBDMN during this exciting period. Dr. Hicks stated the program is in excellent shape and the immediate focus is automating the surveillance system.

Julie Johnston introduced the new staff members; Brianna Lyons, MPH Data Collection Specialist (DCS) for Region 9 and Tante Chatman, MPH DCS Region 3. The remaining two DCS positions will be filled by the end of the year.

Dr. Hicks reported that he has received eight applications for the EPI position. As data quality is important to the program, Dr. Hicks said the ideal EPI will need to have a tolerance for cleaning up data.

Dr. Hicks discussed the information to be shared during the CDC site visit to be held September 16-17<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Hicks has created the LBDMN logic model for presentation during the site visit. Dr. Hicks will be utilizing CDC best practices as a guide for modeling the program. The CDC database and models of other states that have

moved beyond our technical capability will serve as a guide for moving forward with surveillance activities. There was general discussion about including the advisory board during the site visit. Ms Katner of SEET mentioned their technical group met with CDC during their site visit in July. Dr. Kielyka stated the PRAMS board met during their site visit. Dr. Hicks will check with CDC to determine if feasible; an email will be sent to board members.

Dr. Hicks is moving through the new DHH IT process to take the program from paper to electronic documentation. The electronic form will allow DCS to enter data in the field. Dr. Hicks reported electronic documentation will allow the program to complete case review in a more timely fashion; track the correct babies; eliminate duplications; reduce the tracking cost per baby; distribute the resource guide in a timely fashion; monitor the services provided to families to insure uniform; and share information with partner agencies. Dr. Hicks stated case review of 2006 babies has not been completed and the families have not received the resource guide. Dr. Hicks stated based on preliminary analysis it appears that birth defects are uniform across regions, ethnicity, and type of disorder.

**IV Budget Update:** *Dr. Susan Berry*

Dr. Berry reported that financially the program is doing very well. She does not anticipate any budget cuts as CSHS is funded by Title V Block Grant (53% federal, 47% state match). The CDC grant funding period started in February; permission to use funds was granted July 1, 2010. Any unused grant funds will be carried over to year 2.

**V. Old Business/Other Business:** *Dr. Joseph Hicks*

There was general discussion regarding sharing data between programs. The group agreed on the necessity for programs working together and sharing data. The group discussed the problems LBDMN will face obtaining this goal.

Adrienne Katner of the OPH Section of Environmental Epidemiology and Toxicology (SEET) reported on the progress of SEET's CDC grant to establish an Environmental Public Health Tracking system (LEPHT) in Louisiana. The system is a web based surveillance health information site with a secure and public port. Ms Katner is working with DHH IT to create a data warehouse, tracking network which allows for data sharing, data reporting, mapping, and creating tables/ graphs. Ms Katner stated that Birth Defects are part of their focus; Dr. Hicks and Ms Katner will meet to discuss partnering. Ms Katner stated work agreements will be signed with agencies sharing data.

Dr. Lacassie suggested reviewing the goal of LBDMN; shift focus to trying to prevent birth defects. Dr. Lacassie suggested using the data to determine why women are having babies with birth defects. There was general discussion on the recommendation.

**VI. Public Comment:** *Public*

There was no public comment.

**VII. Closing Remarks:** *Dr. Floyd Buras*

Dr. Buras stated the next board meeting is September 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> if allowed to meet with CDC. Ms Sheard will email board members regarding their availability for the next meeting. Dr. Buras declared the meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.