

DRAFT

Early Language Working Group Meeting

January 19, 2018, 3:00 p.m to 5:00 p.m.
Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind Library
3440 Leahi Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96815

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance: Colin Whited, Emily Jo Noschese, Charlene Robles, Ed Chevy, Jill Taosaka, Gwen Palmer, Jennifer Clark, Nikki Kepoo, Carole Duran, Angel Ramos

Facilitator: Keiko Nitta

Observers: Tabitha Ganitoen, Dale Matsumoto-Oi, PoKwan Wong, Denny Voreck, Karen Quinones, Patricia Heu, Steve Laracuenta, Margaret Laracuenta, Patricia Dong

1. Introductions

- A. New facilitator – Keiko Nitta, DOH Children with Special Health Needs Branch
 - 1. Agenda for today
 - 1) approve meeting minutes – need quorum
 - 2) discuss and finalize Legislative Report
 - 3) finalize the four (4) working groups. ELWG sunsets on June, 2018. This will give time for working groups to come up with recommendations that the larger working group can vote on and maybe compile into a report
 - 2. Quorum - initially 9 members present, final – 10 members present
 - 3. Member packets – contain latest draft of Legislative Report, agenda, minutes from 12/18/17 meeting

2. Minutes

- A. Meeting minutes for 11/09/17, 12/1/17 and 12/18/17 – need vote to accept
 - 1. Discussion on lists of members and observers
 - 2. Motion and second to accept meeting minutes
 - 3. Vote – all in favor, none opposed
 - 4. Minutes approved

3. Legislative Report

- A. Drafts. Drafts were sent out to ELWG on 1/9/18, 1/12/18, 1/17/18, 1/19/18. Thank you to those who made edits. Highlighted sections need further discussion.
- B. Edits
 - 1. Page 2 – clarification on language
 - 2. Page 3, 4.C. – clarification on language
 - Discussion: DOH needs time to come up with a process that is going to allow this to happen for families.
 - Decision: “Explore how to implement exemptions for D/HH/DB children from geographic providers and allow for referral to D/HH/DB specialized statewide service providers (for Early Intervention)”
 - 3. Page 3, 4.E. – use of term “family voice”

- Discussion: Other options – family choice, family voice/choice, remove completely, family participation, family, opportunities, options
 - Decision: “Implement a Deaf Mentor program to support families with children who are D/HH/DB across systems to include different communication modes, use of technology, opportunities, etc.”
4. Page 4, A. – change in language that was voted on in last meeting
 - Discussion: Remove mention of DOH with regards to IEP team. Formatting changes made.
 - Decision: “Implement a standardized protocol for transition meetings from EI to DOE for D/HH/DB children, which would include a facilitator(s) who is knowledgeable in working with children who are D/HH/DB. After eligibility for special education and related services is determined, the IEP team meets to review the student’s strengths and needs and: 1) discusses all communication modes; 2) discusses the continuum of placements and examples where some of the programs are located, and 3) includes representation from the home school and individual(s) knowledgeable about the various communication modes in the DOE with parental approval.”
 5. Page 6 – Resource guide
 - Discussion: Two choices to consider. Need revision of timeline of bullet points.
 - Decision: “In clarifying the interests of the families, it was consistently expressed that a system of support for families needs to be strengthened to help shepherd families. This needs to happen at various points: 1) navigating the medical service delivery system, 2) the acquisition of skills and knowledge to communicate with their child, 3) supporting the needs that come with changes in development, experience and transitions across settings, 4) the process of determining a communication mode for their child, 5) providing resources to assist in effectively communicating, and 6) navigating the health and education systems.”
 6. Page 8 – working group
 - Discussion – Statement is redundant
 - Decision – removed
 7. Page 9 – data
 - Discussion – Reasons why data does not accurately reflect the number of children who are D/HH/DB in schools in Hawaii were discussed.
 - Decision: Edits made to clean up language and to explain reasons why data may not be accurate by using asterisk.
 - “Information retrieved from USDOE/OSEP. *Hearing Disability refers to all students with eligibility categories of Deaf or Hard of Hearing. **Due to the low incidence of this population, data may not be included to maintain the confidentiality of individuals.”
 8. Page 10 – remove errant “.”
 9. Page 12 – data
 - Discussion – want to include explanation on why data is flawed.
 - Decision – **“Convene a working group to create standardization of data collected, shared and measured that would be appropriate for D/HH/DB children.** The subgroup will need to address several issues around data collection

