

Early Language Working Group

December 1, 2017, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

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

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance:

Ed Chevy, Jennifer Clark, Carole Duran, Nikki Kepo'o, Coleen Momohara, Gwen Palmer, Angel Ramos, Charlene Robles, Jill Taosaka, Julie Whitaker

Facilitator: Leolinda Parlin

Observers: Patricia Dong, Tabitha Ganitoen, Patricia Heu, Dale Matsumoto-Oi, Angela Nagata, Keiko Nitta, Po Kwan Wong, Margaret Laracuenta, Steve Laracuenta, Isabel Ramos

1. Introductions

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

2. Minutes – 8/25/17, 9/15/17, 10/20/17, 11/09/17 meeting

Once quorum was reached, approval of 8/25, 9/15, and 10/20 minutes. Revisions to 11/09 include the following edits: p. 1 Milestones, 2nd paragraph (“Need to include post-implant listening and spoken language milestones for children with cochlear implants” and correct “That it cannot be found in the Ontario milestones.” P. 2 Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind correct “HSDB accepts at age 8 (not 9)...” and instead of HSDB it should be “FKK complex” on top of p. 3. P. 3 4) SKI-HI Training last bullet is that Colin will ask Jodee Cree about doing SKI-HI training not Jennifer. P. 3 Deaf Bill of Rights “ELWG wants to request DCAB to pursue Deaf Bill of Rights.” Revised minutes will be presented to group to approve at next meeting.

3. Prioritization and recommendations for legislative report

Group needs to finalize recommendations to the Legislature. Need to make sure the language is the most directive and instructive of a requirement. Example is that the language must spell out what to do, not how to do it – that is up to the departments to decide. Needs to also make sure language is not judgmental but not advertising language. Example is that one of the requests was that Department of Health will require hearing evaluations for speech delay. The group does not want to rewrite it to say all children with speech delay will receive the highest quality of hearing in North America. Language needs to be specific, unemotional and directive. The process will be to break into two groups to go over the Running List of Recommendations. The group will have to address staffing equity on neighbor island. Wordsmithing will happen in small groups and go through validation. Then after the groups have gone through the validation and finding out what's missing, the group must decide how to make decisions: simple majority, super majority, consensus.

See Leolinda's updated Running List of Recommendations for revisions to language. Discussion of issues are documented in minutes:

Statement #8: Change “Outreach materials” to “communication milestones” (which can be included in outreach materials). Remove bullet point “NHSP Intake”. Change bullet point “NHSP evaluations” to “NHSP screenings”. Add bullet for “Diagnostic audiological evaluations”. Group asked to consider if the Outreach Materials should go to any family who gets a diagnostic audiological evaluation or just those

who are identified with a hearing loss? Anticipatory guidance should be available to families but there is no preventive maintenance for hearing loss. Outreach information should be appropriate to the situation. Families will get information on newborn screening process, communication milestones and contact information at appropriate times.

Clarification that EOEL Preschool Program services children age 4 and the Department of Education has Preschool Special Education which services children 3-5.

Dr. Heu and Leolinda Parlin are working on proposed language to amend the newborn hearing screening statute to include follow up evaluation to address the concern that Tripler is only giving the initial screen and no information on diagnostic testing results. Leolinda to email the existing statute as it is today since group was not clear on what's written.

Clarification on the FKK Complex level Outreach Specialist position. Concern that since the Working Group is only addressing the 0-5 population, there might be an unintended consequence to pursue a permanent position coming from this working group. Currently this position services the 3-22 year old population and works with other schools in the district, works with resource teachers for deaf, works with any school district outside its area, goes to schools to advise them, and provides training and counseling resources as a neutral person. There are still a lot of discussions that needs to happen within the DOE about this position. It might be a different forum to advocate for making this a permanent position and provide statewide outreach.

Group needs to look at staffing recommendations. Question about why the Outreach Specialist Position was the only identified position that made it into the Running List of Recommendations when there have been staffing needs and the need for more qualified staff. This may need to be another working group. Concern that the first part of the Working Group was passing the bill, the second part was identifying what Hawaii has in place, the third part is addressing how can Hawaii accomplish what it needs. Group would like to move Personnel to the Working Group.

4. Public Comment

Concern from Patricia Dong from DOE that the definition of "Transition Meeting" needs to be checked as it has a different meaning for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Future meeting

Monday, December 18, 2:30 – 5 p.m., Location to be confirmed.

Leolinda will send revised Running List of Recommendations to the Group and proposed language of amended newborn hearing screening statute before the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned.