

Meeting Minutes

Universal Newborn Hearing Screening, Tracking and Intervention Advisory Board Meeting
October 25, 2022, 3:00pm, via Zoom

Members Present: Dr. Charles Bower, Dr. Heidi Lightle, Dr. Tammy Vanover, Dr. Rachel Glade and Danna Crook.

Guests Present: Mandy Jay, Miriam Stafford, Dr. Natalie Benafield, Brian Nichols, Dr. Gretchen Cobb, Angelina Myers, Reginald Rogers, Michael Sinclair, Mitzi Fritschen, Laura Shue, Paula Pottenger, Amanda Firth (Interpreter), Megan Beaty (Interpreter), Kim Scott, Traci Massery, Christie Birdsong, Nidhi Patel and Tyria White.

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Vice-Chair Dr. Heidi Lightle, at 3:15 pm. Dr. Bower resumed duties as Chair upon arrival.

Roll Call, Determination of Quorum: Dr. Heidi Lightle opened the meeting, and initiated introductions of the advisory board members.

Approval of April 2022 Minutes: The minutes from the April 2022 meeting were provided and approved without any objections.

Old Business:

- Dr. Bower stated that he does not have any Old Business to discuss. Dr. Bower then turned the meeting over to Kim Scott to discuss program updates.

Program Update:

- Kim reported on the current program updates as follows:
 - Staff Updates – Introduced new and current staff to the Advisory Board. Additionally, IHP will have a new staff person for the position of Performance & Evaluation.
 - Current Activities –
 - Increasing program awareness.
 - Implementing a performance monitoring plan.
 - Conducting a quality improvement project to improve data quality amongst hospital users.
 - Assessing opportunities for ERAVE interoperability.
 - Planned Activities –
 - Annual ERAVE evaluation.
 - Participating in the community based participatory research project.
 - Creating an Ad-Hoc Committee.
 - Connecting families with services for improved outcomes for Deaf/Hard of Hearing children, including connection to Deaf/Hard of Hearing adults.
 - Volunteers were requested to participate on the committee.
 - Danna Crook, Paula Pottenger and Dr. Cobb volunteered.
 - 2022 Annual Birthing Hospital Survey Analysis – Christie Birdsong provided an update on the 2022 Annual Birthing Hospital Survey completed by 37 birthing hospitals, see [FY23 Annual Birthing Hospital Survey Highlight](#).

AR School for the Deaf Update:

- Dr. Gretchen Cobb, Director of ASD Statewide Services gave a brief update:
 - ASD is providing services and resources to families with children experiencing LDS.
 - Provided a video and presentation on Statewide Services' response to Language Deprivation Syndrome (LDS), see attached presentation and view video [here](#).

AR Hands & Voices Update:

- Mandy Jay and Angelina Myers, Guide by Your Side (GBYS) Co-Coordinator, provided updates as follows:
 - Hosting Tasting at Twilight this Thursday, October 27th.
 - Updated their website to inform families of what to do after a failed hearing screen and created videos to increase awareness of early hearing detection amongst parents and providers.
 - <https://arhandsandvoices.org/whats-next/>
 - [Early Hearing Detection: Parents](#)
 - [Early Hearing Detection: Providers](#)
 - Working with UAMS on the community based participatory research grant to identify barriers to rescreening and loss to follow-up. The focus of this grant is to assess families to determine why babies were not rescreened (e.g., distance, etc.) and figure out how to reduce those barriers. Focus Groups and surveys will be conducted.
 - IHP referred 21 families to H & V, and all have been assigned a deaf or hard of hearing guide and are receiving services.
 - See attached handouts for more information.

Upcoming Term Expirations:

- Dr. Hillary Jones' term will expire January 14, 2023, Dr. Natalie Benafield was nominated by Dr. Tammy Vanover for the Audiologist position.
- Dr. Tammy Vanover's term will expire January 14, 2023, Dr. Tammy Vanover will seek reappointment as the Arkansas Department of Health Audiologist.
- Dr. Rachel Glade's term will expire January 26, 2023, Miriam Stafford was nominated by Dr. Rachel Glade for the Speech-Language Pathologist position.
 - Nominees were advised to submit applications ASAP.

Upcoming Dates and Special Announcements:

- Dr. Bower will not seek reappointment as Chair in 2023.
- Dr. Heidi Lightle stated that she will possibly be stepping down as Vice-Chair if she decides not to remain employed with ACH, but she will make sure an ACH representative is available to serve. If she does remain with ACH, she will remain as Vice-Chair.
- Next Meeting, April 25, 2023, 3 pm – Freeway Medical, via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.