

MINUTES
STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF HEARING IMPAIRED INFANTS

Quarterly Council Meeting
Thursday, November 13, 2014

Bienville Building, Room 173
628 North 4th Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Thiravat Choojitarom, Naomi DeDual, Gina Easterly, Linda Frantz, Juan Gershanik (by phone), Barbara Gordon-Wendt (by phone), Jill Guidry, Anita Jeyakumar (by phone), Cynthia Suire, Alla Tarasyuk, Patti Moss

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Linda Frantz, Penny Hakim, Nancy Hicks, Staci Sullivan

GUESTS PRESENT: Susannah Boudreaux (PPEP Outreach Coordinator), Courtney Commander (Audiology Extern), Nicky Gillies (Louisiana Lighthouse), Dionna Mathews, MD (OLOL Pediatric Resident)

EHDI team present: Wendy Jumonville, Terri Mohren, Melinda Peat, Mariah Ranko, Jeanette Webb

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Choojitarom at 10:00 am. The minutes from the August 21, 2014 meeting were reviewed, amended and approved [Motion by Jill Guidry and second by Gina Easterly] with a unanimous vote of attending Council members. Council member attendees and guests introduced themselves.

Old Business:

Database and any other technical details: Terri reported that the database is online for back-office use, but has not rolled out to system-wide use; and everybody likes it. It includes features that are innovative and fairly cutting edge compared to other program's databases. It is undergoing further testing and bug fix, the "roach motel".

LTF/LTD Follow up Report: Jeanette updated council on the new figures showing an increase in LTF/LTD partially because as we improve our LTD, some are now simply LTF. For Q1 2014 we are looking at 30% total LTF/LTD and 28% in Q2 with 12% reported LTF and 18% LTD.

Jeanette reviewed the various initiatives we have to address this including our (i) PCP faxback program, (ii) audiologist outreach, (iii) trial program to use WIC offices as either a source for contacting LTF/LTD patients or, if we have funding, a program similar to Wisconsin screening is done in WIC. One issue is non-compliance at WIC appointments.

Other sources include Health Centers in Schools; (iv) other etiologies of the LTF/LTD are what sounds like an interrupted paper trail – some institutions are giving hearing reports to the parents and instructing them to follow up. Thus, we never get any documentation, or they are also LTF; (iv) Dr. Tran is doing an excellent job in terms of mapping patients in the birth registry to our list. It was also suggested by Cynthia Suire to utilize the Bayou Health data to extract or mine patients LTF/LTD.

Legal opinion on babies born outside hospital: Melinda Peat reviewed the legal issues regarding babies born outside hospitals or in birthing centers. They are given instructions to get hearing screening but legally there is no official position and it was suggested by higher legal authority (Matt Vallier) to officially ask for legal opinion but they are all busy with Ebola contingencies that spare little manpower for this.

New Business:

Follow up on Pediatric Potpourri – Jeanette once again confirmed that she saw a spike in faxback after our presentation at the LA-AAP's Pediatric Potpourri in Baton Rouge. Furthermore, we made contact with several physicians in the areas of West and North Louisiana where we have traditionally had issues and poor data. Dr. Judice was contacted by email afterwards by Dr. Choojitarom suggested persistence and a phone call to get in touch with him. Dr. Bocchini from Shreveport expressed great interest in our group presenting and in doing some work with us to decrease the LTF/LTD. Jill Guidry updated us on the success of the H&V fundraiser at Rock and Bowl. Jill will forward information to LAHV director to follow up with Baton Rouge Music Studios about live entertainment.

Early Intervention and Educational Issues: Our guest Ms. Boudreaux addressed the committee about the changes to PPEP. They have 2 new providers making a total of 6 to provide services for 177 families. Discussed was the time services were initiated with EI and that while their services are available at the IFSP, since they, Early Intervention SPOE, cannot recommend a particular service provider (i.e. one with experience in hearing impairment). It was not clear of ongoing efforts to help EI and DOE with proper services, coordination of same and provide support to both regarding children and students with HL in their chosen modalities. The biggest concern here is the handoff from EI services to DOE and the “blackhole” that is 3 y/o when EI has not input and schools are only beginning to provider services. Our DOE representative, Nancy Hicks was absent today.

Miscellaneous: Melinda Peat informed us that Peloton (sp?) a subdivision of Natus has claimed the endorsement of the EHDI Council in its sales pitch. They are currently in Touro and it is not clear if that was integral to Touro's decision-making. An email has been sent and further legal action will be done if they continue. With regards to standardized protocols Dr. Jeyakumar notes aABR (automated ABR) has missed patients.

Dr. Gershanik likewise reported that Peloton and subdivision of Natus was claiming that we, as a Council, endorsed and automated ABR system they were selling. This is not the case and Melinda Peat informed the council that she communicated this to the company and was given reassurances that this was not being done. However, Dr. Gershanik believes it may still be happening and a more forceful legal action may be needed.

La Hands & Voices update – Jill Guidry outlined the Deaf education Summit for Feb 24th and it was suggested to make sure DOE was in attendance. It was also suggested to contact Shawn Flemming of DDC.

EHDI National Convention 2015/Kentucky: Who is going to Kentucky? What are we going to do there? – “Reducing LTF: Do it the PDSA Way” presentation by Jeannette and Wendy.

Miscellaneous: Dr. Gershanik reported difficulty in making contact by phone and Dr. Choojitarom confirmed that the next Council meeting will be in New Orleans.

Officers: The current officers were reappointed to their current posts.

Next Advisory Council Meeting:

The next Advisory Council meeting will convene Thursday, February 26, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Dr. Choojitarom suggested the next meeting be in New Orleans to accommodate some council members and also suggested a rotating location since the New Orleans location is also quite convenient for many council members.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. Choojitarom and seconded by Jill Guidry. By unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm. The meeting was then ended with a call for brief Committee meetings owing to the lateness of the hour.

