



State of Louisiana

Department of Health and Hospitals

Office of Public Health

LOUISIANA COMMISSION ON PERINATAL CARE AND PREVENTION OF INFANT MORTALITY

Workgroup Meeting: Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) Discussion
Conference Call: 1888-204-5984 Access Code 1982918
Dec 11, 2014 12:30PM-1:30 PM

Attendees: Dr. P. Scott Barrilleaux, Chair, Amy Zapata

Guests: Karis Schoellmann, Melissa McNeil, Ekwutosi Okoroh; Dr. Tina Stefanski, Berkley Durbin, Greg Wadell, Rebecca Gurvich, Regional MCH Coordinators: Kelly Bankston, Chris Cornell.

Meeting Notes:

1) Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)

The workgroup continued discussion on possible action items to address NAS in Louisiana. A grid that plots ASTHO guidance on NAS with potential action items was used to identify next steps:

Data-

- La Medicaid is conducting further analysis of data on the extent of the NAS problem, number of cases and costs and will present an update at the next meeting in January 2015.
- The Bureau of Family Health (BFH) is exploring the feasibility of making NAS a reportable condition. A meeting is set up with infectious disease next week to discuss what is involved in the process. BFH staff will facilitate a discussion at the next Perinatal Commission meeting on the pros and cons of making NAS reportable, along with pros and cons of different reporting mechanisms.

Policy-

- The data inquiries from the Perinatal Commission to La Medicaid have played a major role in elevating the issue of NAS with LA Medicaid. The Commission will identify and determine recommendations related to NAS prevention and screening to provide to Medicaid for the Bayou Health Plans.
- The work of the Commission has elevated the issue of NAS in both DCFS and with Early Steps. Amy Zapata affirmed that the BFH will continue to take a lead role to partner with these agencies to enhance policy related to NAS prevention.
- The Commission will continue to explore the feasibility of providing guidance to hospitals regarding universal screening of NAS.

Provider Education -

- Dr. Barrilleaux has contacted Louisiana Board of Medical Examiners (LSBME) who has agreed to work with the Commission on creating awareness of the issue of NAS. Dr. Barrilleaux will make himself available to provide presentations with a *call to action* to LSBME and to ACOG. K. Schoellmann will work to provide "brief" supportive material.
- Dr. Barrilleaux is working to secure a list of Methadone providers/clinics statewide. The BFH will request that their Regional MCH Coordinators reach out to these providers to generate awareness of the NAS issue and make them aware of Take Charge Family Planning services as a referral for their clients.

2) Perinatal Commission Membership

- Dr. Barrilleaux requested that members send in recommendations for the remaining vacant positions on the Commission: Nutritionist, Social Worker, Pediatrician, and a Representative from a family planning clinic, ideally, tapping into under-represented areas of the state, such as northern Louisiana (Monroe), Alexandria, Lake Charles.
- The Perinatal Commission's recommendations for new members, Dr. Rodney Wise and Dr. Cliff Moors have been submitted to Dept. of Boards and Commissions and are awaiting approval.

3) Other Business

The Perinatal Commission's agenda item to receive education on Louisiana organ donation and related laws, which was tentatively scheduled for the Jan 8 meeting, was deferred to the March 2015 meeting.

4) Upcoming Meetings

- In-Person Meeting: Jan 8, 2015 from 1:00-3:00 at the Bienville Building, Baton Rouge
- 2015 Meeting Dates : *All times are from 1:00-3:00 PM at the Bienville Building in Baton Rouge*
 - Jan 8, 2015
 - March 12, 2015
 - May 14, 2015
 - July 16, 2015
 - Sep 10, 2015
 - Nov 12, 2015