

**Office of Public Health (OPH) Quarterly Report to the DD Council**  
Bureau of Family Health (BFH)  
June 26, 2019

**Children's Special Health Services (CSHS)** works to ensure that children and youth who have special health care needs in Louisiana have access to health care services designed to minimize their disabilities and maximize their probabilities of enjoying independent and self-sufficient lives.

- CSHS continues direct service clinics for CYSHCNs in regions 2 and 4-9 to meet specialty care needs in provider shortage areas. CSHS clinics are staffed by part-time physician sub-specialist, a full-time nurse, and parent liaison. CSHS parent liaisons are the parent of a child/young adult with a special health care need and work in tandem with the clinic staff to assist parents with coordination of care and linkage to community services. In Regions 2, and 6-9, the care team also includes a social worker, in Region 2 a nutritionist is on staff that provides as needed services for patients in other regions.
- CSHS supports care coordination (CC) services in six academic clinics through partnerships with Children's Hospital New Orleans (CHNOLA), Daughters of Charity, NOELA Community Health Center, Lafayette -University Hospital and Clinics, and Tulane Lakeside Pediatrics. This project provides area families access to CC services and allows residents to gain personal experience with the medical home delivery model.
- The Bureau of Family Health (BFH) recently on boarded a new Developmental Screening Coordinator, Laura Thornton PhD. Laura brings new expertise in developmental psychology to the team. She will work with Early Childhood Systems (ECS) Strategy Manager to promote comprehensive developmental screening (DS) in pediatric primary care practices around the state, as well as in other settings that serve young children. Most recently, the ECS Strategy Manager provided trainings on the M-CHAT (an autism screener) to the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program at their Annual Education Event. Providers who serve the birth to five population can participate in free technical assistance for DS and CC. Details on this opportunity are located at <https://partnersforfamilyhealth.org/developmentalscreening>. Through a partnership with the Louisiana AAP Chapter, links to the DS materials are also available on LA AAP's ADHD Toolkit website! Toolkit use is free and can be accessed at <http://www.laaap.org/adhd-reg/>.
- The DS team was accepted to participate in an evaluation planning program sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) with the assistance of two Harvard MPH students. The team received the evaluation plan in the spring and have been working to refine the plan, in preparation for evaluation implementation this summer. Results of the evaluation will be used to strengthen and improve the DS TA package offered to primary care providers.
- Serving in the role as the *Learn the Signs. Act Early.* (LTSAE) Ambassador to Louisiana, the ECS Strategy Manager has integrated LTSAE materials into home visiting teams statewide after the MIECHV Annual Education Event in April. The materials have been integrated into the DS TA package administered to partnering primary care providers. To

learn more about the LTSAE program and materials, visit the website at <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html>

- CSHS is planning a Region 3 Resource Information Workshop (RIW) for September 2019, date and location details to come. The *Improving Early Identification and Access to Comprehensive Care for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs* (CYSHCN) workshop will include provider education topics on care coordination, youth health transition, developmental screening and community referrals for CYSHCN.

**CSHS Transportation Assistance Program** provides needed transportation assistance for families to attend medical appointments/procedures. Families must seek transportation assistance through their MCO before requesting assistance through CSHS.

<b>Transportation Assistance Program</b>	
March - May 2019	
49 families served	Stipend expenditures \$5852.89

**The Family Resource Center (FRC)** located on the campus of Children’s Hospital in New Orleans, connects Louisiana families with needed resources through outpatient clinics and the inpatient rehabilitation unit. The FRC also links families with their local Families Helping Families center for ongoing support.

Additional FRC activities:

- Supports Botox, Spasticity, Neuromuscular, Spina Bifida, Down Syndrome, Muscular Dystrophy, Cerebral Palsy and Neurology Transition clinics.
- Youth liaison visits families receiving inpatient rehab services and provides information about the resource center and community/state resources that they may request.
- Provides resource information to physicians and Children’s Hospital Staff and is supporting a campus initiative to embed some resource information into the EHR.
- FRC parent liaison, Thuy Nguyen, serves on the CHNOLA Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) providing the family perspective and resource information to inform the group’s work.
- FRC youth liaison, Steven Nguyen, participates in the Statewide Independent Living Council and serves in the role of vice chairman; sits on the Developmental Disabilities Council; and is a member of the Jefferson Parish Complete Streets Coalition.
- Steven Nguyen will attend the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disability conference in New Orleans July 10-11, 2019. At this conference, Steven will participate in a panel presentation discussing YHT.
- Steven Nguyen participated in the FHF of GNO Transition Mission event, for high school students with disabilities, in collaboration with Jefferson Parish school system.

<b>Family Resource Center</b>	
Resource Dissemination Activities March-May 2019	
Total Client Encounters	166
Identified Resource Needs	418
Resource Needs Met	427

**Louisiana Birth Defects Monitoring Network (LBDMN)** tracks the occurrence of over 70 structural, functional, and genetic birth defects in Louisiana residents. This work helps to identify environmental conditions, pharmaceutical side effects, or behavioral risk factors threatening Louisiana's newborns.

