**Colorado EHDI Alliance**

**Newborn Hearing Screening and Rescreening in the time of COVID-19**

May 8, 2020 – 11:00-12:00

**Agenda**

**Facilitator & Colorado EHDI Alliance Principal Investigator**: Cliff Moers

**EHDI Program Coordinator**: Arlene Stredler Brown

**Notetaker**: Heather Abraham

**Attendees**: Cliff Moers, Arlene Stredler Brown, Heather Abraham, Ashley Renslow, Christy Scott, Alyson Ward, Sara Kennedy, Becky Awad, Margaret Ruttenber, Stacy Claycomb, Katie, Cue, Lisa Cannon, Cory Portnuff, Linda Herzberger Kimball, Maureen Cunningham

**Report from Alyson Ward**: How is NCHAM addressing COVID-19?

* NCHAM activities:
  + Posting a variety of resources on their website: www.infanthearing.org
  + Providing support for state EHDI Coordinators to meet weekly (“EHDI Chats”)
  + Meeting regularly to collect information from the field; then NCHAM works to focus on those needs
  + Meeting bi-weekly with federal partners
  + Collaborating with other newborn screening programs to see how they are reacting
  + Creating discussion guides with protocols for screening - now and post-COVID fall out
  + Creating webinars for Better Hearing and Speech Month
  + AMCHP was just awarded grants related to COVID so we will have more information coming from them in the upcoming months
* Screening and re-screening:
  + 60% of hospitals implement a two-stage screening process (at the hospital; rescreen two weeks later after discharge). There are some issues now because people aren’t comfortable coming back to the hospital for rescreens. NCHAM has released guidance for pediatricians and related service providers regarding this issue.
  + Landscape is changing constantly - rescreening is identified as a priority
  + Some clinics are starting to open
  + Initiatives to set up a second-tier process wherein pediatricians and midwives perform the second screening
* National reports:
  + Midwives: indicating they have more requests for home births; it will take about eight months to see how this plays out
  + Maine: recommending verbal and visual supports regardless of screening and identification during this time
  + Tele-intervention: increased significantly
  + Tele-audiology: One state is conducting tele-audiology; it still requires that someone is physically with the family

**Report from Margaret Ruttenber – CDPHE:**

* New database: Work has come to a halt due to COVID. Planned start up in August or September 2020. Leanne Glenn is making training videos for the database. Becky Awad & Ashley Renslow have provided feedback on the database
* CDPHE screening and rescreening data: This data was organized to compare January-April in 2019 and 2020. It doesn’t appear that people have stopped screening based on electronic birth certificate data. Births are down a bit. CDPHE will continue to monitor the data month to month. The information comes directly from the electronic birth certificate. The “empty” field indicates that no one filled out the fields on the form. The data refers to the two screenings that happened in the hospital. This chart is just related to COVID. Margaret indicated that data regarding percentage of children screened prior to discharge has been provided to the CIHAC.
* CDPHE has received reports that hospitals have refused to let people come back for rescreening. CDPHE does not have authority over hospitals. It’s mandatory to do a hearing screen, however, CDPHE doesn’t have authority to intervene if it’s not happening.
* Letters will be mailed out May 11 and 12 to notify families if their children missed the newborn hearing screen during the months of March & April.
* Rescreening: Maureen Cunningham brought up that rescreening presents the biggest issue at this time. A lot of responsibility will fall on PCPs to do the follow up rescreening. Her experience is that babies whose parents pass the COVID screen are getting a hearing screening. Becky indicated that children of moms who are COVID positive or PUI are not being screened.

**Next Steps:**

* Please submit any questions you have to Arlene prior to the next meeting. These topics will be included in the agenda. Based on today’s meeting, these agenda items have been identified:
  + Outpatient re-screening processes
  + Resources to distribute to birthing facilities (consider materials produced and disseminated by NCHAM)
  + Updates from CDPHE
* Expect to receive a Doodle poll from Arlene to arrange our next meeting in approximately two weeks.
* Margaret Ruttenber is the contact for PCPs who are taking on more responsibility for rescreening. Margaret’s contact information is:
  + (w) 303.692.2636
  + [margaret.ruttenber@state.co.us](mailto:margaret.ruttenber@state.co.us)
* Arlene will forward an e-mail from NCHAM with materials about rescreening. The subject line reads, “Meeting EHDI 1-3-6 Goals During COVID-19”. In it are three attachments for our consideration:
  + draft template of EHDI letter to colleagues
  + follow-up handout – generic
  + follow-up handout – state specific
* Arlene will forward an e-mail from NCHAM about “Webinar Opportunities in May”. The webinars and discussions are being held from May 12 – May 28. You also received a flyer, produced by NCHAM and describing these same webinar opportunities, in my e-mail with these meeting minutes.