and tracking, which includes: a) clarification on OSEP definitions, b) under-reporting due to confidentiality issues around low numbers that may lead to identification of individuals, c) data collection on eligibility categories (DOE only allows one category to be identified in the data system with the option of writing in more descriptive information; DOH allows up to 3 categories identified in the ICD-10 codes), and d) review of other states or data sources that are able to capture accurate data on children who are D/HH/DB.”

10. Page 13, C. – change agreed upon in earlier discussion

11. Page 13, E. – “family voice” changed to “opportunities” per earlier discussion

C. Next Steps for Report Submission.

1. Keiko contacted Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB). She found out that the report is very delayed.
 - a. Need to submit a hard copy to the Senate president, Speaker of the House and LRB.
 - b. Will be submitted on Monday, January 22, 2018 around noon.
 - c. Keiko will hand deliver the report.
 - d. Monday, January 22, 2018 is the last day for legislators to submit bills.
 - e. If ELWG would like to continue to meet and have time to work on recommendation, they can be submitted for the 2019 legislative session.
 - f. ELWG discussed various choices on how to proceed:
 - 1) Call legislators to have a bill submitted on 1/22/18, or
 - 2) Extend ELWG another year to let subgroups work it out, then make recommendations for legislation. This can possibly be done through a Resolution, which has a later deadline for introduction.
 - g. ELWG decided to submit legislation to extend sunset until June, 2019.
 - h. Meanwhile, the four subgroups can still meet until June, 2018.
 - i. Need a dedicated facilitator.
 - j. More information on SKI-HI mentor training will be coming out soon. DOH is still working on the details.
 - k. For now, ELWG will review the legislative report to make one final edit before it is submitted on Monday, January 22, 2018.
 - l. Have comments to Keiko by 10:00 a.m., Monday morning.
 - m. DOH will submit the report but the request to extend ELWG will need to come from ELWG. Members need to contact legislators on Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health committee (Senator Baker and Senator Tokuda) and House Health and Human Services committee (Rep. Mizuno and Rep. Kobayashi)

4. Finalize Working Groups

- A. Written in the Report and approved and recommended by the Working Group, four groups to continue
 - a. Assessment
 - i. Identify milestones for DB, Cochlear implant/hearing aid users
 - ii. Identify instruments for DOE and DOH
 - b. Resource Materials

- i. Identify resource materials
 - ii. Discuss website
 - iii. Discuss family centered resource
 - c. Data and Reporting
 - i. Standardization of data
 - ii. Universal consent form
 - iii. Data collection methods
 - iv. Examining state limitations on data collection and reporting
 - v. Eligibility categories
 - vi. Review what other states are collecting and data sources
 - d. Personnel
 - i. Hiring and maintaining qualified staff
 - ii. Ongoing Professional development for staff
- B. ELWG need to figure out how the subcommittees will work. Agendas will need to be posted at least 7 days in advance and ASL interpreters and CART will need to be arranged.
- C. ELWG needs to follow the sunshine law. Subcommittees do not have to follow the sunshine laws so others who are not in the ELWG can be recruited to be part of the discussion. ELWG will discuss at the next meeting on the details of subcommittees.
- D. Keiko will send out the slide regarding subcommittees and contact information for the legislators

5. Public Comments

Guest introduced himself.

6. Next meeting:

February 16, 2018

3:00-5:00 p.m.

Place – TBD (HSDB not available)