- LBDMN submitted our annual data report including the complete 2015 birth cohort along with a special data call for 2016 births cases of gastroschisis and omphalocele to the CDC May 30, 2019. The report will be published in the Congenital Malformation Surveillance: A report from the Nation Birth Defects Prevention Network in November 2019.
- LBDMN will close the 2016 birth cohort in the upcoming quarter. By case definition, we include children diagnosed prior to their third birth day. Therefore, birth cohorts are closed in three and a half year cycles.
- Julie Johnston, LBDMN program manager and Title V Family Representative, now serves on the Child Death Review Panel. As such for the first time, the Child Death Report will include a section of Considerations for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs. The section includes safety recommendations for prevention of accidental and violent death among CYSHCN from fire, water, motor vehicles, specialized equipment failure, suicide, and homicide (abuse/neglect).

**Genetic Diseases Program** operates a comprehensive statewide newborn heel stick screening program meeting national standards as well as ensuring access to genetic evaluation and counseling to residents of Louisiana. Currently the heel stick program screens for 28 genetic conditions. The Genetics Program also operates the Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) Program, which provides resources and information on how individuals diagnosed with sickle cell can receive assistance and care through the Sickle Cell Foundations and Clinics around the state.

- The Genetic Diseases Program Advisory Committee conducted an auxiliary meeting on June 7. The meeting provided input from leaders and advocates regarding the structure and operational procedures of the Advisory Committee.
- The Genetic Diseases Program is continuing an internal program evaluation to continue efforts to improve program operations. The Genetics Program is reviewing a detailed work plan and developing a timeline for the completion of the activities.
- The Louisiana Sickle Cell Commission Quarterly Meeting was June 11. June 19 was World Sickle Cell Awareness Day and campaigns to increase public knowledge occurred throughout the state. In honor of World Sickle Awareness Day, Governor John Bel Edwards approved to light the Governor's Mansion red.

**Louisiana Healthy Homes and Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (LHHCLPPP)** works toward the goal of eliminating childhood lead poisoning as a public health problem through initiatives to promote lead poisoning prevention and coordinate lead abatement projects for low-income families in high-risk areas of the state.

**Hearing Speech and Vision - Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program** is a national initiative that supports the early identification of infants who are deaf or hard of hearing (D/HH). The goals of the program are to complete screening before 1 month of age, complete audiologic evaluation before 3 months of age, and enrollment in early intervention before 6 months of age. The program works to ensure all children who are deaf or hard of hearing are identified early and supported effectively in order to have the opportunities to develop the language skills they need to learn, grow and thrive.

- The EHDI team presented at the MIECHV Annual Educational Meeting on April 10, 2019. Presentations took place in two afternoon sessions and focused on EHDI goals and program initiatives. Opportunities for collaboration through partnerships with the NFP and PAT's were showcased and collectively deliberated. Audience members were most receptive and engaged throughout the session, asking questions about ways to present information to families, timelines for follow up, etc. The EHDI team will begin doing data matches with MIECHV to identify babies who may be lost to follow up and utilize the connections with NFP/PAT to encourage these families to seek the follow up screening needed.
- Members of the EHDI Team presented at the EarlySteps Regional Interagency Coordinating Council, (RICC) meetings in Regions 1, 3 and 6. Information was shared with Family Service Coordinators about hearing screening, diagnosis and language development. The presentations highlighted the opportunities available between the two programs to offer coordinated support to families who have not followed through with their child's hearing screening or diagnostic testing. Information was also shared about the Hands and Voices/Guide By Your Side Program and the Parent Pupil Education Program, both of which offer support to families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Presentations will be held in remaining Regions in an effort to coordinate the service and supports of all programs for purpose of reducing the number of children who are lost to follow up in the EHDI system and ensuring that families are offered the maximum amount of support and services available to them.
- The LAEHDI program has also developed a toolkit and conversation guide for physicians to support physicians of young patients who have been diagnosed as deaf or hard of hearing. The toolkit is designed to support physicians in leading informed and positive discussions with families – focusing on the abilities of the child regardless of the diagnosis. It also guides physicians in ensuring that families receive the recommended intervention services and are active participants in their child's language and communication development.

**Louisiana Guide By Your Side (GBYS)** is the lead family based organization for the LA EHDI program. GBYS is a program from Hands and Voices (H&V) that provides support and unbiased information from trained Parent Guides to families of newly identified children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

- Parent Guides hosted a Spring Picnic in April and a Summer Fun event in June. These activities are hosted at no cost to the families and are an opportunity for families to network with other families who have children who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Satisfaction Surveys have been developed and are currently in use following events that are hosted by Parent Guides. In completing the surveys, families have the opportunity to express their satisfaction with the event they attended while also expressing the types of activities they would like to see held in the future. Information collected in these surveys will continue to be analyzed and used to guide future planning and events.

