

Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids (LEAD-K) Task Force

Monday, Monday December 3rd, 2018
Minutes – Official

The December 3rd, 2018 meeting of the Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids (LEADK) Task Force was called to order at 9:32am. Members present were: Paula Rodriguez, Winona Gibbs Kristy Harrell, Beth Ann Johnson, Shelley Chesney, Ryan Gollner, Fallon Frederick, Jay Isch, Susannah Boudreaux, Brenda Sharp, and Representative Smith.

Dana Hubbard served as a proxy for Rana Otallah.

Jimmy Gore served as proxy for Cindy Robbilard.

Melanie Washington served as proxy for Bambi Polotzola.

Representing the Louisiana Department of Education was Jamie Wong.

Representing the Louisiana Department of Health was Ariel Bumbala.

Susannah Boudreaux provided an overview of the minutes from the November 5th, 2018 meeting. The Task Force response was as follows:

1. On motion of Fallon Frederick, and seconded by Jay Isch, the LEAD-K Task Force accepted the minutes from the November 5th, 2018 meeting.

Susannah Boudreaux proposed the consideration of a discussion about language milestones for students who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

2. On motion of Kristy Harrell, and seconded by Paula Rodriguez, the Task Force deliberated on the milestones that they would like to recommend in their report to the Legislature. Paula Rodriguez presented a document that she was in progress of developing that provides milestones in both American Sign Language and English for children ages birth to five for further consideration

3. On motion of Shelley Chesney, and seconded by Representative Smith, The task force will include a framework of the milestones inclusive of the core components and will list those out. Include that framework in the legislative report due February 1 and form a subcommittee to finalize a Louisiana language milestone document that provides milestones in both American Sign Language and English for children ages birth to five for further consideration.

4. On motion of Beth Ann Johnson, seconded by Ariel Bumbala, the Task Force opened a discussion on additional tools for assessing the language milestones of students who are Deaf or hard of hearing

5. On motion of Shelley Chesney and seconded by Jay Isch, The taskforce will include a framework for criteria of additional assessments used to assess the expressive, receptive, and cognitive skills of children who are Deaf and/or Hard of Hearing in the report to the Legislature using the following categories: age, language domain, language modality, frequency of use, norm reference and qualifications of individuals who administer the tool and recommends that the Department of Education and Department of Health use the framework in their guidance to school systems, providers, and families.

Susannah Boudreaux led a discussion around the frequency of data collection. The Task Force continued this discussion and moved toward deliberating the charge to identify procedures and methods for reporting language acquisition, progress of children who are Deaf or hard of hearing to parents, teachers and other professionals involved in early intervention and education. The Task Force ran out of time and agreed to continue this discussion during the January 17, 2019 meeting.

With no further business to come before the LEAD-K Task Force, the December 3rd, 2018 meeting of the LEAD-K Task Force was adjourned at 12:52pm