

Meeting Minutes

Universal Newborn Hearing Screening, Tracking, and Intervention Advisory Board Meeting
April 23, 2024, 3:00pm, via Zoom

Members Present via Zoom: Dr. Rachel Glade, Dr. Charles Bower, Dr. Tammy Vanover, Una Carroll, and Danna Crook

Guests Present: Dr. Sarah Labuda, Stacey Schratz, Stacey Tatera, Brian Nichols, Mandy Jay, Nancy Hicks, Lynn Brooks, Reginald Rogers, Paula Pottenger, Isabella Criswell, Michelle Alvarez, Anna Strong, Kitsonia Hancock, Miriam Stafford, Ashley Beaty (Interpreter), Jonathan Smith (Interpreter), Christie Birdsong, Nidhi Patel, Cydney Crawford, Traci Massery and Tyria White.

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Chair Dr. Rachel Glade at 3:03 pm.

Roll Call, Determination of Quorum: Dr. Rachel Glade opened the meeting and initiated introductions by Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Board members.

Approval of May 2023 Minutes: The minutes from the May 2023 meeting were provided and approved without any objections.

Old Business:

- Member appointment updates:
 - Dr. Rachel Glade asked for an update on the Speech Language Pathologist, Audiologist, and Audiologist for ADH member appointment:
 - Tyria stated per response from the contact at the Governor's office:
"I am currently working on several health-related boards/commissions and hope to get to this one soon. As of this time I do not have a date for when that will be".
- Board of Examiners Request:
 - The IHP received a request for the Arkansas Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology to revise their license application to include a question(s) to determine the provider's level of experience in working with Deaf or Hard of Hearing children. The board will take this request under advisement and have discussions to determine appropriate questions to obtain this information.
 - Dr. Rachel Glade informed the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Board of the two questions as follows:
 - Do you provide services to DHH children between the ages 0 – 3?
 - Have you provided services to the DHH children in the last 6 months?
 - Dr. Rachel Glade asked for feedback on the questions. Feedback as follows:
 - Narrow it down to one question.
 - Spelling out the acronyms.
 - List main scope of practices.
 - Gather email addresses of members of the organization collecting the results to gain further information.
 - There were questions on what we are going to do with the results
 - Dr. Tammy Vanover receives the licensure list each year and updates the licensure list of current Audiologist.
 - Selecting a point person to lead the discussion with the organization collecting the results.
 - Develop a list of providers that can provide services for children during open enrollment for early intervention services.
 - Dr. Rachel Glade will send the initial email and report back at the next Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Board meeting.

New Business:

AR School for the Deaf Update:

- Due to absence of Dr. Gretchen Cobb an update was provided by Nancy Hicks and Lynn Brooks:
 - Nancy reported on a statement provided from Dr. Cobb. Statement as follows:
 - Dr. Cobb is involved in the Deaf Blind Collaborative with Danita Pitts and this collaborative group is working on assisting and uniting the children 0 – 3 years of age program under First Connections at DHS and ADE. The collaborative group is following the guidelines of the Learns Act, while incorporating the JCIH recommendations of the 1-3-6 Model.
 - The collaborative group is also developing a website where parents can get information about all services provided for children ages birth to 5.
 - Lynn Brooks stated that the Arkansas School for the Deaf preschool just received their license to provide daycare and are in the process of going through four orientations on the guidelines for daycare safety. The preschool is under DHS and Dr. Gretchen is the Director with Lynn and Nancy as Co-Directors.

Dr. Rachel Glade asked if there were any questions or comments and there were none.

AR Hands & Voice Update:

- Due to absence of Angelina Myers and update was provided by Mandy Jay:
 - So far in 2024 AR H&V GBYS has served 30 diagnosed families and 12 non-diagnosed families.
 - Tuesdays Together continues to be a virtual event for parents informing them of the resources available. Back to School Bash will be held in August. Also, to highlight, a Parent Professional Summit was held in January and February which was a network support for families put on by experts and professionals as families were given insights, strategies, and resources vital for holistic development of DHH children and it was a huge success.
 - Media Efforts for AR H&V includes two versions: one geared toward families and one geared toward providers.
 - The Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) in partnership with AR H&V, UAMS and The Infant Hearing Program completed grant work from the Translational Research Institute (TRI) in which AR H&V Guides participated in focus groups asking parents about their newborn hearing screening and rescreening process.
 - Zoo Day will take place June 8, 2024.
 - Hands & Voices National Leadership Conference will take place in September 2024.
 - Tasting at Twilight will take place October 2024.
 - Winter Wonderland will take place December 2024 in multiple locations.

Dr. Rachel Glade asked if there were and questions or comments and there were no questions.

Act 1559 Review:

- Dr. Rachel Glade discussed with the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Board on making edits to Act 1559. Open discussion on some changes to consider:
 - Possible name change of the advisory board.
 - Objectives of the advisory board.
 - Set up an exploratory committee to review and discuss the objectives.
 - Expand focus to more than infants.
 - Longer follow-up from birth to 3 until school age.
- Reginald stated these changes will have to be reviewed by management at the Department of Health and the Governor's office.

Upcoming Dates and Special Announcements:

- Strategic Planning Meeting June 24, 2024, for the discussion on the annual report and setting up the exploratory committee. Rachel stated that she would like to start meeting in person for those who can attend. The meeting will also be held via zoom.
- Rachel also announced that she was nominated for the Board of Directors for the American Special Language Hearing Association and will be the Vice President for Academic Affairs for Speech, Language, Pathology, and that board position will start in January. She stated that she will not be able to serve as Chair on the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Board.
 - Dr. Rachel Glade also mentioned that she has been meeting with Kim Scott once a month since January and has noticed that the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Board is not listed on the Arkansas Department of Health Board's page. She stated that Nidhi is working on drafting a page to get the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Board added so that people can go to if they have questions or for any public information such as:
 - Board Member Information.
 - ADH Website Information.
 - Board Meeting Information.
 - Legislation.
 - Annual Data.
 - Workgroup Information.
 - Infant Hearing Program contact information.

The Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Board agrees with having the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Board included on the Arkansas Department of Health Boards website.

Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Board congratulated Dr. Rachel Glade on her new board position. Dr. Rachel Glade asked if there were any comments or questions and there were not.

- Next Meeting, October 22, 2024, 3 pm – Freeway Medical, via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.