

# Meeting Minutes

Universal Newborn Hearing Screening, Tracking and Intervention Advisory Board Meeting  
April 25, 2023, 3:00pm, via Zoom

**Members Present via Zoom:** Dr. Charles Bower, and Dr. Tammy Vanover

**Guests Present:** Stacey Schratz, Dr. Natalie Benafield, Brian Nichols, Dr. Gretchen Cobb, Angelina Myers, Reginald Rogers, Paula Pottenger, Isabella Criswell, Tironica Hamilton (Interpreter), Nicholas Winchell (Interpreter), Kim Scott, Traci Massery, Christie Birdsong, Nidhi Patel, Cydney Crawford, and Tyria White.

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Chair Dr. Bower 3:08 pm.

**Roll Call, Determination of Quorum:** Dr. Bower opened the meeting, and initiated introductions by Advisory Board Members.

**Approval of October 2022 Minutes:** The minutes were not approved due to the lack of a quorum.

## **Old Business:**

- No Old Business to discuss.

## **Program Update:**

- Kim Scott reported on the current Infant Hearing Program (IHP) updates as follows:
  - Staff Updates – Introduced new IHP staff person Cydney Crawford as the Performance & Evaluation Specialist.
  - Annual Report will be presented once the data is approved by the Associate Director for Science.
- Christie Birdsong reported on the following IHP activities:
  - IHP Performance Report – The monthly QA report that is prepared using data pulled from ERAVE and employee QA workbooks, to give an overview on team performance. The report monitors the program's effectiveness in 1,3,6 compliance, efficiency and identify opportunities for quality improvement projects.
  - Non-Permanent Loss Research Project – IHP began a project to better understand the impact of non-permanent hearing loss in children 0-3. The first step in this project will be to survey healthcare professionals in the fields of audiology, otolaryngology, and early intervention to identify current practices in place for children diagnosed with non-permanent hearing loss. This information will be used to inform a best practice recommendation for children diagnosed with non-permanent hearing loss in efforts to promote consistent practices supporting optimal language outcomes for children statewide. A copy of the proposed survey questions will be sent to board members for review and feedback.

## **AR Hands & Voices Update:**

- Angelina Myers GBYS Co-Coordinator gave brief updates as follows:
  - H & V hosted their annual Zoo Day on April 15<sup>th</sup> and had a record number of 180 participants. H & V also gained 16 new families through that event.
  - H & V continued the [Remember to Rescreen campaign](#) which includes launching two short videos, one designed for providers and for parent, highlighting the importance of importance of newborn hearing screenings and follow-up. H & V is partnering with community providers and birthing hospitals to get educational materials out to families of newly diagnosed babies. Videos can be viewed at [Early Hearing Detection: Parents](#) and [Early Hearing Detection: Providers](#) and are sent out via Facebook and Google ads.
  - H & V ASTra Program helped several families, with or without an IEP, throughout the year.
  - H & V will have several events this year to include Tuesdays Together (May 9<sup>th</sup> will be virtual and hosted quarterly), Back to School Bash (August), H & V National Leadership Conference (October), Pumpkin Patch Fun (October), Tasting at Twilight and Winter Wonderland (December); the events planned are as a way to connect with families and provide educational information.

## **AR School for the Deaf Update:**

- Dr. Gretchen Cobb, Director of ASD Statewide Services gave a brief update on ASD as follows:
  - ASD has 26 students in their 0 – 3 age program and is currently serving 13 students in their 3 – 5 age programs; also have two waiting to start in IFSP.
  - First time in 4 years ASD held their carnival with over 500 attendees, and ASD will also have camp this year starting June 11<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> for deaf students around the state.
  - Dr. Cobb and other Administrator’s attended the Conference for Education Administrators for Schools for the Deaf (CEASD) in Riverside, CA. Dr. Cobb shared a power point presentation on New Findings on Adverse Childhood Communication Experiences (ACCE) of research completed by Dr. P. Kushalnagar on 1,524 respondents related to:
    - Language Deprivation (not hearing or understand others speak leading to risks for diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease)
      - All caused by toxic stress
    - Communication Neglect (feeling left out and rejected leading to risks of lung disease, depression, or anxiety)

**Upcoming Term Expirations:**

Dr. Bower asked for updates on upcoming term expirations. Kim reported on the upcoming term expirations as follows:

- Dr. Charles Bower term to expire on January 14, 2025. Dr. Bower will step down as chair prior to term expiration, and a new Chair will be nominated at the next meeting.
- Una Carroll term to expire on January 14, 2025.
- Dr. Heidi Lightle term to expire January 14, 2025; currently Dr. Lightle is out of the country and Arkansas Children’s Hospital nominated Isabella Catron as her replacement. Isabella Catron applied for appointment.
- Danna Crook term to expire January 14, 2025.
- Dr. Hillary Jones term to expire January 14, 2023, Dr. Natalie Benafield was nominated as the replacement for the Audiologist-at-large position. Dr. Benafield applied for appointment.
- Dr. Tammy Vanover term to expire January 14, 2023. Dr. Vanover applied for appointment.
- Dr. Rachel Glade term to expire January 26, 2023. Dr. Glade applied for appointment.

**Upcoming Dates and Special Announcements:**

Dr. Bower asked for any special announcements and upcoming dates. There were no new announcements or updates. Dr. Bower asked for a meeting to be scheduled prior to the next Advisory Board meeting scheduled for October, so the board can review and approve the UNHS Annual Report, vote on travel reimbursement and approve the October 2022 meeting minutes.

- Next Meeting, May 17, 2023, 3 pm – Freeway Medical, via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m.