

ACDHH LA Task Force Meeting

Wednesday, 4/13/22

10am-12pm

Attendance:

Task Force members

Ana Herron Valenzuela
Germaine Graham
Kendra Benedict
Caroline Oglesby
Michael Olivier

Christina Rivera
Janet Vilorio
Mollie Harding
Fran Altmaier

Christy Hegebush
Jennifer Scarboro
Martin Keller
Suzanne Perry

ACDHH Staff

Sonia Samaniego
Chyla Dalton Nava

Nikki Soukup

Beca Bailey

Facilitator

Tawny Holmes-Hlibok

ASL Interpreters

Windy Kellems
Amy Drewek

CART Services:

Sebrina Crosby

Meeting Overview:

Meeting Logistics: Accessibility options include live captioner services that can be accessed by selecting view captioning, American Sign Language interpreters can be accessed by pinning to your screen as needed. Access to video recording available on ACDHH Youtube page and website, PPT is available on ACDHH website, cameras and microphones will remain off. The raised hand feature will need to be utilized for questions or comments. Chat feature is also available to all participants.

Review Task Force Purpose: ACDHH was tasked with the aim to establish a task force that is composed of diverse community members and partnering agencies that can advise and assist with the implementation of SB 1092 which is Language Acquisition for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind children in Arizona from birth to age 21.

Subcommittee membership: Three separate subcommittees have been developed to include community members that can contribute their expertise to accomplishing the goals of the task force. The membership interest form was distributed and we had a great response to our subcommittees that are making great progress.

Committee Updates:

Assessments Review Subcommittee: Shared a document that contained all the assessment tools that are being used for early intervention and what areas of development are covered. Also, identified tools are specific to the needs of D/HH/DB children and how they are being used. Through our discussions, the group has been able to identify that providers are completing assessments and evaluations without the background and experience of evaluating D/HH/DB children. ASDB and AZEIP are working together to improve the process for eligibility and assessments for D/HH/DB children. Challenges have also been identified for training and coverage for assessors to provide assessments throughout the State of AZ.

Data & Demographics Subcommittee: Shared a chart that demonstrated a status update for the AR group that included questions, possible identification of sub-groups, inclusion of children with additional disabilities. When collecting data we need to keep in mind this information may or may not include special populations and/or possibly be skewed in representation. Not sure if the end goal includes identification of how the data will serve us and where it will live. Overall, the chart represented the group discussions and helped identify what data needs to be collected.

Systematic Connections Subcommittee: Shared a document that provides a status update for the SC group that includes current roadmaps for the agencies involved in the birth-3 age range. Several gaps have been identified where D/HH children need more resources or where families and/or agencies need resources to improve their role in the process of a child's development. There are no comprehensive roadmaps for families after diagnosis that include resources, Deaf Mentors, interaction with D/HH adults with life experiences, accessing information, entering the system for late onset children. Overall, there are huge roadblocks in our system that are keeping children from being identified, connected to appropriate services, professional resources, and ongoing support. Work will continue with the 3-5 age group and beyond.

Open Forum Comments/Responses:

Comment shared regarding the access of aggregate data not person-specific data without data-sharing agreements. Also, keeping in compliance with HIPAA regulations when accessing information that may be individual level data that can be beneficial to the committee if needed.

Discussion regarding the most recent data collection that has been made by the State and what it identifies. For Early intervention data, the information is being collected by several agencies

including ASDB, ADE, and ADHS newborn screening. The most recent information published by CDC for 2020 comes from ADHS and is a living database that contains at least a decade of information that can be accessible. The most recent data shared by ADE is for the 20-21 school year and that is publicly available on ade.gov/specialeducationmanagement and includes PreK-12 for all disability categories.

Discussion regarding the current point of entry for AZEIP that includes referrals to Raising Special Kids and how children are referred to specific agencies/programs. This information should include DES child care services and ADHS child care licensing as well as FTF Quality First programming, ADE Early childhood unit, and Headstart programs. There is also a five state inter-agency agreement that includes ADHS, ADE, ASDB, AHCCCS and DES for all children enrolled in the team based early intervention program. Similar process in Washington DC through the “Strong Start” program and has really been a great process.

Information on the National ASL English Bilingual Coalition or consortium was provided as a training resource. Non-profit organization that provides training and holds annual conferences for assessors through a train the trainer model. This resource could possibly assist with the need for additional training in AZ.

ADE conference is coming in September, 2022 and will be in person in Phoenix at JW Marriott

National Deaf Educators conference on June 30th in Orlando, Florida. Information can be found at NAD.org

Closing information:

Information shared from five other states that resulted from Task force work and their final recommendation formats:

Kansas
California
Hawaii
Louisiana
Indiana

These formats will be made available to the Task Force and subcommittee groups to assist in the development of their final recommendations.

Each subcommittee group will develop final recommendations and submit for use in the final report that will be completed by Tawny and presented to ACDHH by June 30, 2022.

A Public Forum will be held in the third week of June. More information to be shared regarding the forum.

We will have a panel of diverse perspectives at our next Task Force meeting to share their experiences to possibly assist in our thought process and our research.

Provide Date for next task force meeting- May 11, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 11:45am