**Minutes**

**State Advisory Council for Early Identification of Hearing Impaired Infants**

Quarterly Council Meeting

Tuesday May 15, 2012

DHH/OPH Region II office

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**Council Members Present**: Dr. Juan Gershanik, Melodie Sparks, Melinda Peat, Dorothy Rodriguez

**Guests Present**: Mariah Ranko, Mary Jo Smith, Jeanette Webb, Kay Darr, Wendy Jumonville, Christy Fontenot, Dr. Donna Alleman, Melinda Peat, Jill Guidry, Nicole Deleon, Tessa Bowman

The meeting was called to order by Melinda Peat at 10:30.

Dr. Gershanik moved to accept the minutes from the last meeting February 28, 2012. Melodie Sparks seconded the motion. Minutes were accepted as written.

Discussion

**Meeting dates:**

Melinda discussed the future meeting dates. The second Tuesday of the month is suggested as new meeting date for the council. Melinda will contact other members not present today to check on their availability. If accepted, the next meetings will be held on Tuesday, August 14, 2012, November 13, 2012, (Since Mardi Gras is on February 12th we will move that meeting to the 4th Tuesday in February) February 26, 2013 and May 14, 2012.

**Guide by your side training**:

Mariah discussed that Guide By Your Side meeting in Alexandria went very well, the training also helped motivate members to get Hands and Voices moving forward. Nicole Deleon is the new Hands and Voices Board President, Jill Guidry is the new secretary. Mariah is currently working on hiring the Guide positions in the Guide by Your Side sites in Shreveport and Alexandria and Monroe. Jeanette discussed how well the presenters did and how well the entire weekend went. Some surveys have been returned from survey monkey. Terri likes the disparity in ages and communication methodologies that were present at the meeting. The parents left with the understanding that all the children and parents shared many similar problems regardless of communication choices.

**NICHQ**

Jeanette described the NICHQ project for the council. This group trains health care organizations in methods to achieve quality improvement with many different initiatives. There have been three NICHQ workshops held so far, the most recent one was in April in St. Louis. NICHQ is based on “Plan- Do- Study- Act model with the goal being reducing the state loss to follow-up rate. Louisiana is at the national average for this rate and we are attempting to improve our rate using the techniques being taught from the workshops and monthly teleconferences. Jeanette and Marbely presented workshops at this conference on several projects we have implemented that have shown positive results in our state.

Web-based Datebase

Dwana Green, our epidemiologist, is no longer working with us. Terri informed the council we now have two part-time epidemiologists, Tri Tran and Nicole Richman. Phase I of the database is completed. Phase II and III contract is with DB Systograph, the same company that developed the LEERs systems. Will no longer have to import birth record data, will be more a part of LEERs. Will have better access to birth records even if not completed by the ebc clerks. The contract and specs were all written when Dwana left, we were just waiting on the dollar amount to fill in. New perspectives from our new epidemiologists will look at the specs to assure us we have included all that we need. Once contract is signed and money is available, it will only take 3 months to complete. At that point it will be in place and testing will take place in house.

Melinda discussed improvements we have been able to have now that new epidemiologists are working with our program including better connections to the LINKs system. Jeanette asked Dr. Gershanik about the new changes in Medicaid and stressed how important our access to LINKs is now with changed in PCP/Medicaid

Website

Kay suggested to go to infanthearing.org and look at the NCHAM ebook link or you can download it as a pdf file onto your computer. She reviewed what is currently available on our website pages. She requested that Hands and Voices submit more information for parents to Kay to add to the parent page. Wendy and Kay plan on meeting with DHH web designer to see what we can add and how we can make it more pleasing visually. Reviewed eBook information as compared to our website. Dorothy added that TTY/TTD not too popular among the deaf community any more, they moved to video relay phone possibly a link to LAD for information on equipment might be the way to go. Dr. Gershanik feels we need to add visual communication showing happy children faces which communicates a positive attitude towards deafness. Discussed putting audiologists resource list on the website, just need to have a disclaimer and possibly want to use a state/regional map with ability to search by city/region to find professionals.

Advisory Council Member

Melinda reported we are working on filling all vacant positions on the council. We would like to vote on officers at the November meeting. Vacant position is speech-language pathologists, parents, Louisiana Association of the Deaf representative. Dorothy is a member of LAD so Melinda will discuss options with her on getting an LAD representative. Dr. Gershanik had a question about members that do not attend the meeting and how many we need to conduct business. Melinda stated it was simple majority plus one.

We currently need to get new board members by going through boards and commissions in Governor’s office with state senate approval, in bylaws at this time but Melinda would like to see if the process can be changed to by

Meeting adjourned at 11:53.

Hospital reports, use whatever forms you want, send copy to MJ, also look at 2011 missing data.