
EHDITION COLORADO

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From the EHDI Coordinator



It is hard to believe that I have been working with our EHDI system for four months; what a whirlwind of activity it has been since April 1st! The time has passed quickly. Spring is behind us; and we are in full swing with the summer heat. We have accomplished a lot in four months. I have enjoyed and appreciated the input from many colleagues - old and new - who have reached out to me with concerns and ideas for our EHDI system. It is inspirational to be working with so many of you as we refresh our EHDI system together.

We have launched three task forces to date: (1) COVID-19; (2) adults who are deaf or hard of hearing; and (3) parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. At this point in time we have identified 11 potential task forces to address priorities within our EHDI system. They will roll out gradually during the next eight months as we complete this first year of our grant. You can find announcements about task forces, as they are created, on our website (www.coehdi.org) and on our Facebook page. Look for our next task force to be announced by early August.

Spotlight on Arlene Stredler Brown

This month's spotlight highlights Dr. Arlene Stredler Brown, the EHDI Coordinator.

I have been working in Colorado for many years. How lucky I am to be here! While I have held many professional positions throughout the years, I have never strayed from my passion to help infants and toddlers who are deaf or hard of hearing and their family members. As the EHDI Coordinator (again!), I am as excited about my work as I was in the early 70s when I relocated to Denver from Philadelphia. I can honestly say that I am as inspired now as I was then. I feel rejuvenated by the tasks at hand.

I work a lot. But, I also have a lot of fun. Boulder stole my heart from the day I arrived. It felt like home at first sight. I spend a lot of time hiking. Just this week, I drove one hour and was hiking above timberline in national forest. In the past four months, I have had the pleasure of enhancing my creativity in the kitchen. I love to cook and, with restaurants barely open these days, I have more opportunities than ever before to create. While Zoom comes naturally to me, I do miss traveling. Along with the rest of you, I cancelled wonderful trips; my husband and I had plans in place to visit Japan, Sardinia, Corsica, Baltimore, New York, and Philadelphia. Instead, I've practiced my hand at gardening. I like that too.

Announcements

/Upcoming Meetings

The next meeting of the Colorado Infant Hearing Advisory Committee (CIHAC), scheduled for August 7, was cancelled. The CIHAC is making plans to hold the next meeting, on October 9th, remotely.

The first meeting of the Colorado EHDI Alliance will be Friday August 14th from 12:30 – 2:00PM. Future task force meeting dates and times are pending. We appreciate your patience as we slowly but surely set up all the relevant task forces and Alliance meetings. We aim to “do it right” rather than do it quickly!

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.

Task Force Updates

COVID-19

We have made strides in addressing the impact of COVID-19, and you can expect to hear from a newly-hired audiologist who will contact you about ways in which we will identify and remediate gaps that have occurred because of the impact of COVID on our EHDI system. The biggest issues are in the areas of screening, rescreening, and audiologic evaluations. We will work tirelessly to identify, contact, and assure all children receive these tests as indicated. Because Early Intervention Colorado (Part C) has been endorsing telehealth for about four years, the transition to all remote intervention service delivery has been easier for us in Colorado than in many states. How visionary of Part C.

DHH Adults

The first task force meeting for Deaf and Hard of Hearing adults took place on July 16, 2020. A robust group of adults with a variety of experiences participated and brought great energy to our work. Some EHDI team members reviewed the grant, explained the role of the Alliance, and the task forces that are being created, to support the work of this grant. The team will meet monthly going forward. One of the first activities the task force will engage with is to assist with the creation of a program to increase DHH adult involvement with families of children, birth to three years of age.

Families of DHH Children

The first task force meeting for families took place on July 15, 2020. This highly-motivated team was oriented to the goals of the EHDI grant, the structure of the Alliance, and the roles and responsibilities of task forces. Some activities for this task force include: a needs assessment about statewide family-to-family supports; a review of current resources distributed to families; and opportunities to provide input into the DHH adult involvement program that is being developed.

Screening Task Force

The next, our 4th, task force to be established is the Screening Task Force. There are a few reasons this topic has earned priority. In the past four months, the majority of questions about our EHDI system are related to screening and rescreening. And, many of these queries are irrespective of the impact of COVID. In addition, reports from our colleagues at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment suggest that our new Health Information Data System (HIDS) will be launched in August. I am, along with so many of you, really looking forward to this. Please check

our website (www.coehdi.org) for an announcement about the forming of this task force. Consider participating. Current topics include (but are not limited to): home births, out-of-state births, challenges in different geographic locations, audiology support to birthing facilities, cCMV, loss to follow-up (LTF and LTD), health equity, trauma informed care, and more. Please contact Arlene Stredler Brown at: astredlerbrown@coehdi.org to share your interest in participating on this task force.

