

ACDHH LA Task Force Meeting

Wednesday, 6/8/22

10am-12pm

Attendance:

Task Force members

Ana Herron- Valenzuela
Fran Altmaier
Mollie Harding
Christina Rivera

Germaine Graham
Jennifer Scarboro
Suzanne Perry

Janet Vilorio
Kendra Benedict
Michael Olivier

ACDHH Staff

Sonia Samaniego

Nikki Soukup

Chyla Dalton Nava

Facilitator

Tawny Holmes-Hlibok

ASL Interpreters

Michelle Monahan
Joshua Lane
Akili Dees

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.

Tracking our progress: Updates from each subcommittee group will be provided during today's Final Task Force meeting. Each subcommittee group will present their current findings, challenges and recommendations that have been identified through Assessments Review, Data and Demographics and Systematic Connections within the State of AZ. A public virtual forum will be held on June 18, 2022 and these final reports will be presented to the public to receive feedback.

The public forum will be accessible in English, Spanish, and ASL and live captioning. The information for the public forum has been shared through social media platforms and with community partners. We encourage all task force and subcommittee members to attend and invite others to participate and learn more about the efforts that the Task Force has been working on for all Deaf/Hard of Hearing/DeafBlind children in AZ.

Committee Updates:

Assessments Review Subcommittee: Shared update regarding group findings and presented a template that reported the different assessment tools, the challenges, and the recommendations. Current assessments were identified as well as other assessments that are not currently being offered in our state. Pros and Cons were also included in the review of the identified assessments. Some tools are not available due to the COVID pandemic or due to lack of certified individuals that can administer the assessments. Exploration of other states were also completed to see what would best fit the structure of our state. Possible implementation of a statewide team to administer assessments is a strong recommendation. Recommendations are also broken down for different groups; Birth-3 and K-12. Requirements for assessors are specific to the skill set needed for the different assessments. Included recommendations for sharing this information with parents and others as well.

Systematic Connections Subcommittee: Shared update regarding group findings for services and supports for D/HH/DB children from Birth-12th grade. Presented a template of the report that was broken down into different stages to include Birth-3, K-12. Several gaps in services were identified in regards to supports for families and children identified with Deafness. Materials, resources and support services for the B-3 population have not been updated and several service providers are involved in supporting this population. Findings also indicated that the K-12 population had a lack of resources outside of the school environment. Final report has been started but do not have final recommendations reported at this time.

Data & Demographics Subcommittee: Shared update regarding the current findings for the group. Information was gathered from ADHS regarding the Newborn Hearing Screening results and the outcomes from CDC for our state. These findings indicated the number of children identified in our state, number of children referred for early intervention services and the number of children enrolled in Part C services. Reported data also indicated other contributing factors such as family relocations, other health conditions, etc. Information was also gathered from ADE for child level data. Identified concerns about the data that is available for Part B services. Presented visual graphs that demonstrated a dip in the number of preschool students identified with Deafness and other disabilities during the pandemic. Discussion regarding the process of identification, referral and educational placement for children identified with any level of deafness. During the data collection, findings indicated the need for ongoing professional development for educators and providers in reporting the data regarding assessments, placement, and coding for disability categories. Additional data provided in regards to reported outcomes for children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing can be specifically filtered to look at additional areas of development that include language. Other areas of concern identified include reliability/validity of data currently being collected, source of information and the overall process

for delivery of service, placement, and assessments for DHH children. Final recommendations will be included in our final reporting and should focus on the current child level data, compare with other states, and indicated areas of improvement.

Open Forum Comments/Responses:

Q&A session included discussion and questions requesting any feedback from other subcommittees in regards to the final recommendations presented in today's reports.

Discussion regarding the finalization of the reports and the last subcommittee meetings that will be focusing on any feedback provided through the virtual public forum.

Closing information:

Information shared and explained regarding the format template for the final reports that will be submitted. Request to have reports finalized with recommendations by next Monday in order to meet the tight deadlines for the completion of our final report that will be submitted to ACDHH.

Final reports will be submitted that includes all the findings from subcommittees. Final format will be available in ASL, English, Spanish and Braille.

Provided Date for public forum- June 18, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 11:32am