

Early Language Working Group (ELWG)

Minutes

Thursday, September 13, 2018

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Hawaii School for the Deaf and the Blind Library

Early Language Working Group Members in Attendance: Jennifer Clark, Carole Duran, Dale Matsumoto-Oi, Coleen Momohara, Angel Ramos, Charlene Robles, Darci Singlehurst, Jill Taosaka, Po Kwan Wong. **Guest:** Loretta Finnegan-Nelson. **Facilitator:** Keiko Nitta

| Agenda Item | Discussion | Action |
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| Welcome/ Introductions— | Group welcomed. The following people sent their regrets: Nikki Kepo’o and Emily Jo. Loretta introduced herself and shared about upcoming trainings for families. Thursdays are hard for her to attend meetings as she teaches ASL classes at that time. | |
| Minutes Review and Approval 6/7/18. | Group reviewed to August 2 nd minutes. | If people have edits, please send to Keiko. |
| Legislative Support and Keiki Caucus | <p>Keiko went to DCAB to try to check with Colin about status of having Senator Roz Baker serve as convener for the group. Colin wasn’t available but Francine Wai was able to share her perspective on why it is important to have a Chair of the Health Committee serve as convener to ensure that bills are heard. Because of the upcoming elections, Francine suggested we wait until after the elections to approach Senator Baker if she is re-elected and to see who will be Senate Chair.</p> <p>Keiko attended the Keiki Caucus meeting and the deadline to submit legislation is October 8th. They will be meeting again in November and December. May want to develop a white paper on disparities for children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing/Deaf-Blind (D/HH/DB) and ask for a legislative briefing to make sure the topic remains relevant.</p> | Will ask Dr. Anderson to sign first set of letters to those who have not been attending. |

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| | <p>At the Keiki Caucus meeting, Senator Rhoads shared that 90% of the bills do not make it and it usually takes about 3 years for bills to pass. Only 10% of bills move forward on their first year.</p> <p>Department of Health (DOH) legislation this year is looking at an additional position in EIS to better support children who are D/HH/DB and statute revision for Newborn Hearing. Currently the DOH is reviewing the recommendation for another position in EIS to support children who are D/HH/DB and the decision won't be known until December if it makes it into the Department and then Governor's budget.</p> <p>DOH is also looking at legislation around Newborn Hearing statute revisions will make it mandatory for audiologist to send diagnostic information so children do not fall through the cracks. Most programs have been good about sharing information back to Newborn Hearing Screening but there has been some challenges with Tripler and individual small clinics.</p> | |
| <p>Parent Support</p> | <p>Po Kwan would like to support statewide parent leadership training to build capacity of parents. There is training available from the National Hands and Voices and Po Kwan will be calling a meeting to help plan for this training – need to decide on the purpose and outcome of the training. Need to have infrastructure supports for the families as well. Looking at this training in January. Parent Leadership training is designed to support parents as advocates for their children. Would like to see it built into parent-to-parent support for families. Po Kwan would like to see an infrastructure to support parents and families – possibly through stipends. Question as to the age range of the children who could become parent leaders. Need to also address qualifications and expectations – Po Kwan to convene work group to address these questions and more.</p> <p>Deaf Mentor Program will be piloted through the CSC. Ski-HI for Parent Advisor which is a confusing name. Currently Jennifer has been trained by SKI-HI as a Parent Advisor. Parent Advisor is a professional who works with parents.</p> | <p>Po Kwan to convene working group to look at Parent Leadership Training. Keiko to put on agenda for next meeting.</p> |

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| | <p>Discussion around supports for families and possible question about preschools for children who are D/HH/DB. Keiko asked Coleen if there is a listing of preschools that service children who are D/HH/DB. There may be a listing that Loretta put together but sometimes there are children who have cochlear implants who are then mainstreamed and we don't have a way of tracking them if they are not accessing special ed services. There may be children on 504 but that doesn't capture the 3-5 year olds. Dale clarified that families will have to go to wherever their home school is and each district has their own preschool program set up – some have more than one. Parents will have to start the process at their home school if they are three or older. Jennifer reminded that this is one of the concerns that was brought up in the report where there are not equal opportunities for deaf children depending on which island and community they live in. Early Head Start and Head Start are supposed to service at least 10% special needs population. Early Head Start provides services in home. Neither Head Start nor Early Head Start have specific deaf and hard of hearing professionals. Head Start may co-teach with special ed preschool classrooms. Children may have an IEP but their placement is in Head Start.</p> | |
| <p>Legislative Recommendations Talking Points</p> | <p>Draft Talking Points and Key Legislative Recommendations: Group reviewed draft document. Key areas of support needed for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Family Centered Resource 2. Qualified Staffing 3. Data Systems <p>Legislative Report: Draft elements of the report will be sent to the group for feedback and discussion at next meeting.</p> <p>Pediatrics Report on National EDHI: Screening by 1 month, Diagnostic Evaluation by 3 months, and enrolled in Early Intervention by 6 months. Maybe these are recommendations we want to move forward.</p> <p>Qualified Personnel/Assessment: DOE now has 2 people working on the</p> | <p>Need to include data points for DOE.</p> |

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| | <p>assessment team.</p> <p>Data: For data collection, we would want to have a guidance system that went from birth to DOE through graduation so that we can better track children. They may not necessarily have to be in SPED, but we just want to better support children who are D/HH/DB by at least knowing who and where they are.</p> <p>Assessment: Will need to get letter from Superintendent or her office to support use of the Assessment matrix that was developed by the group.</p> | |
| Announcements | <p>Webinar on language and brain development may be an opportunity to invite the larger community to engage with the Working Group. Will try to make it available by Skype or Zoom so neighbor island participants can attend.</p> <p>Upcoming training by Teresa Caraway from Hearing First. She will be presenting to EIS staff, DOE staff, and parents.</p> | <p>Oct. 11 from 3:00 – 4:00 will be a speaker on language and brain development.</p> <p>Work group will continue to discuss recommendations and next steps.</p> |
| Next Meeting | <p>Group would like to hold regular meeting dates, 2nd Thursdays of the month from 3:00 – 5:00. Angel is seeing if he can have his friend do a webinar on the importance of language on the developing brain.</p> <p>May try using zoom so neighbor island people can participate.</p> <p>Group may need to decide if they want to send a representative to Keiki Caucus for November meeting (date not confirmed, either the week of the 12th or 19th). May want to at least do a legislative briefing on the topic.</p> | <p>October 11 November 8</p> <p>Location should be at the Hawaii School for the Deaf and the Blind depending on availability.</p> |

Submitted by: Keiko Nitta