

**MINUTES  
STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL  
FOR EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF HEARING IMPAIRED INFANTS**

**Quarterly Council Meeting  
Thursday, February 26, 2015  
Benson Tower, 1450 Poydras Street  
New Orleans, LA**

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

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** Penny Hakim, Patti Moss, Cynthia Suire, Staci Sullivan

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Sonya Myers (attending in Cynthia Suire's absence), Susannah Boudreaux PPEP Coordinator,

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Choojitarom at 10:10 am. The minutes from the November 13, 2014 meeting were adjusted and approved with a unanimous vote of attending Council members. Council member attendees and guests introduced themselves.

**Council Discussion of OLD BUSINESS**

**LA EHDI Database Report:** Terri Mohren shared information about the new database. The majority of the bugs had been fixed and the live database is active. Hospital supervisor audiologists were invited to participate in an initial database training which will be conducted on 3/20/15 and 3/27/15. Out of 57 birth hospitals and 23 people, 5 signed up for the training. They will be trained, surveyed, and asked for feedback. June 30, the end of the CDC grant period, is the target date to have all hospital supervisors trained on accessing patients, putting in Follow-up Services Reports, and accessing hospital reports. A video training will be created during the upcoming grant period and webinar training is being conducted now. In the upcoming grant, more funds will be included for on-site training for those needing more assistance. Dr. Choojitarom discussed targeting pediatricians in the trainings. Dr. Gershanik stressed the importance of users entering data immediately after the visit and the value of only one person entering data. Barbara Gordon-Wendt asked if she will be able to access other follow-up information, which Terri stated yes. Melinda Peat discussed funding for maintenance and sustainability since this coming year (7/1/15-6/30/16) is the

final year of funding through the 5 year cooperative agreement. As several of the council members concurred, funding for dbase maintenance should be sought.

**LTF/LTD Follow up Report:** Jeanette Webb discussed LTF, LTD, and IP (In Process) data. 2013 LTF is at 29%. This includes two parts, LTD-14% and LTF 14%. Not included is IP of 6%. LTF=baby is reported then no shows/cancels appointment and does not reschedule. LTD=baby failed and there is no follow-up. IP=baby fails at hospital, at least 1 follow-up is conducted, and results are inconclusive with no diagnosis. IP would not decrease so an analysis showed 2 categories, a baby was referred from and OAE facility to an ABR facility and the baby was still in process at the same facility. This was addressed from 3 fronts, contact the audiologist, PCP, and parent. Now IP is at 2%. Marbely Barahona has witnessed success by personal contact and communication with audiologists and parents. To decrease these percentages, reminders can be sent to audiologists to report. Also, their use of the database can help to decrease these numbers. Education of those who rescreen more than once with the use of webinars will help. Dr. Choojitarom discussed the need of provider education. Sonya Meyers discussed the possibility of training NFP providers. Jeanette suggested Parents as Teachers training.

**Followup on Pediatric Potpourri:** Dr. Choojitarom asked if anyone has contacted Dr. Bocchini and Judice. The Pediatric Potpourri may be a good opportunity to present in front of them.

**Natus:** Melinda discussed Natus' statement of our endorsement of their program. That did not happen. Melinda sent an e-mail explaining the situation. Terri and Wendy will meet with Peleton screeners. They will send babies elsewhere for follow-up. There will be a need to watch their LTF rates, as they may rise.

**PPEP Follow-up:** Susan Boudreaux discussed there are currently 4 statewide staff persons and 210 families currently being served. They see each family 2 times a month. There should be 6 staff persons. Susan is assisting with visits and beginning in August, will work year around.

**Deaf Education Summit:** Dr. Jeyakumar discussed the key goal is to identify children falling through gaps. Linda Hicks stated the original group was started by a deaf parent to get the Deaf Bill of Rights passed. There has been no change to the bill since 1984. The summit focused on the Bill of Rights. There was a good turnout with various groups present. The membership has increased from 12 to 55 members, including a board and advisory board. Mariah Ranko said Louisiana Hands & Voices™ would like to get involved. Dr. Choojitarom would like our council to be unbiased. Dr. Jeyakumar discussed an aggressive approach to hearing loss is needed. She stated over 80% of deaf adults are unemployed,

thus, communication is so important. Alla Tarasyuk discussed low income families rely on social security income. She said parent advocates are needed for IEP meeting representation. Jill Guidry said H&V hopes to bring ASTRA training to LA, which would help guides working with families. Gina Easterly stated transition conferences are conducted with the school to evaluate eligibility to receive services.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Early Intervention and Educational Issues:** Nancy Hicks discussed transition. If a child is in Early Steps and they will continue to need services, the parent would be contacted for a 90 day transition meeting to discuss what happens next. The IFSP that was in place would be used to craft the new IEP. Programs are individualized for 3 year olds in the home or day care. Gina asked if the Families Helping Families program was present. Nancy said there are 10 centers throughout the state. Dr. Choojitarom asked the difference between 504 and an IEP. Nancy explained an evaluation determines which will be instituted. 504 is more of a civil rights act. 504 accommodations are conducted by the teacher. If those accommodations require the expenditure of money, the accommodations should be under an IEP. The IEP team should include the teacher, parent, provider, and any parent advocate.

**Pediatric Jambalaya and Potpourri:** Dr. Choojitarom discussed the Pediatric Jambalaya will be conducted 4/25/15 in Lafayette and the Pediatric Potpourri will be 8/21-23/15 in New Orleans. The council should try to get a booth and time for a speaker. Barbara said some of her students could man the booth. Dr. Gershanik said we should try to speak at the annual audiology conference. Melinda shared Dr. Jeyakumar will be speaking on 4/11/15 about cochlear implants in adults and children. Sonya Meyers said her organization would like a speaker for their conference of 150 RN's and social workers in May or June.

**Dr. Choojitarom:** Dr. Choojitarom has been appointed as the Regional EHDI coordinator for AAP District 9, including Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas.

**EHDI Meeting:** The EHDI meeting will be in Louisville, KY. Jeanette, Wendy, Terri, Melinda, a parent, and 2 students will be going.

**Other Business:** Dr. Jacob LeBas will be moving to Austin, TX. He will take our message to the residents' program. Barbara shared there is a new LSUHSC deaf/blind coordinator, Michael Norman.

Melinda shared she has asked for a **legal opinion from DHH/OPH on whether birthing center, mid-wife, and home births** should comply with the hearing

screening requirement. Dr. Jeyakumar inquired as to how many children receive immunizations from the shot bus. Sonya asked if the council was connected to Healthy Starts. She discussed the Text 4 Baby application and stated Rebecca Maddox is the coordinator of the program.

**Next Advisory Council Meeting:**

The next Advisory Council meeting will convene Thursday, May 28, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Bienville Building, Room 173, 628 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

**Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. Gershanik and seconded by Dr. Choojitarom. By unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned at 12:06pm.

**Committee Meetings:**

Committees met briefly.