

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes 4.23.2021

Council Members present: Jana Broussard, Gina Easterly, Dana Hubbard, Leigh Anne Norman, Jill Hudson, Marbely Barahona, Brittany Braun, Cindy Voelker, Theresa Nicholls, Natalie Delgado, and Walker Estes.

EHDI Team Members present: Terri Ibieta, Danielle Mercer, and Susannah Boudreaux

Guests present: Shane Bates, Taylor Primeaux, Ashley Argrave and Lacey Gero.

Chair Dana Hubbard called meeting to order at 10:04am.

Review of Minutes: Motion to accept January 22, 2021 meeting minutes from Jill Hudson seconded by Theresa Nicholls. Meeting minutes were accepted.

EHDI Program Updates provided by Program Director Susannah Boudreaux. First update: In-Home Screening Pilot Project. Second update: North Louisiana Services Committee EHDI Collaborative meeting. Third update: EHDI System Development Coordinator presentation to American Academy of Audiology. Fourth update: Award from NCHAM on Louisiana EHDI Website of the Year. Fifth update: EHDI sponsored trainings to PPEP staff members as part of program collaborative efforts. Additionally updates were shared about Louisiana Hands and Voices staff attendance of the National EHDI Conference, virtual monthly Parent Chats, and Parent Guide training opportunities.

Parent Share: Taylor Primeaux, mother of a child who is deaf and also has CMV, shared her experiences from newborn hearing screening through diagnosis and enrollment in early intervention services, and impressed upon the Council the importance of pursuing awareness of CMV both with families and professionals.

Early Intervention Data Share: Terri Ibieta shared an overview of the Plan Do Study Act Cycle tested by the EHDI program from June of 2020 through January of 2021. PRE-PDSA Early Intervention enrollment rate for the PPEP Program was 47%, and EarlySteps was 59%. After implementing the 4 tests of change for a 7-month period, the enrollment rates increased slightly for PPEP and drastically for EarlySteps. The overall percent increase for the PPEP program was 6%, and the percent increase for enrollment in EarlySteps was 50%. Since the changes that were tested in this PDSA led to a large increase in the number of children enrolled in Early Intervention, these changes have been adopted and are now being implemented as program protocol.

EHDI Law Work Group Update: Susannah Boudreaux provided an overview of the history of the EHDI Law work group and the frequency and focus of their meetings. Recommendations from the work group that were shared with the council included suggestions to amend the program purpose, definitions, and risk factors; add in a requirement for all providers of outpatient audiological testing to report results; and to add a seat in Council membership for an early intervention stakeholder. No questions were posed by Council members. Theresa Nicholls motioned to move forward with the BFH Legislative Policy Proposal to submit recommended changes to the law for legal review and to develop a fact sheet with supporting documents. Jill Hudson seconded that motion.

Community or Council Member Updates: none shared.

Public Comment: none shared.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:56am with a motion by Jill Hudson, seconded by Jana Broussard.

Next Council meeting date is July 23, 2021 at 10am via Zoom platform.