

## ACDHH LA Task Force Meeting

Wednesday, 5/11/22

10am-12pm

### Attendance:

#### **Task Force members**

Christina Rivera  
Jennifer Scarboro  
Caroline Oglesby

Germaine Graham  
Kendra Benedict  
Suzanne Perry

Janet Vilorio  
Mollie Harding  
Michael Olivier

Fran Altmaier

#### **ACDHH Staff**

Sonia Samaniego  
Chyla Dalton Nava

Nikki Soukup  
Sherri Collins

Beca Bailey

#### **Guest Panelists**

Kellie Mendoza

Latrina Lewis

Colin Denny

#### **Facilitator**

Tawny Holmes-Hlibok

#### **ASL Interpreters**

Michelle Monahan  
Lisa Perry  
Kaitlin Brauch

#### **CART Services:**

Kacie Adcock

### 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. Slides were posted online and will be referenced for viewing purposes and to assist with accessibility to ASL interpreters.

**Introduction of Panelists:** ACDHH has invited a few different participants for today's task force meeting.

### Panel Presentation:

**Colin Denny:** Late deafened adult, grew up hearing using English and Navajo. Learned ASL in teenage years when hearing loss required him to be a visual learner. ASL Tutor in New Mexico on the reservation and grew up in Pinon, AZ.

**Latrina Lewis:** Deaf adult, grew up using spoken language and ASL. Teacher of the Deaf for elementary age students on Tucson campus.

**Kellie Mendoza:** Hard of hearing adult, parent of a Deaf child, grew up with Deaf family members and learned ASL to communicate with family. Currently resides in Florence, AZ.

Panel Q/A session that provided responses to the following questions:

- Can you share a little bit about yourself and how you got involved in the journey of language acquisition for Deaf and Hard of Hearing children and what your role has been in that process?
- What barriers have you faced with language acquisition work, and what rewards have you experienced in that role or with that program related to language acquisition.
- Have you identified any wonderful resources or components that were helpful in your journey and process to language acquisition.
- When we consider the diverse population in the state of Arizona, and based on your experience, what are some things that the task force should consider related to language acquisition in the community?

### Committee Updates:

**Assessments Review Subcommittee:** Shared update regarding the research that has been completed to compare other states and the assessment tools that have been approved. California is one of the states that was researched and only has one assessment tool for Spoken language and one assessment tool for American Sign Language. Other states have had multiple assessment tools approved and not sure if either of those models work for the State of AZ. Our group is working to determine what model will work best for AZ. Challenges have been identified and concerns regarding the timeline for final recommendations. Challenges have also been identified for training, funding, assessment and coverage throughout the State of AZ.

**Data & Demographics Subcommittee:** Shared update regarding the current findings for the group. We have identified several gaps in data and really would like to emphasize the need for identifying solutions to the challenges that have been identified. The data that we collected will reflect the concerns that we all know exist in our state and don't want to reinvent the wheel. It has been challenging to identify one source of data since we have so many areas that we want to provide a snapshot of. However, the season that we are in has been very busy with end of

school year requirements and has been challenging to get other members to participate in subcommittee work.

**Systematic Connections Subcommittee:** Shared concerns regarding the challenge of getting Audiology students to have different perspectives regarding the care of children and not just a medical lens. Group has been working on different age groups, birth to three, three to five, and K through 12. The group has identified the different avenues that children access resources from birth and different programs. There has been some confusion about programs funded through First Things First and their role. A comprehensive review has been completed of the transition from Part C to Part B services and will be identifying the agencies involved for children in school or K-12 settings at our subcommittee meeting this month.

### Open Forum Comments/Responses:

Q&A session included a diverse discussion regarding the impact of language acquisition, access to services in rural communities, expansion of Deaf education programs, ASL classes in preschools, transportation, additional programs for preschools, and possible opportunities for inclusion in ADE programming.

Multiple comments shared about the wonderful panelists and the different perspectives that they provide and all the work that is being done.

Discussion regarding the different programs through AZ Dept. of Education that may provide more information for the Systematic Connections group.

Discussion regarding the inclusion of ADA and 504 to be mentioned in services and how that impacts Deaf children's access to services.

### Closing information:

Information shared and explained regarding the format template for the final reports that will be submitted.

Draft report will be compiled that includes all the findings from subcommittees. It will be shared with the public forum on Saturday, June 18th from 10:00-11:30am. This time was selected to ensure that we have community participation without having to miss work. The forum will be facilitated and a draft report will be shared. Subcommittee representatives will share findings and recommendations. Final format will be available in ASL, English, Spanish and Braille.

Provide Date for next task force meeting- June 8, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 11:52 am