

# Colorado EHDI Alliance Meeting

Date: January 15, 2021

**Meeting Called By:** Colorado EHDI  
**Type of Meeting:** Colorado EHDI Alliance  
**Facilitator:** Heather Abraham  
**Notetaker:** Arlene Stredler Brown  
**Zoom Facilitator:** Katie Cue

**Alliance & Core Team Members:** Marin Adkisson, Emily Augsburgre, Marti Bleidt, Allison Cunningham, Maureen Cunningham, Jack Damico, Geoff Goodside, Pat Greenway, Sarah Honigfeld, Sara Kennedy, Cliff Moers, Amy Novotny, Ashley Renslow, Sara Robinson, and Christy Scott

**Absent Members:** Margaret Ruttenber

**Core Team Participants:** Heather Abraham, Arlene Stredler Brown, and Katie Cue

**Task Force Representatives:** Kristin Sommerfeldt

**Accommodations:** Gloslanda Lawyer and William Mendez-Gallardo (Trilingual ASL/English/Spanish Interpreters), Richard and Leslie Blankis (ASL/ English Interpreters), and Kellier Schier and Carrie Apple (Cued Language Transliterators)

<b>Agenda Item 1:</b> Adoption of Meeting Minutes		<b>Presenter:</b> N/A
<b>Summary of Discussion:</b> Adoption of meeting minutes for December 2020		
<b>Conclusion:</b> Minutes were unanimously adopted.		
<b>Action Items:</b> N/A	<b>Persons Responsible:</b> N/A	<b>Deadline:</b> N/A

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<b>Agenda Item 2: Announcements</b>		<b>Presenter: N/A</b>	
<p><b>Summary of Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The National EHDI Conference is the first week of March. Early bird registration ends on February 12th.</li> <li>▪ Ashley Renslow announced a workshop for professionals and families to be held on February 20<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-2:30PM. The presenter is Jodee Crace. Gallaudet is sponsoring this workshop on early communication in the home. Contact Ashley Renslow (<a href="mailto:aresnslow@csdb.org">aresnslow@csdb.org</a>) or Jennifer McClellan (<a href="mailto:jmclellan@csdb.org">jmclellan@csdb.org</a>) if you are interested.</li> <li>▪ Sara Honigfeld announced the National American Sign Language and English Bilingual Consortium for Early Childhood Education Summit XII. It will be held virtually on April 8-10, 2021. The call for papers can be accessed here: <a href="https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd2XdS6I3zLgCsEXKCr56nOm4MLX9MEzRPDE-60o26NUL1zHA/viewform">https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd2XdS6I3zLgCsEXKCr56nOm4MLX9MEzRPDE-60o26NUL1zHA/viewform</a></li> <li>▪ The COEHDI Intervention Task Force is forming. The meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of the month at 2:00 – 3:00PM. The first meeting will be February 16<sup>th</sup>. To date, more than 20 stakeholders have signed up to participate in this task force.</li> </ul>			
<b>Conclusions:</b> N/A			
<b>Action Items:</b> N/A		<b>Persons Responsible:</b> N/A	
		<b>Deadline:</b> N/A	

<b>Agenda Item 3: HIDS Database</b>		<b>Presenter: Arlene Stredler Brown (for Margaret Rутtenber)</b>	
<p><b>Summary of Discussion:</b></p> <p>Margaret supplied the number of HIDS users. As of January 11, 2021, there are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 42 screeners and NBHS Coordinators</li> <li>▪ 8 midwives</li> <li>▪ 33 audiologists (29 clinical audiologists; 4 educational audiologists)</li> <li>▪ 12 early intervention personnel</li> </ul> <p>This is a total of 95 HIDS users. COEHDI will continue to report these numbers monthly.</p>			

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The CDPHE and COEHDI are working together to support the collection and reporting of 2019 data. At this time, the responsibility for updating 2019 data in HIDS rests with personnel in each facility and may include screeners, screening coordinators, audiologists and/or technicians. Inputting 2019 data is a time-consuming task. The goal is to obtain accurate data, while acknowledging that we may not have complete data for 2019. Hannah Glick is regularly in touch with screeners and screening coordinators. She has had at least a dozen questions about inputting data, including current and 2019 data, into HIDS. Hannah forwards these questions to Leanne Glenn at CDPHE.

**Conclusions:** Collecting 2019 data is a way to obtain baserate data on Colorado’s success reaching 1-3-6 goals. We intend to share this data with CDC.

