

## ACDHH LA Task Force Meeting

Wednesday, 3/9/22

10am-12pm

### Attendance:

#### **Task Force members**

Ana Herron Valenzuela

Caroline Oglesby

Jennifer Scarboro

Martin Keller

Christina Rivera

Fran Altmaier

Jesus Marquez

Mollie Harding

Christy Hegebush

Janet Vilorio

Kendra Benedict

Germaine Graham

#### **ACDHH Staff**

Sonia Samaniego

Beca Bailey

Nikki Soukup

Jeremy McCown

#### **Facilitator**

Tawny Holmes- Hlibok

#### **ASL Interpreters**

Windy Kellems

Beth Kovach

### Committee Updates:

**Assessments Review Subcommittee** : Focus will be on assessment use for children who are DHH and looking at the different assessments used for 0-3 populations, 3-5 and K-12. Tasked with reviewing standardized assessments and how they are administered to children in these populations and providing any suggestions or recommendations including planning, training or support and guidance needed for programs.

**Data & Demographics Subcommittee** : Focus will be to discuss the types of data to collect and identify sources of where data can be found. Utilizing in-house resources to collect data and ensure inclusion of Deaf or Hard of hearing children with complex conditions. These populations vary on their rate of progress due to their severe medical needs or other limitations. Need to include the use of other communicative devices such as augmentative devices and other forms of assistive technology. Also, recognizing that the data that we collect will have discrepancies that will help us to identify the gaps.

**Systematic Connections** : Focus will be to discuss the agencies, professionals and referral process of connecting families to appropriate services when it comes to the diagnosis of a child with a hearing loss. This includes gathering information, sharing resources and understanding the Part C and Part B educational process.

### Additional Suggestions:

**Assessments Review Subcommittee:** Identify the assessments currently being used, pros and cons, and what assessments the group would like to see being introduced or used more for the process of collecting literacy and language acquisition data.

**Data and Demographics Subcommittee:** Identify the data that we currently have by looking at raw numbers. What information we have: assessment scores, demographics, programs, locations,

**Systematic Connections:** Identify the players, and the process and develop a roadmap from Newborn screening that includes a child's journey until the age of twenty one. Include alternative paths that include referrals to other agencies and other systems.

### Open Forum Comments/Responses:

Recommendations for additional community representation on subcommittees have been received through the interest form submissions.

Response to question regarding LeadK model for AZ- Arizona did not use the exact model for LeadK. However, it is a similar concept but not using that exact terminology

ADHS Newborn hearing screening has a sharing agreement with AZEIP to track specific children during their EI process. We may need to think about data sharing agreements between Part C and Part B programs that will allow us to track the same populations through their journey from NBHS, through EI, preschool, school age and evaluate their progress over time.

AZEIP and ADE currently have a collaboration and are looking at this specific process and also including specific identification numbers to assist with tracking. Also, Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (ASDB) is one of the service providers for AZEIP along with Foundation for Blind Children (FBC) to provide the vision and hearing services.

Response to question regarding the use of data from other states. Data from other states can be beneficial to gather and use as a comparison as well.

Response to questions regarding out of hospital births that may not be accounted for such as reservation births. This is important for the subcommittees to keep in mind and also individuals who transition from other states and countries and how to account for those numbers.

The number of babies born from 2020 are much higher than normal due to the pandemic. This seems to be the trend for 2021 as well but hoping that it will swing back to the normal range.

ASDB currently has a grant that is tracking progress for children in the Birth to 5 program. Taking a look at the assessments that are included is important for the whole child. Does the data that is being collected in various systems include spoken language, written language, and sign language. These are some points to consider when looking at assessments and recommendations.

Collection of data also includes various systems when identifying children in NBHS, Part C, Part B and other programs that will provide us with information on the number of Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind children that we currently have in our state.

Review Meeting Timeline

Provide date for next Meeting Task Force Meeting - April 13,2022

Meeting adjourned at 11:30am