**BFH Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program** is a no-cost, voluntary program that supports the health and well-being of families with young children. MIECHV implements two evidence-based models, Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) and Parents as Teachers (PAT). MIECHV pairs families looking for additional support and mentoring with specially trained registered nurses or parent educators who partner with families and provide personal home visits.

NFP and PAT services:

- Health and developmental screenings for children, promoting early identification of developmental delays.
- Assistance with goal setting and life skills development.
- Parenting guidance on a variety of topics.
- Connections to available resources, including early intervention and early childhood special education services.
- Coordinated care and support once families are connected to needed services.

*Nurse Family Partnership (NFP):*

- Services and supports are provided to Medicaid-, WIC-, SNAP-, TANF-, and/or SSI-eligible first-time moms and families from pregnancy until the child’s second birthday.
- NFP serves moms living in all parishes except Caldwell, East Carroll, Madison, Tensas, Union, and West Carroll.

*Parents as Teachers (PAT):*

- Services and supports are provided to Medicaid-, WIC-, SNAP-, TANF-, and/or SSI-eligible expectant or parenting families from pregnancy until the child enters kindergarten.
- PAT serves families living in Northern Louisiana and the New Orleans area.

<b>Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program SFY 2018 Reach</b>		
Nurse Family Partnership	3,108 families served	31,530 home visits
Parents as Teachers	709 families served	7,487 home visits

For more information about Louisiana MIECHV’s NFP and PAT services, including how to get in touch with a home visitor near you, please call the Partners for Family Health toll free telephone line at 1.800.251.BABY or visit the Partners for Family Health website at <https://partnersforfamilyhealth.org>.

**The Statewide Young Child Wellness Collaborative (YCWC)** is a cross-agency advisory council, the purpose of which is to provide leadership and informed recommendations to drive shared priority setting and strategic planning across the continuum of supports and services within Louisiana's Early Childhood System. The YCWC serves as the State-Level Advisory Team for the MIECHV program, and formerly for the SAMHSA-funded Project LAUNCH grant. The YCWC includes representation from BFH, EarlySteps, the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH), Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE), Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS)

- Over the past year, the YCWC has been working together to map the system of supports and services for children birth to five in Louisiana, with the intention of identifying areas of strength and weakness to inform efforts toward improving the Early Childhood System. Maps will be made available for stakeholder feedback and use sometime in the fall.
- A new position was created and hired in Spring 2019 to provide leadership to the YCWC and manage policy and systems-level early childhood initiatives at BFH. The Early Childhood Systems Strategy Manager was formerly the DS Coordinator, and began her new role by surveying YCWC members on their experience with the group and what they'd like to work on moving forward. Results of the survey were shared with the group, and used to inform next steps, including the creation of workgroups that would meet between general YCWC meetings.
- Workgroups were established at the May meeting and include the following:
  - Family Engagement & Leadership
  - Early and Accurate Identification
  - Early Childhood Data System Integration

**Bureau of Family Health Adolescent School Health Program (ASHP)** manages 62 School-Based Health Centers around the state, which are health centers in public and charter schools that offer comprehensive, primary and preventive physical and mental health services for students onsite. ASHP establishes and monitors health centers' compliance with standards, policies, and guidelines for school health center operation, provides technical assistance and coordinates and encourages collaboration with other agencies and potential funding sources. School-Based Health Centers support academic achievement by working with students in a safe and confidential manner to address emotional and health barriers that hinder academic success.

In addition to providing direct services, the program empowers students to embrace healthy lifestyle changes through health education and prevention programs. Each health center is staffed by primary care and behavioral health providers, a data coordinator, a medical director and center director. Centers link students to a multidisciplinary care team and collaborate with students' Primary Care Providers (PP) to ensure students receive the best care possible.

School-Based Health Center services include:

- Preventive health screenings;
- Counseling;
- Referral Services;
- Immunization;

- Management of chronic diseases;
- STI/HIV screening;
- Sports physicals; Abstinence counseling;
- Risk assessments and;
- Community outreach

The Adolescent School Health Program delivered two presentations at the Louisiana School-Based Health Alliance's annual conference. One presentation, Building Strategies to Address Youth Suicide – Louisiana and the National Child Safety Learning Collaborative, informed participants of the steps being taken in Lafayette to examine methods to address youth suicide. The second presentation, Opening Doors Through Conversation: Motivational Interviewing Primer, shared techniques with providers on ways to enhance conversations with adolescents.

The University of Michigan accepted the Adolescent School Health Program poster presentation abstract for their 2019 Conference on adolescent health. The presentation, "Are Webinars an Effective Method of Delivering Continuing Education for Master's Level Behavioral Health Providers Working in School-Based Health Centers" shared the results of this ASHP project conducted from August 2017 to May 2018. The project results demonstrated that webinars are an effective method of delivering continuing education for Master's level behavioral health professionals working in school-based health centers. This poster presentation was also accepted by the National School-Based Health Alliance for their annual conference to be held in June 2019.