<p><b>Action Items:</b> COEHDI will continue to support this initiative in our monthly newsletter. Hannah Glick is writing a Newborn Hearing Screening Monthly that will be distributed to screeners, screening coordinators, and audiologists.</p>	<p><b>Persons Responsible:</b> Arlene Stredler Brown and Hannah Glick</p>	<p><b>Deadline:</b> Ongoing</p>
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<p><b>Agenda Item 4:</b> Screening Task Force Report</p>	<p><b>Presenter:</b> Kristin Sommerfeldt &amp; Lisa Cannon</p>
<p><b>Summary of Discussion:</b>          The report started with a discussion about the initiative to include educational audiologists in our screening/rescreening and LTF efforts. Lisa Cannon joined the meeting. She is the Coordinator for Educational Audiology services at the Colorado Dept. of Education. Lisa reported that this activity is within the scope of practice for educational audiologists in that: (a) educational audiologists participate in Child Find; (b) they are a resource for community members; (c) they are familiar, through their training, with the EHDI system; (d) many are passionate about and willing to be a resource and to share their knowledge about the EHDI system and community resources; (e) many have the equipment (OAEs) to perform newborn hearing screens; and (f) they see the consequences of LTF and want to participate in reducing the number of children who are late identified.</p>	

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Support for this initiative has been mostly informal to date. More formal activities, going forward, include: (a) educational audiologists can apply to be HIDS users; (b) they need support in accessing and using HIDS; and (c) Arlene, and hopefully representative(s) from CDPHE will join the educational audiology meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup> to share information about the governance structure of COEHDI, the HIDS database, and particular activities educational audiologists may do. A member of the COEHDI Alliance is invited to join this meeting.

As this process moves forward, there is a need to consider: (a) the capacity of educational audiologists to participate in the EHDI system; (b) adding educational audiologists to the *Hands & Voices Roadmaps* that are used by many hospitals; and (c) prioritize the communities (likely rural) that will benefit most.

Sarah Honigfeld asked about the oversight of educational audiologists' activities including professional development. Lisa explained that educational audiologists are employed by individual administrative units (AU) (e.g., local school districts or Boards of Cooperative Educational Services – BOCES). Shauna Moden, the consultant for DHH services at CDE, has oversight and offers guidance (but without authority for compliance – this is through the AU). Lisa, as a consultant with CDE, supports professional development activities for educational audiologists. Notably, Lisa reported that educational audiologists align their work with Teachers of the DHH and interpreters (to support linguistic access), and the state licensure of educational audiologists requires continuing education.

Kristin Sommerfeldt highlighted the distinction between the roles of audiologists, clinical and educational, conducting screening activities versus diagnostic/identification activities. Educational audiologists have far more training in delivering screening results to families than most current screeners (e.g., midwives, nurses, volunteers) in birthing facilities.

Allison Cunningham, a clinical audiologist who conducts audiologic evaluations and delivers results to families, is excited to have educational audiologists as a “safety net” for screening/rescreening and LTF and a “liaison” for families whose children refer on a newborn hearing screen or rescreen.

Other topics discussed in the Screening Task Force related to screening/rescreening and LTF include: (a) Hannah Glick and Maureen Cunningham are working to link information in the *Newborn Hearing Screening Monthly* with

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the Colorado AAP newsletter; (b) integrating HIDS into the Colorado Immunization Information System (CIIS); and (c) including educational audiologists in EHDI-PALS.

Maureen Cunningham offered an update about PCPs' access to newborn hearing results for their patients. PCP access to HIDS is unlikely. As an alternative, Maureen has been given a contact in CIIS. Maureen will pursue opportunities to integrate HIDS data into CIIS.

Maureen will work with CO-AAP to share links to EHDI resources in the Colorado AAP newsletter. Currently, there is a link to cCMV resources ([www.aapcolorado.org](http://www.aapcolorado.org)).

**Conclusions:** Move forward including educational audiologists in the EHDI system. Continue to pursue PCP access to NBHS data on their patients. Disseminate the *Newborn Hearing Screening Monthly*.

<b>Action Items:</b>	<b>Persons Responsible:</b>	<b>Deadline:</b>
Formalize procedures to integrate educational audiologists into our EHDI system (especially related to screening, rescreening, and LTF	Lisa and Arlene	Ongoing
Identify a representative from the COEHDI Alliance to attend the educational audiologists' meeting on March 4 <sup>th</sup> .	Arlene	ASAP
Investigate distribution of the <i>Newborn Hearing Screening Monthly</i> with nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and family practice docs.	Hannah	Ongoing
The resources section in the CO-AAP publication ( <a href="http://www.aapcolorado.org">www.aapcolorado.org</a> ) has information about congenital CMV. This	Hannah (with Maureen Cunningham and Ted Maynard)	ASAP

