

Colorado EHDI Alliance Meeting

Date: October 16,
2020

Meeting Called By: Colorado EHDI
Type of Meeting: Colorado EHDI Alliance
Facilitator: Heather Abraham
Note Taker: Arlene Stredler Brown

Alliance & Core Team Members: Heather Abraham, Emily Ausburger, Marti Bleidt, Arlene Stredler Brown, Katie Cue, Pat Greenway, Sarah Honigfeld, Sara Kennedy, Cliff Moers, Ashley Renslow, Sara Robinson, Christy Scott

Absent Members: Allison Cunningham, Maureen Cunningham, Jack Damico, Amy Novotny, Cory Portnuff, Margaret Rutenber

Accommodations: Glosanda Lawyer (Trilingual ASL/English/Spanish interpreter), Richard Blankis (ASL/English interpreter), Natalie Nissling (ASL/English interpreter), Claudette Mondragon (CART), Carrie Apple (CLT), and Kellie Schier (CLT)

Agenda Item 1:

Adoption of
Meeting Minutes

Summary of Discussion: Adoption of meeting minutes – August 2020 & September 2020

Conclusions: Both sets of minutes were approved

Action Items: n/a

Person Responsible: n/a

Deadline: n/a

Agenda Item 2:

Alliance Subgrant
Subcommittee

Presenter: Arlene Stredler Brown

Summary of Discussion: Recommendation to reconcile a \$1500 discrepancy for a subgrant application submitted by CO Hands & Voices

Conclusions: Decision to fund the Hands & Voices Guide by Your Side Subgrant Application at \$3500.

Action Items: Notice of grant award will be amended.

Person Responsible: Katie
Cue

Deadline: ASAP

Agenda Item 3:

COVID Task Force Report

Presenter: Hannah Glick

Summary of Discussion: This task force is acting on three goals with these activities:

Goal 1 – Support to newborn hearing screeners: Earlier in October, COEHDI distributed a survey to newborn hearing screening facilities in order to identify the needs of screeners. Midwives were included in the distribution list. (Another survey is being developed by Lisa Cannon and Arlene Stredler Brown that will be tailored to the needs of educational audiologists who are conducting hearing screenings.) One outcome of the survey will be the development of materials that address safety precautions related to COVID that can be accessed, on the COEHDI website, by screening and rescreening personnel.

Goal 2 – Tracking Screening and Rescreening: The HIDS database was launched by CDPHE on October 6, 2020. The COVID Task Force is collaborating with CDPHE to collect information that can be used to track COVID-related gaps.

Goal 3 – Work with PCPs: Maureen Cunningham, Hannah Glick, and Arlene Stredler Brown are collaborating to define activities to support this work.

Conclusions: At this time, PCPs need to apply to CDPHE to gain access to HIDS. Their participation in this thought to be unlikely.

As reported in the October 2020 CIHAC meeting, CDPHE will send a letter to parents when a child did not complete a newborn hearing screening and/or rescreening. There are no plans for CDPHE to pursue or monitor children beyond this activity. This raises the concerns that there will be more late-identified children.

As we plan to increase PCP participation in screening, rescreening, and LTF, we are reminded that there are obstacles that we need to address. For instance, PCPs may not be inclined to register with the HIDS database. A potential work around is to work with birthing centers who could send both parents and PCPs notification about a missed screen and/or rescreen. Merely notifying a mom may not be effective.

There may be an opportunity to enter NBHS data into the Patient Care 360 (or similar) database.

We anticipate issues tracking children born out of state as they are not assuredly entered into the HIDS database.

Action Items: Continue work by Screening Task Force that will make recommendations to the CO EHDl Alliance

Person Responsible:
Arlene Stredler Brown,
Facilitator

Deadline: ongoing

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Agenda Item 4:

Screening Task

Force Report

Presenter: Kristin Sommerfeldt

Summary of Discussion: The Screening Task Force has not met since the last Alliance meeting, The next task force meeting is scheduled for October 29th. The task force is in the process of identifying its priority areas. These 3 topics continue to be discussed:

- Role of PCPs with screening, rescreening, LTF
- Role of educational audiologists in screening, rescreening, LTF
- Professional Development needs of screeners: They need to learn HIDS; this training is being organized by CDPHE.

