**Monday April 26th, 2021**

**Meeting minutes**

***Attended:*** Anne Thomas, Debbie Smith, Amy Tyler-Krings, and Jonathan Scherling

***Absent:*** Cindy Koch, Todd Luther.

***NDE/NCDHH TA***: Jessica Larrison, Sue C., Heather Pohl

***Interpreter:***  Sharon Sinkler

***Review of Committee Goals:***

1. Decide on terminology to use when discussing/assessing/reporting levels of language use—milestones or benchmarks
2. Define which parts of language to assess
3. Discuss milestone timeline and frequency of reporting
4. Develop a milestone tracking document
5. €Research assessments/protocol
6. Identify assessments for American Sign Language (ASL) and English
7. €Develop recommended assessment protocol
8. Added Goal: identify what Nebraska is already doing-what assessments are we using to assess children birth to 5, who is providing those assessments, and what is this data? (we want to avoid a duplication of efforts)

***Goals decided:***

1. The committee has decided to use the terminology “milestone” as this is often what parents hear and will understand the meaning of.
2. Defining which part of language to assess: the committee has decided to do the full continuum of language along with literacy, it was stated the newer assessment do include literacy in them. The Committee has decided they want to look at speech & language development for auditory-oral, language development for ASL users, listening skills including eyes (manual) and ears(auditory), social communication, gestural development, vocal development, and play development, phonily, syntax, semantic, pragmatics, depending on age they also want to investigate precursors to prelinguistic. This can also identify red flags and can lead to an earlier diagnosis.
3. Milestone timeline and frequency: this is dependent on the assessments as the committee has stated they don’t want to over assess as the service providers and parents along with the child might feel overwhelmed doing this.
4. Develop a milestone tracking document: this depends on the assessments that are chosen as a lot of assessments include milestone tracking sheet and you could use this or they can create an independent one that parents could look at to help guide them. This hasn’t been finalized.
5. Research assessments/protocol: working on this now
6. Identify assessments for ASL and English: currently working on
7. Develop recommended assessment protocol: Anne Thomas (Chair) and Jessica Larrison (NCDHH Rep) will work on creating the document and protocol so it is very clear and will submit to subcommittee approval before boards approval.

***Subcommittee Other Comments/discussions:***

* 1. The assessments be used across the state to create a standard.
  2. To assess all parts of language and make sure that they are covered will all of their recommended assessments.
  3. Try and algin the assessments with the GOLD assessments as these are required in the state of Nebraska.

***Subcommittee Homework:***

* 1. Anne Thomas will assign assessments for each member to look at and get a basic understanding of the main questions we want answered are what are the age range, time to implement, and is the a parent report or parent partnership, and any other details that seem important.

***Nebraska Requirements:***

1. GOLD standard: This is the assessment and document that will be used across the state per NDE, the checkpoints are in Fall (October) and Spring (May) and some programs that have a head start or Title 1 will have a winter check point in February.
2. All our assessments used will be interpreted and included in the GOLD standard assessment.