

**Early Language Working Group**  
November 9, 2017  
Hawaii School for the Deaf and the Blind Library

**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance**

Working Group Members: Colin Whited, Jennifer Blohm, Carole Duran, Nikki Kepo'o, Gwen Palmer, Jill Taosaka, Angel Ramos

Facilitator: Leolinda Parlin

Guests: Angela Nagata, Patricia Heu, Dale Matsumoto-Oi, Caleb Kepo'o, Steve Laracuenta, Po Kwan Wong, Tabitha Ganitoen

**Introductions**

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

**Minutes – 10/20/2017 meeting**

Do not have quorum to vote, need 9 members present for quorum

Changes made:

1. Add to attendees: Caleb Kepoo and Rebekah Kepoo
2. Page 2, # 7, first bullet: Change "evident" to "evidence"
3. Page 3, 6<sup>th</sup> bullet: Change "should be standardized" to "there should be standardization"
4. Page 4, 2<sup>nd</sup> bullet: Change "EI started during" to "EI started doing"

**Milestones**

Sub-committee of Carole Duran, Jennifer Blohm and Dale Matsumoto-Oi met to review milestones for language for hard-of-hearing and deaf children age 0-5. Group presented three milestones: the California milestones, the Ontario Infant Hearing Program, and the California School for the Deaf. A request has been made to California to use their milestones, with credit. Ontario's milestones are good because it is separated into different sections for ASL and spoken language. It is already available online. Cannot include SKI-HI's milestones because it is copyrighted, but can use it for assessment.

Need to include post-implant listening and spoken language milestones for children with cochlear implants. That cannot be found in the Ontario milestones. Also need to include milestones for children who are deaf-blind.

When audiologist identifies a child who is deaf, hard-of-hearing or deaf/blind, a referral is made to the impartial advocate/resource center, who can share the resource guide with the family.

Recommendations:

1. Present milestones to families of children who are deaf, hard-of-hearing and deaf-blind, and who have hearing aids and cochlear implants. Conversation with families would include all information. Let families decide what they would like to read.
2. Besides having milestones as part of the discussion with families on language choices, they should be available in multiple places, such as the Early Intervention (EI) intake packet, DOE eligibility meeting, EI transition meeting, DOE preschool, Newborn Hearing Screening Program, diagnostic audiologist.
3. Print milestones in the resource guide, giving credit to author
4. Include links to milestones on website.

### **Newborn Hearing Screening Program**

If a child passes newborn hearing screening but there is concern later or if a child moves to the state, a referral to program can be made up to age 3 years. The door to the program is always open until age 3 years.

About 50% of home birth receive newborn hearing screening.

Infants born on neighbor islands who fail hearing screening receive diagnostic evaluation from Kapiolani Hospital.

Tripler reports screening data but does not report evaluation data.

Leolinda and Dr. Heu will review mandate for the possibility of having all birthing facilities report screening and diagnostic data to Newborn Hearing Screening Program.

### **Hearing screening in Early Intervention**

In the multi-disciplinary evaluation to determine eligibility to EI, the Individual Family Support Plan (IFSP) has a section on hearing. The team looks at functional hearing. At the 6-month review, the team also has to include information on hearing. EI can make a referral to an audiologist if observations show a concern for hearing.

Should all children with speech delays get automatically referred for hearing testing?

### **Hearing and vision screening program**

Ended in 1996. There were 8 audiologists and 13 assistants, statewide. Current efforts in some communities include vision screening by Lions Clubs and other programs.

Past attempts to bring back the hearing and vision screening program have been unsuccessful. Estimate of budget is over \$1M.

Recommendation:

Include in the Statewide Services Section of the report to reinstate the Hearing and Vision Screening Program.

### **Data for report**

Need data regarding the number of children entering school that are below grade level in reading.

Also point out that the availability of data is not complete. There is a subset of children that DOH and DOE cannot provide accurate information on. Already in the recommendation from the group is to request that both departments begin to collect data at the student level, based on hearing loss and communication mode. DOE uses the TS Gold in preschool.

Angel will look to provide data.

### **Hawaii School for the Deaf and the Blind**

There are mainland schools that have dorms for children as young as 3 years of age. Some schools modify the number of days a child is in the dorm, to 3 days, not 5 days per week. HSDB accepts at age 8 for dorming.

Cultural issues need to be considered for dorming children, regardless of age.

DOE needs to create the opportunity across the state that will offer all curriculum to children, including the neighbor islands.

FKK (Farrington-Kaiser-Kalani) Complex has an outreach specialist who goes to schools on Oahu, not neighbor island. Hopefully there's funding for next year, too. Outreach specialist works with Hearing Impaired Resource Teacher (HIRT) to ensure that the child is receiving appropriate education and to help develop the capacity of the resource teachers. Funding is needed for position to continue.

Recommend:

Moving the outreach specialist position from district to a state level neutral location.

### **SKI-HI**

#### 1) Train-the-Trainer

- A professional needs to be using SKI-HI for 3 years before they can be eligible to be a trainer.

#### 2) Use of the SKI-HI evaluation tool

- Doesn't require certification
- Its use is part of the training

#### 3) Deaf Mentor training

- Separate training from the SKI-HI training
- \$7500 for Utah State University (USU) to come to Hawaii to give the training

#### 4) SKI-HI training

- 6-day training
- \$11,500 that includes trainer expenses
- DOH and DOE needs to purchase the SKI-HI manual
- 30 people maximum at each training
- There are about 20 Speech Language Pathologists (SLP) in EI
- About 8-9 HIRT in DOE
- Good to include DOE TODs (Teachers of the Deaf) – about 10
- Possibly May to June or June to the end of June
- Form a work group to do the planning, decide on the dates
- Colin will ask Jodee Cree about doing SKI-HI training

5) Possible funding for training of professionals and Deaf Mentors from LEND. Purpose is to train professionals to use SKI-HI, and to train Deaf Mentors. Then in 3 years, professionals will become Trainers and the curriculum will be sustainable in Hawaii.

### **Report Draft**

Everyone should review the draft and be ready to discuss it at the next meeting. Need to make decision on what recommendations to include in the report, prioritizing them.

### **Deaf and Blind Task Force Meeting**

Senator Rhodes is willing to introduce legislation that the ELWG would like to introduce.

### **Deaf Bill of Rights**

DCAB says that it does not exist. ELWG wants to request DCAB to pursue Deaf Bill of Rights.

Want to include it in the resource guide.

### **Next meeting:**

December 1, 2017, 3:00-5:00 PM

Hawaii USA Federal Credit Union Conference Room

1226 College Walk, Honolulu, HI