

# Jeff Landry

## GOVERNOR

## Ralph L. Abraham, M.D.

## SECRETARY

### State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health

Office of Public Health

**STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL**

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

**Friday, October 25, 2024**

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

**Benson Tower, Suite 2024 1450 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA**

**Meeting Minutes**

1. **Meeting Called to Order** at 12:10 - *Jill Hudson, Chair*

Reviewed communication standards

1. **Roll Call** - *Theresa Nicholls, Recording Secretary*
   1. Council Members Present: Theresa Nicholls, Susannah Boudreaux, Jill Hudson, Caitlyn Robinson
   2. Council Members Absent: Dr. Ashley Argrave-Smith, Jana Broussard, Dr. Natalie Delgado (Mr. Jay Isch – LAD designee), Dr. Debbie Cowan, Dr. John Carter, Dr. Cynthia Voelker, Dr. Paul Remedios
   3. EHDI Program Staff Present: Danielle Mercer, Dana Hubbard, Terri Ibieta, Dawne McCabe
   4. Stakeholders Present: N/A
   5. Interpreters Present: Sylvie Sullivan, Jennifer Guerrieri

No quorum at today’s meeting.

1. **Review and Acceptance of Agenda/Minutes** - *Jill Hudson, Chair*
2. No additions/changes to the quarter 3 July meeting were received. No vote to accept due to lack of quorum.
3. No changes or additions to the October 2024 meeting agenda. No vote to accept agenda due to lack of quorum.
4. **2025 Meeting Dates/Times -** *Jill Hudson, Chair*
5. Dates narrowed down via poll prior to meeting. No vote to approve identified dates/times due to lack of quorum.
6. 1/24/2025 10:00-12:30 Baton Rouge

4/25/2025 12:00-2:30 New Orleans

7/25/2025 12:00-2:30 Baton Rouge

10/24/2025 12:00-2:30 New Orleans

1. **2025 Officer Elections -** Jill Hudson, Chair
   1. Nominees accepted via poll prior to meeting.
   2. Nominees for chair: Ashley Argrave-Smith, Jill Hudson, Natalie Delgado, Susannah Boudreaux. Nomination accepted by Ashley Argrave-Smith, declined by Jill Hudson, Natalie Delgado, and Susannah Boudreaux. By default of unopposed, new chair identified as Ashley Argrave-Smith. No vote to confirm Ashley Argrave-smith due to lack of quorum.
   3. Nominees for vice-chair: Natalie Delgado, Debbie Cowan, Ashley Argrave-Smith, Jill Hudson, Jana Broussard. Nomination accepted by Natalie Delgado and Debbie Cowan, declined by Jill Hudson, Ashley Argrave-Smith, Jana Broussard. No vote to determine vice-chair due to lack of quorum.
   4. Nominees for secretary: Jill Hudson, Debbie Cowan, Ashley Argrave-Smith, Caitlyn Robinson, Jana Broussard. Nomination accepted by Jana Broussard, declined by Jill Hudson, Ashley Argrave-Smith, Caitlyn Robinson, Debbie Cowan. No vote to confirm Jana Broussard as secretary due to lack of quorum.
2. **Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program Updates** - *EHDI Team*
   * 1. Hospital Scorecards - Dawne McCabe
        1. Reported on findings from 2023
        2. 35 birthing hospitals were at 100%. Lower scores were higher than have ever had, with the lowest score at 85.71%.
        3. Scored on hospital’s adherence to policy and procedures, and their data monitoring
        4. Jay Isch raised concern with using the pass/fail terminology on the scorecard itself. Theresa Nicholls voiced that pass/fail is the accepted terminology in the medical field when reporting on screening results. Dana Hubbard reinforced that the EHDI program promotes the use of “needs further testing” or “refer” as test results when possible and appropriate, i.e. on newborn hearing screening form, and will look at the particular use of the term on scorecard.
        5. Reported on increasing progress through the years since scoring hospitals in 2019 (92.1%) through 2023 (98.2%)
   1. Audiologist Survey – Terri Ibieta
      * 1. A survey was conducted of all pediatric audiologists who conduct hearing aid fittings in the state, focused on collecting what audiologists think are the factors delaying fitting.
        2. Discussed action steps to address the identified factors.
           1. Possibly offer grants with no financial requirements \_\_\_\_\_
           2. 2 non-profit organizations that provide funding for hearing aids were identified: Access Louisiana and United Health Care Children’s Foundation
        3. Theresa Nicholls made a motion to form a hearing aid committee on this council. Motion noted and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_. No vote to approve proposed committee due to lack of quorum.
   2. EHDI Innovation Project – Dana Hubbard
      * 1. A new one-time supplemental funding from October 2024 until March 2025
        2. 147 language assessments completed from October 2023 until March 2024 New supplement continues the assessment project with second data points collected on children initially assessed, and first data points for newly identified children
        3. Held 3 family focus groups in English, 1 in Spanish to learn about what Louisiana families are learning/would like to learn after their child is identified as deaf or hard of hearing (DHH)
        4. Held 1 DHH adult virtual round table to learn about priorities from DHH adults for families of newly identified children

VII. **New Business**

No new business was submitted

VIII. **Public Comment**

No public members in attendance

Jay Isch asked about whether EHDI had a Facebook page. He suggested that there would be more stakeholder/community involvement if there was a social media presence for EHDI.

IX. **Adjourn** at 1:20pm

No vote to adjourn due to lack of quorum.