

Meeting Minutes

Universal Newborn Hearing Screening, Tracking and Intervention Advisory Board Meeting
April 26, 2022, 3:00pm, via Zoom

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

Guests Present: Mandy Jay, Meagan Beaty, Deanne King, Brian Nichols, Craig Smith, Dr. Gretchen Cobb, Stacey Schratz, Angelina Myers, Reginald Rogers, Mitzi Fritschen, Paula Pottenger, Holly Ketchum, Kim Scott, Traci Massery, Christie Birdsong and Tyria White.

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by the Una Carroll, appointed temporary Vice Chair, at 3:07 pm. Dr. Bower resumed duties as Chair upon arrival.

Roll Call, Determination of Quorum: Una Carroll opened the meeting, confirmed a quorum and initiated introductions by Advisory Board Members.

Approval of April 2021 Minutes: The minutes from the October 2021 meeting were provided and approved without any objections.

Old Business:

- Dr. Bower stated that he does not have any Old Business to discuss. Dr. Bower then turned the meeting over to Kim Scott to discuss program updates.

Program Update:

- Kim reported on the current program updates as follows:
 - Staff Updates – Introduced new and current staff to the Advisory Board. Also, IHP is in the process of selecting and hiring staff for two current open positions.
 - Media Campaigns – Media campaign ran from January through March on Facebook, Instagram and Tik Tok. The campaign addressed supporting families as information was provided from a parent’s perspective on the importance for rescreens.
 - Diversity Inclusion Plan –IHP just submitted the Diversity and Inclusion Plan to HRSA, and it will be implemented this upcoming program year. The focus of the plan is race and geography. The program will target the Marshallese Community as this will allow IHP to increase engagement with community groups located in Northwest Arkansas and address the top five counties that have infants who fail their infant hearing screen and did not receive follow-up testing. IHP will partner with Hands & Voices and other providers in addressing ways to decrease the risk of infants being lost to follow-up.
 - Annual Report – The annual report draft was presented to the Advisory Board for review and approval and shared with attendees. The report will be disseminated electronically once ADH approval is obtained.
 - Future Meeting Speakers – Kim asked the Advisory Board if they have any suggestions for future speakers or topics to include the information in the chat box. Una asked in the chat box “I’m interested in COVID impact. If there may be any data with long COVID, and the social, emotional impacts of the pandemic on our loss to follow-up and if there is an increase in later follow-up”.

AR School for the Deaf Update:

- Dr. Gretchen Cobb, Director of ASD Statewide Services gave a brief update on ASD as follows:
 - ASD awarded \$36 million dollars in funding for campus renovations with \$6 million for a new health facility, along with \$4 million for a new building that will house medical staff, the audiology department and possibly optometry in efforts to serve the deaf and blind community.
 - ASD referral process has been streamlined to include an evaluation with families to determine eligibility of services.

- Dr. Cobb also stated that she received positive feedback from other states on the collaborative Arkansas EHDI process.

Dr. Bower that thanked Dr. Cobb for updates on ASD.

AR Hands & Voices Update:

- Mandy Jay, Guide by Your Side (GBYS) Coordinator gave a brief update as follows:
 - H & V collaborated with ACH n creating their staff bio flyer. The flyer will be shared with parents so that they will know who is reaching out to them.
 - H & V had 23 online events over the last several months (e.g. scavenger hunts). Also, their next event is the Sign, Speak, Run & Fun in the park which will be held in Fayetteville, AR.
 - H & V is working on two media ads: 1) An ad geared towards parents and the importance of the 1-3-6 guidelines and rescreening and 2) An ad geared towards educating physicians and the importance of rescreening to make sure families understand why it's important.
 - H & V received a UAMS community based participatory research grant to identify barriers to rescreening and loss to follow-up. The focus of this grant is to survey families to determine why babies were not rescreened (e.g. distance, etc.) and figure out how to reduce those barriers. The surveys will be conducted by H & V Guides. Parents who participate in the survey will be included in a drawing to receive an incentive.
 - H & V is looking to hire someone for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing Guide and Parent Guide positions.
 - Una Carroll also mentioned the upcoming Zoo Day event to be held June 11th. Mandy stated the event is on the handout. Una asked for volunteers from ASD.

Prior to the meeting, handouts were emailed to outline H & V updates. Mandy also stated that if you have any questions to email her.

Dr. Bower thanked Mandy Jay for the H & V updates.

Travel Reimbursement Vote:

- A motion to allow travel reimbursement for board members to attend meetings during 2022 was presented and approved.

Upcoming Dates and Special Announcements:

- Dr. Heidi Lightle was nominated and approved as the new Vice Chair.
- Next Meeting, October 25, 2022, 3 pm – Freeway Medical, room 801 and via Zoom

Meeting adjourned at 3:59 p.m.