Conclusions: n/a

Action Items: Identify priority areas at next Screening Task Force meeting

Person Responsible:
Arlene Stredler Brown,
Facilitator

Deadline: October 29,
2020

Agenda Item 5:

DHH

Adult-to-Family

Support Program

Development

Presenters: Geoff Goodside, Emily Augsberger,
Sara Robinson, Sarah Honigfeld, Heather Abraham

Summary of Discussion: Two task forces (Parent TF and DHH Adult TF) are creating the documents identifying the principles, mission, vision, & core values of the DHH Adult-to-Family Support Program. This information was shared with Alliance members. Key points during today's discussion include:

- EHDI focuses on the birth – 3 population even though parents would like access to DHH adults as their children get older.
- There are currently 6 values: access, community, empowerment, inclusivity & diversity, informed decision making, and relationships.
 - From the perspective of one Alliance member, it is important to represent diversity of hearing status, communication approach, & culture so families can relate to the adults they meet.
 - Access was also emphasized to include access to information, language(s), communication, and decision-making processes.

Conclusions: The Family Task Force is taking the lead in the development of the DHH adult program and the work of this task force is much appreciated as it is guiding our efforts to create a program.

The intent of the program is to offer parents access to DHH adults until a child's 3rd birthday.

As we create our program, we are learning from programs in other states. We will borrow and adapt materials that represent our values & philosophy.

Action Items: Two task forces continue their work.	Person Responsible: Heather Abraham, Facilitator	Deadline: ongoing
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Agenda Item 6:

New Dx/ID Task Force

Presenter: Arlene Stredler Brown

Summary of Discussion: We have several topics that will be addressed, and prioritized, by this new task force. They include:

- topics related to audiologic diagnostics:
 - Utilization of EHDI PALS
 - Tele-audiology
 - Resources distributed by audiologists to families
 - Family-to-family and DHH adult-to-family supports during the diagnostic/identification process
 - Unique needs of families living in rural areas
- topics related to the *transition* from diagnostics/identification to early intervention:
 - Review the current interim role being fulfilled by Regional CO-Hear Coordinators
 - Review, and update as needed, written resources shared with families
 - Access to family-to-family and DHH adult-to-family supports during this transition
 - Unique needs of culturally- and linguistically-diverse families

To date, we have 15 members listed for this task force. The first meeting will be in early November.

Conclusions: Our task forces represent the 1-3-6 EHDI guidelines. Included in the Screening, Diagnostic/Identification, and Early Intervention Task Forces are the transition points associated with each stage (e.g., screening to diagnostics/intervention, diagnostics/intervention to early intervention, early intervention to Part B services).

Action Items: Stakeholders are encouraged to sign up for the newest task force	Person Responsible: Arlene Stredler Brown & Heather Abraham, Facilitators	Deadline: Ongoing
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Agenda Item 7

Tele-audiology: **Presenter:** Christy Scott & Arlene Stredler Brown

Summary of Discussion: A grant is being submitted today to the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP). This funding opportunity is part of the CARES Act and targets development and enhancement of telehealth initiatives. Early Intervention Colorado (Part C) has been supporting telehealth since 2016 for all direct EI services. With the onset of COVID restrictions, all EI services migrated to telehealth with very limited in-person services. Parent and provider survey data indicate telehealth is successful. In the AMCHP grant application, we propose to develop and expand tele-audiology to include both counseling/troubleshooting services and diagnostic/identification services. The western slope has discussed their needs for local diagnostic services for several years; telehealth could address this need. This grant, if funded, will purchase equipment so that diagnostic testing can be piloted in some areas on the W. Slope.

CDE supports the grant application. This is fortunate as we will be approaching educational audiologists, in their respective administrative units, about their interest in participating in grant-funded tele-audiology services. We have received valuable input about the challenges and successes setting up tele-audiology services from our neighbors in Nebraska.

Conclusions: n/a

Action Items: Await grant award

Person Responsible: n/a

Deadline: October 30, 2020

Agenda Item 8

CO EHDI Website: **Presenter:** Katie Cue

Summary of Discussion: We currently have an interim CO EHDI website. We will obtain input from stakeholders (parents and professionals) as we expand it. Our COEHDI website is intended to be a central repository of information for families and professionals.

The website will be accessible in ASL and Spanish.

Conclusions: If you have input about the website development contact: kcue@coehdi.org

In previous meetings with Margaret Ruttenber, CDPHE indicates that they support the development of our COEHDI website.

A good template is available from NCHAM for states' website development: www.infanthearing.org/webguide

Action Items: in process

Person Responsible: Katie Cue

Deadline: ongoing

Our CO EHDl Alliance meetings are held on the 3rd Friday of each month.

Next meeting: November 20, 2020 @ 10:00 – 11:30