
EHDITION COLORADO

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From the EHDI Director

By Arlene Stredler Brown, EHDI Director

We have exciting news..... our new website is live and significantly expanded! You can click on www.coehdi.org to view information about all parts of our EHDI system. This website belongs to members of the COEHDI community and I invite you to share resources you would like us to post on or link to our website.

Looking back, I can report many accomplishments in 2020 while we addressed nine months of EHDI activities in the context of COVID restrictions. Preferring to look at “the cup as half full,” please bear with me while I brag a bit. With the help of so many of you reading this newsletter, we have instituted a new governance structure for our COEHDI system that has included the participation of well over 100 stakeholders. At this time, I think it is safe to say that a refresh of our system is truly well underway. Thank you for your efforts to support screeners, investigate ways to engage primary care physicians in EHDI, explore opportunities to engage educational audiologists, and create a program that will offer families opportunities to meet deaf and hard-of-hearing adults. We also have a professional development initiative underway to enhance early interventionists’ use of family-centered practices. I hope you are as excited as I am with our accomplishments to date knowing that the best is yet to come!

In a blink of an eye, 2020 ended and a new year began. While my COVID-restricted lifestyle didn’t change much on January 1st, I do have a sense that change is coming. Fortunately, most EHDI work can be conducted quite efficiently from the comfort of our home offices. But, I will look forward to seeing each of you at an in-person meeting or activity before the year is out. We have much to celebrate!



Announcements

Beginning February 1, 2021, all Alliance meeting and task forces 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 by contacting Heather Abraham at habraham@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)).

The Diagnostic/Identification (and Transition from Dx/Id to Early Intervention) Task Force meets on the 1st Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be February 4, 2021 from 4:00-5:00 pm.

The Colorado Infant Hearing Advisory Council (CIHAC)'s quarterly meeting will occur remotely on February 5, 2021 from 9:00-11:00 am. Contact leanne.glenn@state.co.us to obtain access information and/or be added to the mailing list.

The Families of DHH Children Task Force normally meets the 1st Friday of each month. The next meeting will be February 5, 2021 from 12:00-1:00 pm.

The DHH Adult Task Force meets the 2nd Monday of each month. The next meeting date is February 8, 2021 from 2:00-3:30 pm.

The Screening Task Force meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. The next meeting date will be February 9, 2021 from 11:00-12:00 pm.

The newly-formed Early Intervention Task Force will meet on the third Tuesday of each month and have its first meeting on February 16, 2021 from 2:00-3:00 pm.

The COEHDI Alliance meets the 3rd Friday of each month from 10-11:30AM. The next meeting date is February 19, 2021. Meetings are open to the public and members of the public are invited to submit a public comment. In order to facilitate the meeting in a punctual manner, we request that those wishing to submit public comments complete a request form in advance so that we may add your comment to the appropriate place in our agenda. The public comment request form can be found at this link: [Public Comment Request Form](#)

The COVID Task Force meets the 4th Monday of each month. The next meeting will be Monday February 22, 2021 from 12:00-1:00 pm.

The Colorado Academy of Audiology (CAA) had decided to assign each year's Past President to serve as the CO EHDI Alliance representative. Marin Adkisson will be the CAA representative on the Alliance beginning January 2021. We thank Cory Portnuff, the previous Past President, for his participation during the first nine months of our first year (see the Gratitude and Acknowledgements section for more details).

A reminder that all newborn hearing screeners, Newborn Hearing Screening Coordinators, and diagnosing audiologists who have worked with and/or are currently working with deaf and hard of hearing children from birth to three are urgently encouraged to enter data in the CDPHE's new Health Information Data System (HIDS). The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is encouraging this effort. As an EHDI program, having this baserate data will help us set our goals to reach the 1-3-6 benchmarks.

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.

[Spotlight on Emily Augsburger](#)

This month's spotlight highlights Emily Augsburger. Emily is a member of the Alliance; as well as the Families of DHH Children Task Force, the Diagnostics/Identification and Transition to Intervention Task Force, and the Intervention and Transition to Part B Task Force.

Greetings and well wishes! It is such a privilege to be a part of the COEDHI Alliance and get to know so many amazing individuals connected to this work.



While I hail from the Midwest, I have found my home in Denver for well over a decade. I am a mama to two, a seven-year-old who proudly rocks blue hearing aids and a three-year-old who proudly rocks princess dresses. I met my best friend, and now husband, on move-in day at Regis University. After participating in medical missions and traveling a bit, I attended Washington University in St. Louis and received my master's in social work. Now, as a marketing manager, I work to build a diverse and inclusive global brand while also leading my organization's diversity, equity, and inclusion council.

I can often be found in the children's section at your local bookstore (more frequently pre-COVID) since my dream is to one day write children's books. When not in Zoom meetings or

chasing kiddos around the house, I spend my time hiking with my family and our furbaby, and trying to make my way through the stack of books on my bedside table.

It is truly an honor to work with the Alliance, and I look forward to the wonderful accomplishments ahead.