Subgrant Application Information

A notable component of our HRSA grant application is providing subgrants to community groups and organizations in the Colorado EHDI system. To our knowledge, this is a novel model. In developing subgrants, our grant writing team recognized three priority areas; professional development, resources for Spanish-speaking families, and family-to-family support. Our Core Team has been hard at work developing a subgrant application and application guide (both available on our website - see below for the link) for immediate dissemination. In launching this endeavor, we are excited to make an integral portion of our HRSA grant application a reality.

Community groups and organizations are welcome to apply for funding in one or more of the three content areas mentioned above. Each content area requires a separate application and there are funding limits for each application. The Professional Development and Family-Based Organization subgrants have a limit of \$3500 per application. The Resources for Spanish-Speaking Families have a limit of \$2000 per application.

Grant applications will be available beginning TODAY (August 1, 2020) and the submission window will close August 31, 2020 at 4:00PM MDT. Our newly- formed Colorado EHDI Alliance will establish a committee to review all grants. Award announcements will go out on September 21, 2020 and the award's funding period will begin October 1, 2020 and continue to March 31, 2021.

We have made our subgrant application as simple as possible and we have written an accompanying application guide with tips to assist you throughout the process. In addition, applicants are welcome to contact the Principal Investigator, Cliff Moers (cliff.moers@state.co.us) with any questions.

Alliance Membership Introduction

The purpose, roles and responsibilities of The Colorado EHDI Alliance were described in the July issue of *EHDITION COLORADO*. The main purpose of The Colorado EHDI Alliance is to advise EHDI staff, task forces, and stakeholders, as well as provide EHDI system recommendations. The following members, representing diverse components of the EHDI system, have agreed to serve on the Alliance

Name	Role	Organization
1. Cliff Moers	Director and Co-Principal Investigator	Colorado Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind (CCDHHDB) and EHDI Grant Program
2. Christy Scott	Director and Co-Principal Investigator	Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) Office of Early Childhood (OEC) Early Intervention (EI) Colorado and EHDI Grant Program
3. Ashley Renslow	Early Education Consultant	Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB) Outreach Services (includes oversight of regional CO-Hear Coordinators)
4. Amy Novotny	Director	Rocky Mountain Deaf School (RMDS)
5. Cory Portnuff	Past President	Colorado Academy of Audiology
6. Maureen Cunningham	Chapter Champion	Colorado Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
7. Jack Damico	Professor; Department Chair	Department of Speech, Language, & Hearing Sciences; University of Colorado - Boulder
8. Margaret Ruttenber	Director	Colorado Responds to Children with Special Needs Program (including oversight of the Colorado Newborn Hearing Screening Program)
9. Sara Kennedy	Director	Colorado Hands & Voices
10. Marti Bleidti	President	Colorado Chapter of the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
11. Pat Greenway	CEO	The Listen Foundation
12. Allison Cunningham	Associate Clinical Manager	Children's Hospital of Colorado
13. TBA	DHH Adult	

14. TBA	DHH Adult	
15. Geoff Goodside	Parent of DHH Child	
16. Emily Ausburger	Parent of DHH Child	

A total of 16 representatives will serve on the Alliance. Twelve representatives are organizational stakeholders, representing the five components of the EHDI system (screening, transition to identification, identification, transition to early intervention, and early intervention), Four representatives are DHH adults (2) and parents of children who are DHH (2).

Arlene Stredler Brown, EHDI Coordinator; Heather Abraham, Family Support and Engagement Coordinator; and Katie Cue, Communications Consultant and Webmaster, will attend The Alliance meetings, and support The Alliance by providing these resources: meeting agenda, meeting minutes, virtual communication logistics, EHDI system issues).

Frequently Asked Questions

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

What materials are required for a subgrant application?

Subgrant application, budget worksheet, and budget narrative.

How are subgrant applications evaluated?

Each section has an assigned point value. The Colorado EHDI Alliance grant review committee will evaluate each application and assign a score ranging from 0-100 to help guide its decision-making process. The goal is to be as objective as possible.

What if my subgrant proposal and/or application fits more than one content area?

You are welcome to submit multiple applications to meet the overlapping areas of your proposal. Just be mindful of the funding limits for each area. We encourage applicants to be creative!

What if I have questions or need help while filling out my application?

Cliff Moers, our Principal Investigator, has been assigned to answer all questions and to provide any assistance needed. He can be reached at cliff.moers@state.co.us

What if I am an Alliance member, can I still apply for a subgrant?

Yes. You will just need to recuse yourself from serving on the subgrant evaluation committee.

I don't have a non-profit organization, can I still apply?

Yes! We are providing flexibility for community groups to apply as we recognize that not all community groups have a non-profit status.

What if I want to collaborate with another organization/group to apply?

We encourage collaboration whenever possible!

I am a small organization/group - do I have a chance?

Our application process has been set up to provide ALL organizations/groups an equal opportunity in applying for funding. Small organizations/groups have to get their start somewhere!

Gratitude/Acknowledgements

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