

**MINUTES**  
**STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF HEARING IMPAIRED INFANTS**

**Quarterly Council Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 31, 2017**  
**LaPlace, Louisiana**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Thiravat Choojitarom, Gina Easterly, Jill Guidry, Penny Hakim, Nancy Hicks (by phone), Staci Sullivan

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** Patti Moss, Alla Tarasyuk

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Terri Mohren, Jeanette Webb, Melinda Peat, Susannah Boudreaux, Wendy Jumonville

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Choo at 10:00 am. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved with unanimous vote of attending Council. Council member attendees and guests introduced themselves.

**New Business.** Council members were queried, and there is no new business at this time.

**Council Discussion of Old Business**

**Loss to Follow up Report:** Jeanette Webb presented report on Loss to Followup. Her report was accompanied by a summary report, attached hereto at Attachment A. Ms. Webb clarified that *in process* means they failed at birth, had at least one out patient followup but no conclusive results as to normal hearing or not normal hearing. *No documentation* means they failed, but LA EHDI has not received any documentation as to what is going on – they have not been reported as *lost to followup* , have not passed and they are not *in process*.

Jeanette shared initiatives LA EHDI team is doing. Wendy is now calling parents that are in process. contacting the pediatrician, contacted the audiologist asking for latest status. The next QI test Wendy was doing is contacting the parents. We know that they have failed at least two screenings, one in the hospital and one outpatient. So we're finding it effective to contact the parents. The other thing we are ready to launch, is our collaboration with WIC. Jeanette shared this ½ sheet neon yellow cardstock form (attached as Attachment B). It is being piloted in the Region 8 (Monroe area). Then each WIC clinic will have a folder with a sticker with Jeanette's contact info. So when the child goes to WIC clinic, there will be alerts on the WIC database. Failed newborn screening, needs followup services. Reminder of appointment will be given on these forms. Right now LA EHDI's followup consultant in that area has testing equipment and may be able to provide rescreening at home or the library, etc. Another way that we're contacting parents is sending letters at intervals (six weeks and then another month), even sending second letters to ensure they are following up. Now we're able to use the database to its capacity we're hoping that using the new assistant, Brittany, to aid with followup. Jeanette and Terri also mentioned that PPEP has

been helpful with bridging the gap with reminders and prompting families, along with Parent Guides to encourage followup.

Specific PCP issues. Ultimately that falls on the head of the pediatrician who should ensure that parents stay on top and encourage contact and work with the professionals. Ms. Webb shared that it was brought to her attention through calls with a parent that a specific pediatrician had given inaccurate information to a parent. Council discussed appropriate guidance given HIPPA privacy issues. Terri Ibieta suggested possibly a letter from Advisory Council might be a good way avenue with specific recommendations for followup when these conditions happen. It could come from LA EHDI, but the specific statement from the Advisory Council would be the recommendations of AAP are blah, blah, blah. Dr. Choo mentioned if it were in an official type of envelope from the state, perhaps it would carry more weight and be given more notice. And then this would be sent to a specific pediatrician, with reference to the patient attaching the AAP recommendations/ guidelines. A draft will be prepared, reviewed and sent.

**CDC and LA EHDI updates.** Terri Ibieta shared about the CDC grant. We had a five year grant. Then next came up a one year extension. Right now we are writing the next CDC grant, which will be three years this time. It is due March 6, but has to be submitted before EHDI conference. The past CDC grants have been for \$150,000. This time they are offering a core grant for \$150,000 and a \$100,000 for an expanded optional. The core Grant they have 40 something available. So they more or less have one available for all the states that have CDC grants. The expanded optional, they only have six available. I'm not sure how many are eligible to apply for that. They have a list of requirements for the databases, and they list them as the information system shell, 100% of the shell for your IS must be accomplished. So we do qualify to apply. I'm not sure how many are eligible. We will be applying for both. This time they are not concentrating on hospital data. We are looking at how we can expand and improve it. So the expected outcomes are to improve documentation of timely followup diagnostic testing, so beyond the screening. Moving on and getting all the diagnostic testing results and early intervention services in order to support the identification of hearing impaired infants and potential developmental delays. Surveillance, data tracking, data partnerships, strategic data and dissemination, more sharing with the stakeholders and the community more information about EHDI. At one of the next upcoming Advisory Council meetings, Dawne, Tri and I will share more about the specifics about what our system can do. To see it all written out, it will be really beneficial I think to be able to share what all our system can do.

Upcoming on March 30, an EI Consortium will be held looking at the intervention part of EHDI. At this meeting, we will use the 2013 supplement to the 2007 JCIH Position Statement to be reviewed by stakeholders. Two goals will be chosen and form committees to improve those goals.

Tri Tran, LA EHDI epidemiologist, shared his Poster session that will be presented at the national EHDI conference in Atlanta entitled "Dopes Follow-up Appointment Scheduled by Hospital Staff Prior to Hospital Discharge Improve Loss to Follow-up among Newborns who Fail Newborn Hearing Screening?" This poster handout is attached as Attachment C.

All concurred that data provides an important impact. Challenges still exist with scheduling. Wendy shared that with scheduling, block scheduling can be more efficient. She has shared this with other an office that was finding this challenging.

**Department of Education update.** Nancy Hicks provided update. At the last meeting she updated the Advisory Council on the Communication Plan. A workgroup has been formed and is reviewing the Communication Plan. It is hoped that some of the edits in the system will help us track the children that need communication plans. Nanette Olivier is the one on our staff working on this.

Nancy shared she will be retiring within the month. Megan Miron, special ed preschool coordinator will be taking Nancy's place on the Council.

**Early Intervention:** Susannah Boudreaux shared an update from LSD's Parent Pupil Education Program. Her update is attached as Attachment D.

**Council Vacancies:** We have some things in the works. We are awaiting nomination letters. Susannah Boudreaux will be joining us as Deaf Educator. Leah Ann Norman will be the audiologist, so things are moving along. Wendy Jumonville will talk with a neonatologist at Baton Rouge General.

**Next Advisory Council Meeting:**

The next Advisory Council meeting will convene May 2, 2017 in LaPlace.

**Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. Choojitarom and seconded by Gina Easterly. By unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.

**Committee Meetings:**

Committees met briefly.