Launch of New COEHDI Website

by Katie Cue (Reprinted with permission from the CCDHHDB January Navigator Newsletter)

The Colorado Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (COEHDI) Alliance is pleased to share the launch of its new COEHDI website. It replaces the interim website that was developed in the early phases of grant implementation and is intended to become a central repository of information for COEHDI families, professionals, and community members. It displays information in the five phases of the COEHDI system: hearing screening and re-screening, transition to diagnosis/identification (DX/ID), diagnostics and identification transition from DX/ID to early intervention, and early intervention. Information about the new Ascent Program and family-to-family supports will also be on this site.

The website is located at <https://www.coehdi.org>. It is a "living" site that will be continually updated and expanded over time. Spanish and ASL translations, as well as plain text, for all content are forthcoming.

When visiting the website, you can find information about the COEHDI grant, read about the history of the EHDI system in Colorado, learn more about the six task forces currently in operation (and maybe decide to join one yourself since they are open to all stakeholders), review the biographies of COEHDI staff, Alliance and task force members, and obtain copies of Alliance meeting agendas and minutes. There is also a dedicated COVID-19 section. We hope you enjoy browsing the new COEHDI website.

Feedback is always welcome and can be sent to webmaster@coehdi.org.

CDPHE Health Information Data System (HIDS) Newborn Hearing Application: User Guide and Helpful Tips

by Leanne Glenn, Newborn Hearing Screening Coordinator, CDPHE

Any health professionals working directly with infants and toddlers ages birth to three, who have suspected or confirmed hearing loss, may apply for access to the HIDS database. Health professionals interested in applying may include: health professionals who perform follow-up hearing screens (e.g., midwives, hearing screeners), pediatric audiologists who conduct audiologic evaluations, and the Regional Colorado Hearing (CO-Hear) Resource Coordinators. Please bear in mind that the HIDS Newborn Hearing Application cannot store data for children beyond age 3, so professionals working with children beyond that age need not apply.



Please note that initial screening results from the Electronic Birth Certificate (EBC) are automatically imported into our data system. If you are a health professional that is already submitting initial hearing screening results on the EBC worksheet through CDPHE's Vital Records and you do not work with any other aspects of the EHDI system such as follow-up hearing screens, audiologic evaluations, and/or early intervention, you may not need to apply for access to HIDS. If you are unsure, feel free to contact us to clarify.

Application Information

For more information, please view the "How To" Guide at the following website: <https://www.healthinformatics.dphe.state.co.us/Home/Training/1>

The How To Guide contains the user manual, a PowerPoint presentation, and step-by-step instructional videos detailing how to enter data for each section of the database. There is a video with specific instructions to request access in the Guide.

For those working with children in any part of the EHDI system, please apply for access to the HIDS database at the following link: <https://www.healthinformatics.dphe.state.co.us/>

Private practice audiologists and midwives: Please contact us first to confirm your license information through DORA and add your facility prior to applying for access.

Please note that email is the fastest way to receive a response from staff, as CDPHE staff are mostly working from home at this time. We look forward to working with you!

For more information or to add your site, please contact:

Leanne Glenn

Newborn Hearing Screening Coordinator

Email: Leanne.Glenn@state.co.us

Work Phone: 303-692-2603

Richard Weinert

Database Manager

Email: Richard.Weinert@state.co.us

Work Phone: 303-692-2620

If you already have access to HIDS and have questions, please email the above contacts or, for questions on database worklists, please contact:

Bill Vertrees

Email: Bill.Vertrees@state.co.us

Work Phone: 303-692-2757

Data Update

The new Health Information Data System (HIDS) is up and running. New users are joining each month. The growing number of HIDS users is reported here, and it is also on our website.

Date	Screening Staff	Midwives	Audiology Staff/Associates	Early Intervention	Total Number of Users
December 17, 2020	32	8	28	12	80
January 11, 2021	37	8	38	12	95

Data reported by CDPHE

Task Force Updates

There are currently five task forces operating. Below are the individual task force updates.

COVID-19 by Hannah Glick

(Alliance Representative: Hannah Glick)

The COVID-19 Task Force meets monthly on the 4th Monday of each month (noon-1:00pm). The COVID-19 Task Force has been working hard to launch a new monthly publication called *Newborn Hearing Screening Monthly*. *Newborn Hearing Screening Monthly* will be distributed to newborn hearing screeners, newborn hearing screening coordinators, audiologists, and midwives involved in screening programs in the state. January’s issue will focus on the new Health Information Data System (HIDS) Newborn Hearing Application. COEHDI joins CDPHE to support collection of complete and accurate data from 2019 to the present time. The task force has also been collecting COVID-19 resources for professionals and families that are featured on the new COEHDI website (www.coehdi.org).

