Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

09.12.18

Council Members present: Terri Ibeta, Jay Isch, Ariel Bumbula, Jimmy Gore, Dr. Choojitarom, Susannah Boudreaux, Melodie Sparks, Dawn McCabe, Leigh Ann Norman, Gina Easterly, Melissa McConnell, Marbelly Barahona, Dr. Konotra, Danielle Mercer

Composition of Council: set by legislation; JI asked inquired about having a psychologist on the Council. Dr. Choo explained that the Council could invite a psychologist or any other person to a meeting to talk about a specific topic.

Council vacancies: Dr. Choo is writing letter on behalf of AAP to recommend a neonatologist; SLP: letter sent to LBESPA for recommendation; currently looking for a pediatrician

Revisions to bylaws: All council members agreed with recommended changes; revisions were approved

Secretary nomination: Gina Easterly was nominated as Secretary, she accepted the nomination

LEAD-K: two taskforce meetings have been held to date, working to identify an assessment tool or tools to assess receptive and expressive language for young children (birth to 5 years) who are deaf or hard of hearing; getting input from states who are currently implementing SKI HI – an assessment tool that can be completed in multiple language (ASL, English, Spanish); report form the LEAK-K taskforce is due to the legislation, with recommendations, by 02.01.19. All documents, presentations from the meetings are posted on the LDE website, under LEAD-K. SKI-HI currently used by PPEP, not utilized statewide by early interventionists and/or early care and education professionals

Deaf Mentors: Ariel received 7 applications, she would like to have at least 10 mentors. Melodie asked where applicants were from, Ariel stated that she would need to review again and determine where the greatest need is across the state. Jimmy asked her to send him the flyer for the application so he could share with LAD

Guide by Your Side and Hands and Voices: Ariel stated that she is trying to hire guides who are deaf, who can help change the narrative. She wants families with young children to meet adults who are deaf. These deaf mentors could be trained in SKI-HI.

New members of EHDI team: Danielle Mercer is the EHDI system development coordinator; Andrea Outhuse works at BFH, on the CIA team. She will help with developing the website, screening forms, messaging, brochure revisions, etc. EHDI is co-sponsoring the 2018 Connections Conference with Michael Norman, Coordinator of the Louisiana Deafblind Project for Children and Youth with LSUHSC in New Orleans on September 14 and 15, 2018.

CMV Conference: Dr. Choo and Terri will be attending the annual CMV conference in Vermont and will share information obtained at the next EHDI meeting.

EHDI Committee Meetings: Newborn Hearing Screening forms reviewed, suggested edits provided by the Committee to reflect more family-friendly language. Most members liked the screening report from Minnesota. Members from the forms and brochure committee: Marbelly, Jay, Nicole, Christina, Terri, Susannah and Gina. Suggested revisions made to document during the Committee meeting. Will send final draft with edits out for review prior to the next meeting.

Some suggested edits on forms from the Council members included:

\*Bulleted questions related to “What You Should Know about Your Baby’s Hearing?

\*Under parent information: Your Baby’s Hearing, highlight “one” ear – maybe capitalize it

\*Highlight “Make sure you keep” or “Bring this with you” – maybe watermark “bring to your pediatrician”

\*Possible revision from “hearing loss” to “determining hearing status” – some members concerned that this may not be easily understood by some families. Recommended changing language to be more positive, not “your child has a hearing loss and this is devastating”, maybe “here are some different ways you can help your child”.

\*Next steps – list what to do next

\*Keep graphics minimal and colorful

\*Recommended changing “Does further testing needed mean my baby has a hearing loss?”; “Can I check my baby’s hearing at home?”

\*Keep 90% of infants who are deaf or hard of hearing are born to hearing parents/families

\*Keep risk factor information to increase public awareness or remove it; these statistics may not mean much to some families. Some disagreement here. Others think that families need as much information as possible. Some members reminded others that the purpose of these forms was to let families know their baby’s hearing needs to be screened again.

\*Separate ABR and OAE

\*Remove hearing loss and add “your baby needs further testing”

\*Follow-up appointment on bottom of the form needs to be on the front and back

Chloe Lake with the CIA team in BFH talked briefly about the process that forms, flyers, any public facing materials need to go through with BFH programs.

Discussion about triplicate form and being hesitant to change it because families and staff recognize it in the hospitals. With any revisions to forms or processes, we will need to train all staff.

Ariel recounted great conversation with Dr. Choo in an early meeting and their plans to provide training to medical students and residents about how to talk with families in a very positive way about having a child who is deaf or hard or hearing; talked about the including deaf mentors.

Next proposed meeting date is 12.12 from 1 to 3. Thinking about Bienville or LaPlace. Once finalized, location, date and times will be sent to the Council.