



State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health Office of Public Health

Louisiana Birth Defects Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2021
1:00-3:00pm

- I. **Welcome & Introductions**
 - a. **Members** present: Dr. Meredith Allain, Geneticist Ochsner New Orleans; Dr. Lyn Kieltyka, State MCH Epidemiologist
- II. **Stakeholders & Partners** present: Dr. Gina Lagarde, Pediatrician/Office of Public Health Region 9 Medical Director; Kathleen Aubin and Kate Friedman, OPH Section of Environmental Epidemiology and Toxicology, Environmental Public Health Tracking Network; Betsey Snider, Coordinator, Bureau of Family Health (BFH) Family Resource Center;
 - a. **Staff** present: Jane Herwehe, BFH Data to Action Team (DAT) Lead; Dionka Pierce, BFH DAT Program Manager, providing direct supervision for the LBDMN program; Julie Johnston, LBDMN Program Manager; Dr. Tri Tran, BFH Senior Epidemiologist supporting LBDMN and Early Hearing Detection & Intervention; Christy Patton, Region 7 Data Collection Specialist (DCS); Curitessia Criff, Regions 6 & 8 DCS; Tracy Zehner, Regions 4&5 DCS, Jasmine Luter, Region 1 DCS.
- III. **Updates**
 - a. **LBDMN 2021 Legislative Report:** was presented for review and approval by the board. The report includes findings from the 2015-2017 data analysis and updates of 2020 strategic planning and implementation including revised workflow approach, case definition codes, and advisory board activities to move data to action for prevention and interventions to improve the quality of life for children with birth defects. No edits were made.
 - b. **Data Report:** Just a reminder as specified by our legislation, we follow children up to their third birthday. Therefore, our data is not considered final and reportable until 3-3.5 years.

Of 179,510 children born between 2015 and 2017, 5,296 children were diagnosed with at least one birth defect, yielding an overall prevalence of 295 per 10,000 live births or 2.95%. Among children with birth defects, cardiovascular system defects (50.3%) were the most common. This is a

2% increase in CHDs from 2014-2016 data reported last year. All other defects decreased.

- c. **BFH Family Resource Center Referral Partnership Update:** LBDMN is partnering with BFH's Family Resource Center to connect families to health, social, and developmental resources. Updates include development of referral logic (44 codes), report variables, and death matching; administrative support for case data entry and mailing introductory postcard; creation and approval of postcard; and development of phone scripts. From January –May 2021, we have identified 362 children with specified birth defects born in the 2018-2021 cohort for the initial pilot.
- d. **Partner Updates:** Environmental Public Health Tracking Network reported an update to birth outcomes data in the health data portal <https://healthdata.ldh.la.gov/>. This includes 2005-2015 birth defects data. 2016-2017 data will be added to the portal in the July 2021 update.

IV. Forecast of Advisory Board Activities

- a. **Prevention Case Review Project:** In response to conversations during our March meeting, we debuted the beginnings of a prevention case review process for discussion. The purpose of the case review is to move our data to action by identifying preventable birth defects to make evidence based recommendations for systems level changes to improve prevention and intervention efforts in Louisiana's maternal health system. We explored the following elements necessary for the process: data variables, building representative cases, literature reviews, and identifying evidenced based recommendations. We discussed formats for data and case review presentations, meeting formats and process schedules. The board discussed potentially trying several formats to determine what works best.
- **Member Recruitment:** In addition to the board vacancies required in legislation, we discussed the subject matter expertise and representation from partners and stakeholders needed to do the following activities of prevention case review analysis, identifying and making evidence-based recommendations, facilitating implementation of recommendations, and improving data collection.

Suggestions included:

- Pediatric Cardiologist
- Hospital HIM and IT
- Hospital Association
- LPHI's REACHnet staff member
- Equitable geographic representation
- Rural providers and/or rural family representation
- Clinic Nurse
- Social Worker

- Substance Use Counselor
- Representatives from Medicaid Quality Committee and Perinatal Commission

V. **Discussion & Public Comment:** none.

VI. Adjournment: 2:54pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Julie Johnston.