

**Jeff Landry**

GOVERNOR

**Michael Harrington, MBA, MA**

SECRETARY

**State of Louisiana**

Louisiana Department of Health

Office of Public Health

# ADVISORY COUNCIL

**FOR THE EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING INFANTS**

**Friday, July 26, 2024**

**12:00-2:30 p.m.**

**Bienville Building, Room 118 628 North 4th Street Baton Rouge, LA**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order – Theresa Nicholls, Secretary 12:05pm
2. Roll Call – Theresa Nicholls, Secretary - No Quorum
   * 1. Council members present: Cindy Voelker, Caitlyn Robinson, Theresa Nicholls, Ashley Argrave-Smith, Debbie Cowan
     2. Council members by designee: Vanessa Magnon for Jana Broussard, Shane Bates for Susannah Boudreaux
     3. Council members absent: John Carter, Natalie Delgado, Jill Hudson, Meleah Miller, Paul Remedios (arrived just after adjournment)
     4. Council member vacancies: hospital administrator, parent of child using spoken language
     5. EHDI program present: Dana Hubbard, Terri Ibieta, Danielle Mercer
     6. Community/Others present: Caroline Nailor-Oglesby – EarlySteps, Jasmine Thomas – BFH
     7. Interpreters present: Sylvie Sullivan, Lissa Gill, Jennifer Guerrieri
3. Acceptance of Agenda/Minutes (vote) – Theresa Nicholls, Secretary
   * 1. No changes sent via email or in meeting, but unable to vote due to no quorum
4. Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program Updates - EHDI Team
   1. Grant Activities – Dana Hubbard
      1. Language Assessment Project:
         1. Conducted 147 assessments 0-3 years. More information to come.
      2. 2024-2029 Health Resources Services Administration Grant
         1. Applied for the next 5 year cycle and was awarded that funding. Purpose to expand infrastructure to support hearing screenings and language development in different ways.
            1. Goal 1: Engage EHDI system stakeholders at the state/territory level to improve language acquisition outcomes
            2. Goal 2: Disaggregate data to identify populations and address disparities in language acquisition outcomes
            3. Goal 3: provide coordinated statewide infrastructure to ensure newborns are screened by 1 month of age, diagnosed by 3 months, and enrolled in early intervention by 6 months, and reduce loss to follow up and loss to documentation
            4. Goal 4: Support state/territory wide capacity for hearing screening in young children up to age 3
            5. Goal 5: Develop mechanisms to support and engage families with DHH children and DHH adults throughout the statewide EHDI system and services
            6. Goal 6: engage and educate and train health professionals and services providers in the statewide EHDI system
      3. 2024-2025 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Grant
         1. Goal 1:EHDI Information System
         2. Goal 2: Stakeholder engagement
         3. Goal 3: Data Analysis and Evaluation
         4. Goal 4: Data Submission and Dissemination
      4. Unite Newborn Screening Learning Community
         1. Newborn Screening flyer approved and being disseminated to obstetricians, midwives, doulas, birth centers, birthing classes and birthing facilities.
      5. EarlySteps Hearing Screening & LA EHDI-Information System Trainings – Terri Ibieta
      6. February/March 2024: provided 3 trainings to more than 80 ES intake coordinators
      7. May/June/July 2024: Held a training follow up in each of the 10 regions
      8. August/September 2024 (future): Update Data Sharing Agreement to obtain hearing screening results
      9. Caroline Nailor-Oglesby: Director for EarlySteps  
         a. identified the best time for hearing screening was during intake  
         b. other providers are not yet doing the hearing screening and have not completed the training   
          at this time, as the funding for purchasing the screening equipment was limited
5. will continue to collaborate so families aren't being overly assessed by providers for language assessments
6. EarlySteps has transitioned to administration of the Developmental Assessment of Young Children-2 (DAYC-2).
   * 1. EHDI Regional Collaboratives
7. Region 4-Lafayette 2/16/2024
8. Region 7-Shreveport area- 5/9/24
9. Region 8- Monroe area- 5/10/24
10. Regions 5 & 6- Lake Charles, Alexandria area- 9/2024

Update: Attendees included local parents whose children are DHH, deaf adults, hearing screening program supervisors, hospital personnel, audiologist and early intervention stakeholders. A parent and a Deaf person shared their journey and experience at each Collaborative. Local representatives for EarlySteps, GOLD, and Hands and Voices spoke about each of their programs.

* + 1. Pediatric Audiology Guidelines – Danielle Mercer
    2. Previous update to guidelines was in 2020
    3. 2024 update posted on LA EHDI website

1. Committee Updates
   1. Congenital Cytomegalovirus (cCMV) – Danielle Mercer
      1. This committee met in April for members and stakeholders. 12 Louisiana hospitals have implemented newborn CMV screening (¼ of birth hospitals). Three additional hospitals are in the process of starting.
      2. ⅔ of documented cCMV reported to have passed newborn hearing screening
      3. Trying to establish a process to request saved dried blood spot to test later in the future. Blood spots are kept for approximately 1 year.
2. New Business
3. Public Comment:
   1. Caroline Nailor-Oglesby (EarlySteps Director): actively recruiting membership for the SICC, State Interagency Coordinating Council that supports their program.
4. Adjourn 1:02 pm

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