

MINUTES
STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF HEARING IMPAIRED
INFANTS

Quarterly Council Meeting
Thursday, October 15, 2015

Bienville Building, Conference Room 118
628 North 4th Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Thiravat Choojitarom, Naomi DeDual, Gina Easterly, Linda Frantz, Juan Gershanik (by phone), Jill Guidry, Nancy Hicks, Cynthia Suire, Alla Tarasyuk

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Penny Hakim, Anita Jeyakumar, Patti Moss, Staci Sullivan

GUESTS PRESENT: Melinda Peat (by phone), Terri Ibieta, Jeanette Webb, Susannah Boudreaux, MaryJo Smith

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Choojitarom at 10:00 am. The minutes from the previous meeting were not available and will be reviewed at a later date. Council member attendees and guests introduced themselves.

Old Business:

LTF/LTD Follow up Report:

Jeanette shared of the work she and Wendy had been doing following up with PCP. The response to letters being sent out has been great, attributable to being sent out more timely – making strides. Reporting 2014 – down to 29% and for that short of a period to have a change down from 32% in July to now at 29% is huge. No documentation decreased from 19% to 15% -- getting documentation. Still have a lot of work to do – there are over 800 records.

What looks good is have data for 2015. Currently have 35 users, mostly audiologists, using new system. Users like speed to use system to report. Quarter 1 2015 --- overall loss to followup is 26% overall. Ran Quarter 2 (April through June) is 34%. For both quarters, the average LTF is 30%, which is great this close to birth. Hope that by summer of next year, it will be better: more trained, r doing it better, faxes going out at three weeks of age in anticipating of coming into pediatrician. Responses from PCP are coming in good. At six weeks, if we have no documentation, then we send letter. Average 40 letters per week. It is looking better. Dr. Choojitarom questions, do you feel we have

better penetration throughout the state? Jeanette reports: The northwest area, yes ... and then we are meeting tomorrow with WIC, Monica McDaniels, the new program coordinator. We've ordered some new equipment, and we're modeling after the Wisconsin program, to do followup. Hoping alerts can be put in the WIC database. When the equipment ordered by LA EHDl comes in and we're able to have person go to the WIC office to test. Cynthia Suire shared her experience of working with WIC and if the children are in private care, then that baby does not come back to the WIC office until the recertification time. You can ask about baby, but they are under private care, so you may not have access. Sometimes it can be six months or nine months. Jeanette indicates they want that alert for when they come back for that certification appointment. WIC federal guidelines mandate that from contact by a family, they are required to meet timelines. In some areas, the percentages are that the majority have private providers; therefore the children are not necessarily seen by the WIC. Cynthia indicates that its possible that when they receive nutrition counseling, possibly alerts could be in place.

Trainings are being held one-on-one are more effective, rather than in group trainings. Terri, MaryJo and Wendy are doing walk throughs.

ACT 250 implementation – Nancy Hicks reports passing of Act 250 to update Deaf Child's Bill of Rights. Old one in place was more of soft language, more of an entitlement. This bill is to clarify that there are mandates that a child will receive an appropriate education (for public schools). One of the main additions was the implementation of a communicates. It is actually required in the federal law and recognized in our state law. It is recognized in the Deaf Child's Bill of Rights. It is published that each child who is deaf or hard of hearing has a communication plan in their IEP or IAP. Some children who the impact of their hearing loss may be handled under 504 plan. Requirements of communication plan: how does the child communicate with peers, teachers, etc. If you don't go to LSD, Ascension parish or Lafayette, it can be isolatings. The intent is to have the IEP team consider all of these. Since PP was published in July, DOE has met with stakeholders to develop necessary components. The tool is not mandated, but it will be on the website. If you follow plan and use it, it would be the intent of the law. DOE is suggesting that this plan be used and that the major parts be in the communication plan. Could be an attachment to an IEP, but not mandated. Dr. Gershanik asks about monitoring. Nancy reports the is monitoring in their department. Some districts are selected for monitoring and a list of students and they will check to see if the block on the IEP will be checked to see if it meets requirements. Dr. Gershanik inquired about Charter and private schools as well. Ms. Hicks indicates bill only covers public schools, and charters are public schools, if they accept federal funds. No money is attached to 504s, so there are very few people assigned to monitor that. Terri shares that was one of the concerns at the Deaf Summit, that there are so many children now

especially oral, early implanted who end up in regular education classes, but yet their communication plan needs to be addressed. Ms. Hicks says that if there are children who meet the definition of hearing impaired, then they should be on an IEP. Placement does not determine special education. Gina express that possibly the parent education component could help parents to understand that. MFP money is a double dose if you are a child with an IEP, a little IDEA money and then also now the Medicaid billing. There was some discussion regarding Charter schools and application there.

Susannah Boudreaux with LSD continuing to serve children statewide children with hearing loss working with Hands & Voices, throughout the state. PPEP is trying to ensure that at least every other month families have the opportunity to get together with others. Hosting lunch n learns and representatives from cochlear implant companies so that the understand more in that process. Hope to continue to do more lunch n learns. Currently hosting in BR, but hoping to see about other locations in the state. Advanced Bionics is doing home visits too. Susannah is doing webinar for Families Helping Families of Jefferson next week. Nancy Hicks suggested contacting Mary Jacobs with Families Helping Families regarding hosting as well, and Gina Easterly suggested also contacting LAPTIC for a wider reach as well. Facebook page has been established to promote family networking and connections.

Upcoming LA EHDl sponsored events -- Leftover grant funds will be used to sponsor ASTra training (Advocacy Support Training specific to children with hearing loss) targeting families, school systems, and anyone would participate in advocacy for a child with a hearing loss going through the IEP process. Parents and any professionals and again school system personnel. National presenters from H&V will be presenting. Second day will be more intense training for GBYS parents guides and others that apply.

The second opportunity is an early intervention conference to be held in New Orleans. February 22, 2016. We want to really have audiologists to attend, covering teaming and through diagnosis. Will have a national speaker come in too. In the JCIH revision there are guidelines for early intervention, and we feel like many of our providers may not be aware of them. Our early intervention committee is initially assessing where we are as a state for these. Hoping to pull all providers to this.

The next two days we will offer training specifically for people providing early invention for deaf and hard of hearing children. Looking to pull in different professionals to come in and do specific topics.

All three of these educational opportunities will be free. We're very excited to have the money and be able to do it.

Louisiana Hands & Voices update – Jill Guidry shared report of activities and upcoming Rock’n’Bowl information.

Changes in council positions. Cynthia Suire retiring, her position is vacant. Cynthia will visit with EHDl team more. Barbara Gordon Wendt has relocated to Hawaii, therefore audiologist position is vacant as well.

Next Advisory Council Meeting:

The next Advisory Council meeting will convene Thursday, January 21, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. with location to be announced in New Orleans.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Gina Easterly and seconded by Jill Guidry. By unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm. The meeting was then ended with a call for brief Committee meetings owing to the lateness of the hour.

