Sections of Newsletter

1. [**Announcements/Upcoming Meetings**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_O9rIY77VCw)

There was no Alliance meeting held in June while the Core Team worked to finalize Alliance membership and structure. Stay tuned for an announcement of our monthly Alliance meetings and we look forward to seeing you in July.

All Colorado EHDI Alliance and Task Force meetings will be announced here as will other Colorado EHDI system stakeholder meetings. If you would like your meetings included in our monthly newsletter, contact: info@coehdi.org.

1. [**From the EHDI Coordinator**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbIk1UHIZsc)

The refresh of our EHDI system is a multi-faceted affair. Our efforts, in two short months, have touched on newborn hearing screening and rescreening, data collection, audiology, and early intervention. Here is a brief account of what is happening.

* The efforts of our 59 birthing facilities to screen babies is accommodating to the impact of COVID-19. Our system is working to ensure all babies are screened and receive a rescreen. Thanks to Becky Awad at Children’s Hospital and Stacy Claypool at University of Colorado Health, we have up-to-date information from a survey that was distributed to all birthing facilities.
* The registry of audiologists who can identify hearing loss, EHDI-PALS, is being updated. I am working with staff at NCHAM to assure all audiologists who can conduct diagnostic assessments on children under the age of 36 months are on the list. Educational audiologists, who may provide screening and rescreenings, may also be added to the list in the future.
* Heather Abraham and I have attended meetings of the Colorado Hearing (CO-Hear) Resource Coordinators.

We will soon be convening two task forces. One is targeting the wonderful parent support opportunities we have in our state. Look for an announcement for the opportunity to participate.

The second task force welcomes the input of deaf and hard of hearing adults as stakeholders in the EHDI system. Work is being done to define a program that will offer parents support from deaf and hard of hearing adults. Several members of the grant’s core team are in the process of acquiring information about programs currently operating throughout the U.S. and the curriculums that support these programs. One of the first topics to be discussed by this task force’s members is to review the information that is collected. Please consider joining this task force.

What an extraordinary time we are in. I hope you are all enjoying summer activities. And, I hope you find a little time to join us in our initiatives.

1. [**SPOTLIGHT ON CHRISTY SCOTT**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MVLhH8F5xxA)

This month’s spotlight highlights Christy Scott, one of the Directors of the Colorado EHDI Alliance. Christy is the Director of the Early Intervention (EI) Program (Part C) within the Office of Early Childhood.

She has been working in EI for 28 years in many capacities prior to being Director including:

* parent with a child who received EI services
* service coordinator
* local program director
* EI State General Supervision and Data Manager

Over the years Christy has had the opportunity to participate in and lead initiatives that have resulted in improved experiences for children, families, and providers involved in EI.

She has a passion for systems work and is honored and excited to be involved in this novel and exciting refresh of the EHDI system in Colorado.

In her free time, Christy enjoys spending time with her two young granddaughters, taking yoga classes, enjoying time in the Colorado sunshine from her deck, and she is also an avid bowler.

1. [**COVID-19 Task Force Update**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PaBM3N09IaQ)

Our COVID-19 Task Force has met three times. The results of a survey sent to birthing facilities has identified challenges secondary to the impact of COVID-19 on newborn hearing screening and rescreening. Fortunately, hospital clinics are starting to re-open. In the next few weeks, we will submit an application to HRSA, a grant that is offered to all state grantees, to secure supplemental funds. These funds will be used to assure our EHDI system screens *all* babies during the COVID pandemic and that babies who refer on a hearing screen have access to a rescreen and, as needed, an audiologist for further diagnostic testing. During the COVID Task Force meeting on June 23rd, Task Force members identified priorities for this supplemental grant application including some consideration for the use of tele-audiology. We are proud to be “thinking outside the box” in response to the challenges presented by COVID-19.

1. [**Frequently Asked Questions**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LnKNqOzWnjA)

This month’s newsletter will feature FAQs from our Kickoff Webinar. See below for answers and as always, send any questions to Alliance staff, [info@coehdi.org](mailto:info@coehdi.org), our Facebook page, and/or task force members!

*What is the Colorado EHDI Alliance?*

The Colorado EHDI Alliance is being established as a joint committee that will provide support to all EHDI stakeholders statewide. The Colorado EHDI Alliance will jointly advise and provide system recommendations.

Once established, the Colorado EHDI Alliance will meet monthly for the first two years of the current HRSA-funded grant in order to develop a robust system of guidelines and procedures that adhere to the 2019 Joint Committee on Infant Hearing (JCIH) position statement. The guidelines and procedures will specifically address needs regarding:

1. Screening and rescreening
2. Transition to identification
3. Identification
4. Transition to early intervention
5. Early intervention

The role of the Alliance is to:

1. Make system recommendations based on input from task forces
2. Coordinate with agencies to implement recommendations
3. Coordinate with agencies to monitor sustainability of initiatives
4. Promote collaboration and partnerships for the purpose of achieving goals and objectives
5. Monitor fulfillment of work plan objectives and modify activities and timelines as recommended
6. Develop subgrant applications and make recommendations for the distribution of funds

*How will members of the CO EHDI Alliance be selected?*

Members will be selected based on the following criteria: At least 25% of Alliance membership will be composed of Deaf and Hard of Hearing adults and parents of children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Organizational stakeholders, representing the five components of the EHDI system (screening, transition to identification, identification, transition to early intervention, and early intervention), will be invited to be members and/or send representatives to serve on the Alliance. Some of these organizations include: Colorado Department of Health and Environment, Colorado Academy of Audiology, Early Intervention Colorado, and the Colorado Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

*Will members serve the entire length of the grant or be refreshed annually?*

Membership will be refreshed annually.

*Do you have a timeline for establishing the Alliance?*

The goal is to have the Alliance established by June 30, 2020. We will announce the new Alliance members in our next newsletter.

*How would you like people to share if they are interested in being considered for the Alliance?*

There are two ways that people can be involved in working with the EHDI system - as a member of The Alliance and/or as a member of established task forces. Alliance membership will be determined by the Core Team by selecting representatives outlined in the grant application. Task forces are open to all interested stakeholders. If interested in joining - contact info@coehdi.org

*What is the Role of the Task Forces?*

Task forces will be created to address topical issues related to the EHDI system. Task force membership is open to all interested stakeholders throughout the state. Task forces will address different components of the EHDI system (screening, transition to identification, identification, transition to early intervention, and early intervention) and make recommendations to the Alliance.

Each task force has the following roles and responsibilities:

1. Address system issues (as identified by Core Team, Alliance, and stakeholders)
2. Participate in facilitated meetings (number of meetings determined based on the topic)
3. Report to the Alliance with findings and/or recommendations
4. Consult with members of the Alliance for direction/scope of work

*Will minutes/summary of discussion from the Alliance meetings be shared on the website for those interested in the progress on tasks to review?*

Minutes will be made available on the Colorado EHDI website.

*Are there specific topics you are planning for the Task Forces to focus on first?*

Priority issues for Task Forces include:

* COVID-19
* Deaf/Hard of Hearing adult involvement program
* Family-to-Family Support
* Professional Development

**6.** [**Gratitude/Acknowledgements**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMlyLxa2xas)

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