

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes Draft
10.22.2021

Council Members present: Jana Broussard, Gina Easterly, Dana Hubbard, Leigh Anne Norman, Marbely Barahona, Cindy Voelker, Theresa Nicholls, Ellis Arjmand, and Walker Estes. Anna Ewing was proxy for Natalie Delgado.

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

Chair Dana Hubbard called the meeting to order at 10:02am.

Review of Minutes: Motion to accept July 23, 2021 meeting minutes from Jana Broussard with a second from Walker Estes. Meeting minutes were accepted.

EHDI Program Updates provided by Program Director Susannah Boudreaux. First update: Region 7 Audiology Work Group update regarding service coordination for children in the Shreveport and surrounding areas. Additional comments shared by Council Member Leigh Anne Norman supported the success that this work group is accomplishing. Second update: Region 8 EHDI Collaborative. 18 members in attendance. Regional data was reviewed during this meeting and an emphasis placed on progress toward 1-3-6 goals, family support, and EHDI Program family materials. Third update: EHDI Unilateral Brochure in final stages of approval. This document is a one pager that provides families with; 1) information on unilateral hearing loss, 2) strategies to use in support their child with communication, and 3) information about EarlySteps and Family to Family Support. Pending final approval within the Bureau of Family Health, this document will be mailed to families of children who are identified with a unilateral hearing loss. Final update: Council Executive Director, Susannah Boudreaux, shared that she had accepted a position with the Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting Program. Terri Ibieta, EHDI Program Coordinator will be functioning as interim Council Executive Director until a new one is selected.

Geo Mapping: EHDI Program Coordinator, Terri Ibieta, shared information relative to children in need of follow up screening or diagnostic testing and the travel distance to the nearest facility where services could be obtained. Additionally, information was shared relative to children in need of Hearing Aid or Cochlear Implant fittings and the travel distance to the nearest facility for those services respectively.

Late Identified Presentation: EHDI System Development Coordinator, Danielle Mercer, share a presentation on the Late Identification of children who are identified as DHH. Information relative to the number of children late identified from 2015 to 2019, and contributing factors were discussed. Additionally, EHDI Program services that target support for hospitals, providers, and families were shared. It was noted that hospital and provider contributing factors toward a late diagnosis has substantially decreased from 2015-2019 and are continuing to do so.

No New Business was submitted.

Council Officers for 2022: Susannah Boudreaux reviewed the Council By-Laws with the Council and opened up a discussion for the annual nomination of the next year's Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. Leigh Anne Norman motioned with a second by Jana Broussard to have Dana Hubbard serve as Council Chair for 2022. Motion carried. Marbely Barahona motioned with a second by Walker Estes to have Jill Hudson serve as Vice-Chair for 2022. Motion carried. Leigh Anne Norman motioned with a second by Dana Hubbard to have Theresa Nicholls serve as Secretary for 2022. Motion carried. Officer selection will be as follows for the 2022 Council Meetings: Chair- Dana Hubbard, Vice-Chair- Jill Hudson, and Secretary- Theresa Nicholls.

Public Comment: None expressed.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:58am with a motion by Gina Easterly, seconded by Theresa Nicholls.