

Louisiana Birth Defects Monitoring Network Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 8, 2010, 2:30 pm
OPH State Laboratory
3101 West Napoleon Ave
Metairie, LA

Attendees:
Dr. Floyd Buras, Chair

*Martha Boudreaux, March of Dimes**
*Berkley Durbin, MCH Coalition**
Jasmine Gregoire, OPH, LBDMN
*Keybo Griffin, OPH, LBDMN**
Julie Johnston, OPH, LBDMN
Dr. Lyn Kieltyka, OPH, Maternal and Child Health
Dr. Yves Lacassie, LSU Health Sciences Center

*Dr. TaraChandra Narumanchi, Tulane University**
Darcie Olexia, OPH, SEET
*Christy Patton, OPH, LBDMN**
*Nancy Roach, OPH, LBDMN**
Cheryll Sheard, OPH, LBDMN
Kay Webster, OPH, LBDMN

**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. Floyd Buras*

There were none.

III. LBDMN Program Update: *Kay Webster, LBDMN Staff*

Ms. Webster informed the group that Jasmine Gregoire is the new Data Collection Specialist (DCS) for Region 1; she then introduced Jasmine. Jasmine shared information regarding her background with the group. Ms. Webster stated that Julie Johnston (DCS Regions 2, 9) will assist with Jasmine's training, and will help her become acquainted with area hospitals. Ms. Webster welcomed Jasmine to the program.

Ms. Webster reported that an application has been submitted to the CDC for a new grant opportunity. A total of \$2,800,000 will be distributed to fund 12-16 five-year awards. The purpose of the grant is to support (1) implementation or expansion of state birth defects surveillance systems; (2) development and implementation of birth defects prevention programs; and (3) implementation or expansion of activities (including referral to services) to improve access of children with birth defects to health services and early intervention programs. Notification of awards should be made by late January, if not earlier; the funding start date is February 1, 2010. Ms. Webster stated that the submitted application contained funding for web-based database software, an epidemiologist, three part-time Data Collection Specialists, and a part-time certified professional coder.

Ms. Webster updated the group on efforts to obtain a web-based database for LBDMN. She reported that she has re-engaged with the DHH database developer and some progress has been made. Ms. Webster reported that prototype web forms are being designed and a partial data upload based on a subset of LBDMN data has been completed.

IV. 2010 Birth Defects Prevention Month: *Cheryll Sheard*

Ms. Sheard reported on LBDMN's activities in recognition of National Birth Defects Prevention Month (January 2010). She stated that the CDC and the National Birth Defects Prevention Network have chosen the theme of diabetes among women of childbearing age for this year's observance. In recognition of the month,

we added a new page to the LBDMN website with information about how women with diabetes can have healthy pregnancies and lower their risk of having a child with a birth defect: <http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/page.asp?ID=261&Detail=9176>. A banner announcing prevention month was placed on the home pages of LBDMN (<http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/?ID=261>), the Office of Public Health (<http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/?ID=79>), and the Department of Health and Hospitals (<http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/>). When clicked, the banner links to the information posted on the LBDMN website. Ms. Sheard shared copies of the pages with the group.

Ms. Sheard reported that a Governor's Proclamation and a news release have been submitted to DHH; both are moving through the DHH approval process. Ms. Sheard stated that approximately 100 resource packets were distributed around the state by LBDMN Data Collection Specialists. The packets went to all OPH health units. In addition, packets were distributed to various university health centers, birthing hospitals, and medical clinics where LBDMN is active. The packets contained a health care provider letter, diabetes fact sheets in both English and Spanish, and various pamphlets from the March of Dimes and CDC in English and Spanish. Ms. Sheard circulated a sample packet for review; she stated that resource packets will be mailed to advisory board members. There was general discussion on LBDMN visibility.

V. Budget Update: Kay Webster for Dr. Susan Berry

Ms. Webster reported on the LBDMN budget situation for Children's Special Health Services Director Dr. Susan Berry, who could not be present. She stated that CSHS has submitted a New/Expanded Budget Request to DHH for fiscal year 2011. The request including funding for the statewide expansion of LBDMN. DHH Deputy Secretary Tony Keck requested a meeting to gather additional information, and subsequently decided to endorse the request. It will go forward to the Division of Administration for approval as an addendum to the overall DHH 2011 budget package. Ms. Webster added that additional cuts to CSHS in the current fiscal year are unlikely, but if any are made they will not affect Birth Defects Monitoring.

VI. Old Business/Other Business: General

Dr. Buras asked if anyone present had any other business to report on. Darcie Olexia 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. She stated that the funds have been awarded to the state; however, SEET still has not been given approval to spend the funds. There will be a meeting in February with the Division of Administration to discuss SEET's request for a revised budget. Ms. Olexia reported that SEET has created a new webpage for LEPHT; any feedback or suggestions are welcome (www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/page.asp?id=205&detail=6502).

Ms. Olexia reported that SEET is working with consultant Kris Chrishon; they will meet Wed., Jan. 13th at 2 pm to discuss ArcGIS mapping software. She stated that SEET will be happy to share GIS resources with LBDMN. She stated that the LEPHT team has regular conference calls with the CDC Birth Defects Tracking Workgroup (next call: Jan. 28, 1 pm). To be added to the call, contact LEPHT Coordinator Adrienne Katner (Adrienne.Katner@la.gov).

VII. Public Comment: Public

There was no public comment.

VIII. Closing Remarks: Dr. Floyd Buras

Dr. Buras proposed that the next board meeting be held the second or third Friday in May. Cheryll Sheard will email board members regarding their availability for the next meeting. Ms. Webster asked if starting the meetings at 3 pm would be an inconvenience; the group agreed that a 3 pm start time is acceptable.

Dr. Buras declared the meeting adjourned.