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<p>may be a place to have a link to the <i>NBHS Monthly</i>.</p> <p>Investigate having educational audiologists listed in EHDI PALS</p>	<p>Arlene &amp; Lisa Cannon</p>	<p>TBD</p>
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<p><b>Agenda Item 5:</b> Diagnostic/Identification Task Force Report</p>	<p><b>Presenter:</b> Arlene Stredler Brown (for Emily Chamberlain)</p>
<p><b>Summary of Discussion:</b></p> <p>Task force members were asked to share materials about diagnostics/identification and early identification for the new COEHDI website (<a href="http://www.coehdi.org">www.coehdi.org</a>). We are looking for information that is appropriate for professionals and/or parents.</p> <p>Tele-audiology: Our stakeholders are very supportive of the effort to reduce travel distance for families seeing a clinical audiologist; they also want to assure children, especially in rural areas, are not waiting until preschool to be identified as DHH. A few months ago, COEHDI submitted a grant to AMCHP to support the roll-out of tele-audiology. This grant was not funded.</p> <p>Currently, we are exploring a systematic approach to develop the infrastructure for tele-audiology. We are incorporating information from: (a) the JCIH position statement; (b) colleagues in Nebraska who, after three years, have a working program; (c) the NCHAM Learning Community for Tele-audiology; and (d) the published literature. Our efforts focus on conducting diagnostic ABRs. Primary initiatives are focusing on: (a) identifying a hub site; (b) identifying remote site(s); (c) identifying appropriate equipment; and (d) developing procedures and protocols.</p> <p>The Diagnostic/Identification Task Force recommended forming a subcommittee to include: (a) hospitals with large diagnostic centers; (b) clinical and/or educational audiologists in remote area(s); and (c) parents in remote area(s).</p>	

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<p>Interface between Part C Service Coordinator and CO-Hear Coordinator: The overarching issue being discussed is the way in which these two groups work collaboratively and in a coordinated way to support a cohesive system for parents that is not duplicative.</p> <p>Family-to-Family Support: Declining referrals to Hands &amp; Voices for family-to-family support was reported. The task force will take up this topic at future meetings.</p>		
<p><b>Conclusions:</b> Continue to explore the infrastructure supporting tele-audiology. Continue work on an interface between CO-Hear Coordinator activities and Part C Service Coordinator activities.</p>		
<p><b>Action Items:</b> Share materials for our COEHDI website</p> <p>Form a subcommittee to investigate tele-audiology that includes: (a) hospitals with large diagnostic centers; (b) clinical and/or education audiologists in remote site(s); and (c) parents in remote site(s).</p> <p>Continue discussions about the interface between Part C Service Coordinators and CSDB-funded CO-Hear Coordinators</p> <p>Investigate declining referrals to Hands &amp; Voices for family-to-family support.</p>	<p><b>Persons Responsible:</b> All</p> <p>Arlene Stredler Brown</p> <p>Arlene to put on task force agenda until resolved</p> <p>Heather Abraham @ Parent and DX/ID Task Forces</p>	<p><b>Deadline:</b> Ongoing</p> <p>TBD</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

<p><b>Agenda Item 6:</b> DHH Adult Task Force</p>	<p><b>Presenter:</b> Sara Robinson</p>
<p><b>Summary of Discussion:</b> Two informational sessions for DHH adults interested in The Ascent Program were conducted</p>	

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this month, and they were well attended. DHH adults attended from geographically-diverse regions and have a range of experiences. The application process is underway. Training will start in 2-4 weeks utilizing the training program developed with input from the DHH Task Force members.

An announcement will be sent to parents to identify who is interested in having a visit with a DHH adult and specific topics each family wants to explore.

**Conclusions:** N/A

<b>Action Items:</b> N/A	<b>Persons Responsible:</b> Heather Abraham	<b>Deadline:</b> Ongoing
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<b>Agenda Item 7:</b> Public Comments	<b>Presenter:</b> N/A	
<b>Summary of Discussion:</b> Sara Kennedy made a comment suggesting we identify who will look at the HIDS database to identify children who have not received follow up after referring on a newborn hearing screen and/or rescreen.		
<b>Conclusions:</b> This topic will be included in meetings of the Screening Task Force		
<b>Action Items:</b> TBD	<b>Persons Responsible:</b> Arlene Stredler Brown	<b>Deadline:</b> TBD

<b>Agenda Item 8:</b> Closing	<b>Presenter:</b> Heather Abraham	
<b>Summary of Discussion:</b> These words were shared to describe members' impressions about COEHDI's work to date: smooth, inspired (2), timely (in addressing issues), abundance, anticipation (Ascent Program), progress (3), excited (tele-audiology and Ascent Program), a "well-oiled machine", action, solid (strong foundation), incremental, and inclusive.		
<b>Conclusions:</b> N/A		
<b>Action Items:</b> N/A	<b>Persons Responsible:</b> N/A	<b>Deadline:</b> N/A



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COEHDI Alliance meetings are held on the third Friday of each month.

**The next meeting will be February 19, 2021, 10 – 11:30AM**

*Note about accommodations: Beginning February 1, 2021, all Alliance meeting and task force meeting accommodations (e.g., American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters, Cued Language Transliteration, and/or Spanish translators) must be requested at least 72 business hours/3 business days in advance. **Requests may be made via your task force facilitator and/or at [info@coehdi.org](mailto:info@coehdi.org)**. ASL interpreters will continue to be provided for all Alliance meetings. We will also enable Zoom's Live Transcription feature for all meetings. (Note, Live Transcription utilizes automatic voice-recognition and computer-generated captioning. As such, the accuracy cannot be guaranteed. It is not a substitute for the full functionality of Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART)).*