

# Early Language Working Group

May 19, 2017, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

HawaiiUSA Federal Credit Union Conference Room  
1126 College Walk, Honolulu Hawai'i

## MEETING MINUTES

### Attendance:

Working Group Members: Coleen Momohara, Ed Chevy, Jennifer Blohm, Nikki Kepo'o, Jennifer Hokulani Tarnay, Emily Jo Noschese, Colin Whited, Jill Taosaka, Angel Ramos, and Keri Filinger

Facilitation Team: Leolinda Parlin and Tabitha Ganitoen

Observers: Patricia Heu, MD, Rajarajeshwari, Linda Lambrecht, Keiko Nitta, Steve Laracuente, and Margaret Laracuente

### 1. Introductions

Attendees introduced themselves by name and indicated which role they were representing.

### 2. Minutes – 2/17/17 meeting

Working Group would like minutes 1 week prior to the meeting and have transcription posted on the Early Language Working Group website as soon as it is available.

### 3. Tools to assess and plan language development services

The assessment tool matrix is being finalized and will be provided at the next meeting.

A follow up discussion to a request from the last meeting was initiated. The request was to develop a list of informal resources that are available in the community to better support families. This is in addition to formal resources such as from the DOE and other State programs. The list of informal resources will assist in identifying gaps and may help in making recommendations on institutionalizing resources so that they are available to more people. A concern was expressed about the Working Group not being adequately prepared to present anything for the next legislation. *(Note – Act 177 (2016) includes the Working Group making recommendations for a resource guide that includes national and state organizations and resources for families, and improvements concerning the statewide system of services that support age-appropriate language development for children from 0-5 years who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, or deaf-blind.)*

The working group began to conceptualize a directory.

Criteria for Information Resources: The recommendation is to have a resource listing of community resources which would be searchable by age, focus, qualification of the individual, and financing (cost) of the opportunity.

Types of Resource Lists: The process identified the following lists:

- Parents who are willing to be listed and matched by island
- Mentors who are willing to be listed and matched by island
- Community resources

The group began to brainstorm potential resources for list. The following is a list of resources suggested:

- Aloha State Association for Deaf
- SPIN
- HSDB
- New Hope Deaf Group
- Jehovah Witness –
- Deaf Starbuck
- St. Peter & Paul
- Hands and Voices – not running currently
- ‘Ohana Center at the School
- Hawaii Deaf Surf Rider Association
- World Deaf Surfing Championship
- HSDB Parent Association
- Maui Deaf Friends
- Big Island Deaf Club
- BIC –
- Molokai Deaf ‘Ohana
- HDRC – Carol Young
- Gallaudet Alumni Association
- HSDB alumni association
- Hawaii Speech Language Association
- CSC
- Hawaii and Pacific Deaf Blind Project
- Signs of Self
- GEM – Georgia Ellen Morikawa
- Hawaii Bowling Club
- Hawaii Silent Bowlers
- Deaf Santa

The workgroup also identified a list of potential resources that do not have a presence in Hawai‘i.

- Hands and Voices
- AG Bell
- Hard of Hearing Organizations
- LDAH
- Self Help for the Hard of Hearing
- Gallaudet A
- ASDC
- Gallaudet Regional Center

It was shared that the Department of Education will be hiring a community liaison on Oahu and will expand to other areas. This position will work with parents and the school districts and is part of the Superintendent’s Office.

#### **4. Availability of data on language development and literacy**

The assessment tool matrix is being finalized and will be provided at the next meeting.

**5. Future meetings in 2017**

Next meeting will be July 14, 2017, 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the HawaiiUSA Federal Credit Union Conference Room at 1126 College Walk, Honolulu Hawai'i.

**6. Public Comment**

Rajarajeshwari shared that there are programs in other states where families are available to other families in the hospital when the baby is born. It was recommended that this be established for Hawai'i. An announcement was made that Kapiolani Community College will have a conference on responsive education and its focus will be on Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing child development and language development. Contact Colin Whited for more information.

Meeting Adjourned.