

**Early Hearing Detection and Intervention
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes 1.22.2021**

Council Members present: Jana Broussard, Gina Easterly, Dana Hubbard, Leigh Anne Norman, Jill Hudson, Marbely Barahona, Cindy Voelker, Theresa Nicholls, Ellis Arjmand, Walker Estes, and John Carter.

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

Guests present: Nicole Deleon, Vanessa Magnon, Heather Laine, April Callam, Jason Isch, and Rachelle Boudreaux
Chair Dana Hubbard called meeting to order at 10:03am.

Review of Minutes: Motion to accept October 23, 2020 meeting minutes from Jill Hudson seconded by Theresa Nicholls. Meeting minutes were accepted.

EHDI Program Updates provided by Program Director Susannah Boudreaux. First update: 2019 Follow Up data at 87.4%. Home Screening Program recently implemented to assist in mitigating the impacts of Covid on this rate. Second update: Increase in the overall Hospital Screening Scorecard average up to 92%, up from 90% previously. Quality improvement activities continuing to be implemented between hospitals and LA EHDI. Third update: summaries of the committee work achieved in 2020 by the CMV, North Louisiana and Early Language Development Committees. Dana Hubbard also shared an update on the newly form EHDI Law work group. This work group will be meeting monthly and have feedback to share with the Council at the April 2021 2nd Quarter meeting. Susannah Boudreaux finalized the updates by sharing EHDI Goals 1-3-6 with special focus on the program work to come in 2021 around EHDI goal '3' and '6'.

Specialized Early Intervention Services for DHH Children (PPEP): Dr. Heather Laine, Assistance Superintendent/Director of the Louisiana School for the Deaf, addressed the Council and their concerns around enrollment data for PPEP. Dr. Laine shared that she felt many families were not enrolling in services due to fears around Covid and/or that families were still in the grieving process relative to their child's diagnosis. Council members shared follow up questions relative to enrollment data. Dr. Laine asked that a follow up meeting be scheduled to explore their inquiries at a later time.

Parent Share: April Callam, mother of a child with mild, bilateral hearing loss, shared her experiences from newborn hearing screening through diagnosis, enrollment in early intervention services and navigating daycare choices.

Committee Reports: Early Language Development Committee shared a draft of final content for the Communications Opportunities brochure for parents of newly identified D/HH children. The Council was polled with a series of four questions which resulted in unanimous support for the brochure and content.

Community Updates: Jason Isch shared that the Louisiana Association for the Deaf has committed \$25,000 to the Early Childhood Learning Center at the Louisiana School for the Deaf. Jill Hudson shared an update on Blue Bridge ASL Academy celebrating a successful state inspection and increasing enrollment. Jason Isch shared that the Louisiana Association for the Deaf will be sponsoring the Louisiana Deaf Education Alliance virtually June 4-6, 2021. Susannah Boudreaux shared information on the monthly Parent Chats hosted by Louisiana Hands & Voices Guide by Your Side Program.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:26am with a motion by Gina Easterly, seconded by Walker Estes. Next Council meeting date is April 23, 2021 at 10am via Zoom platform.