Families of DHH Children by Heather Abraham

(Alliance Representatives: Geoff Goodside and Emily Augsburger)

Due to the New Year holiday, this task force did not meet in January. The next meeting is February 5, 2021 from 12:00-1:00 pm

DHH Adults by Heather Abraham

(Alliance Representatives: Sara Robinson and Sarah Honigfeld)

This task force has been working diligently to provide guidance for the creation of EHDI's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Adult-to-Family Involvement Program, which was recently named The Ascent Program. In January, the task force provided feedback about training procedures for this exciting new program. In addition, the DHH Adult Task Force reviewed the newly launched Colorado EHDI website and provided feedback and guidance regarding structure and content for the website.

Screening Task Force by Arlene Stredler Brown

(Alliance Representative: Kristin Sommerfeldt)

The task force has been hard at work investigating ways to incorporate educational audiologists into our COEHDI screening system. Lisa Cannon, a consultant with the Colorado Department of Education, is to be thanked for helping us to capitalize on this resource. This task force has looked at creative ways to include primary care physicians in our system as they have an essential role in newborn care. Thanks to Dr. Maureen Cunningham, our Colorado EHDI Champion and member of the Colorado Academy of Pediatrics, for tirelessly pursuing this important activity. The task force also recommended a refresh of our EHDI-PALS (Pediatric Audiology Link to Services) materials. EHDI-PALS is a national web-based directory of facilities that offer pediatric audiology services to young children. The list of Colorado clinical audiologists should now be up to date. A family or professional can find the closest clinical audiology center by clicking here: https://www.ehdi-pals.org/SmartTool/EP_SmartTool.aspx

Diagnostic/Identification and Transition from Diagnosis/Identification to Early Intervention Task Force by Arlene Stredler Brown

(Alliance Representative: Emily Chamberlain)

This well-attended meeting solicited input for materials to be placed on the COEHDI website. We also discussed our tele-audiology initiative. While our first tele-audiology grant proposal was not funded, we are continuing to discuss the need, protocols, and procedures to support this initiative. There is expressed interest from our stakeholders on the western slope to pursue this initiative. The task force members voted to convene a subcommittee to address the delivery of ABR testing remotely. Arlene will reach out to the major birthing hospital centers to gauge their interest. In addition, we will solicit involvement from providers and parents on the western slope.

Alliance Meeting Brief

January's Alliance meeting was attended by 15 of our 16 members. There were 20 additional attendees including members of the COEHDI Core Team, task force members, members of the public, and those who were providing accommodations. Agenda items included the following: adoption of December meeting minutes, member updates, task force updates, introduction of the newly-formed Intervention Task Force, and an invitation for public comments.

The next Alliance meeting will take place on Friday February 19, 2021 from 10-11:30AM. Contact a member of the Alliance or info@coehdi.org to obtain meeting access information. Contact Heather Abraham (habraham@coehdi.org) to request accommodations other than ASL interpreters. See our website for monthly meeting minutes (<https://www.coehdi.org/alliance/>) as well as the link to the public comment form (<https://forms.gle/df7LSFGAEyPAgDqJ7>).

Gratitude/Acknowledgements

COEHDI wishes to express a huge measure of gratitude to Cory Portnuff, AuD, PhD, for his service on the Alliance, which concluded before we could feature him in a newsletter spotlight. He is a past president of the Colorado Academy of Audiology. From the very beginning of our journey, Cory supported our application by contributing a letter in support of our team's HRSA grant application. We appreciate his support and faith in our initiative to refresh the Colorado

EHDI system. We trust that he will not be a stranger in our continued efforts.

Cory continues to work as a clinical audiologist at the University of Colorado Hospital, UCHHealth Hearing and Balance Clinic and serves as an Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. He is board certified in audiology with a specialty certification in pediatric audiology. As part of his practice, Cory works with patients of all ages focusing on audiologic rehabilitation, tinnitus treatment, and services for musicians. His research focuses on noise-induced (particularly related to music) hearing loss and he conducts both clinical and translational research.



We continue to highlight our task force members who have graciously volunteered to roll up their sleeves and drive forward the work of COEHDI. This month, we recognize the Diagnostic/Identification and Transition from Diagnostic/Identification to Early Intervention Task Force. Its members include:

- Emily Augsburger
- Allison Biever
- Lisa Cannon
- Emily Chamberlain
- Jessi Cooney
- Cathy Cortese
- Jamie Fries
- Stacey Geisel
- Brittany Goodside
- Laura Greaver
- Sam Gubbels
- Jill Jacobs
- Annette Landes
- Laura Merrill
- Dani Nougier
- Mah-rya Proper
- Margaret Ruttenber
- Allison Sedey
- Kristin Sommerfeldt
- Lynn Wismann
- Emily Wojahn

The Diagnostic/Identification and Transition from Diagnostic/Identification to Early Intervention Task Force has been working on a proposal to develop tele-audiology services in rural areas of Colorado. The task force is also having rich discussions about the interface of activities shared by CSDB's Regional CO-Hear Coordinators and Part C's Service Coordinators. The Diagnostic/Identification and Transition from Diagnostic/Identification to Early Intervention Task Force has done an outstanding job to date and we look forward to the impact of their efforts. Join us for a socially-distanced *hand waving* in applauding their efforts!