
EHDITION COLORADO

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From the EHDI Director

By Arlene Stredler Brown, EHDI Director

As everyone seems to be saying these days, “Can you believe one year has passed?” As I write, I am not referring to COVID (though I could!). Rather, it has been a year since we established the COEHDI program. And, I must repeat, “Can you believe one year has passed?”



The good news is how much we have accomplished. At a recent COEHDI Alliance meeting, some of the words used to summarize the work we are doing included: impressed (with progress made); improvement (based on data); informed (by getting information to make improvements); reflective; and busy. Yes, we’ve been busy!

We have, with help from staff at CDPHE and Allison Sedey (who works for CSDB and CU-Boulder), obtained statistics for 2019. A celebration - I suppose it must be virtual - is in order! This information will guide priorities and the activities that support these priorities.

On the federal level, we have a new project officer. Although we will miss Michelle Koplitz, we welcome the support from Sandra Battiste. Sandra has worked for HRSA for many years and was an EHDI Coordinator before that. We appreciate the past and future guidance of our project officers.

I also want to highlight our new Ascent Program - a program supported by HRSA and other best practice documents wherein deaf and hard of hearing adults meet with families to offer their support and share insights about their own lives. You can find out more about this program, and how to access it, in this newsletter.

Please read on for more detailed reports on all of our activities. And, please take a minute to reflect on what we have accomplished and the work we have yet to do. “It takes a village..... “

Announcements

The Diagnostic/Identification Task Force meets on the 1st Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be May 6, 2021 from 4:00-5:00 pm.

The Colorado Infant Hearing Advisory Committee (CIHAC) will have its quarterly meeting on May 7, 2021 from 9:00-11:00 am. Contact leann.glenn@state.co.us for meeting access information.

The Families of DHH Children Task Force meets the 1st Friday of each month. The next meeting will be May 7, 2021 from 12:00-1:00 pm.

The DHH Adult Task Force meets on the 2nd Monday of the month, four times per year. The next meeting date will be May 10, 2021 from 2:00-3:30 pm.

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

The Western Region Early Intervention Conference (WREIC) is offering a session, at no charge, on May 13, 2021 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm MDT. The topic is *Early Intervention Face to Face and Virtual: El Experiences from New Mexico and Utah*. More information, including how to register, is available here: <http://www.wreic.org/may-13-face-to-face--virtual-experiences-nmut.html>

The Intervention Task Force meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be May 18, 2021 from 2:00-3:00PM.

The COEHDI Alliance meets the 3rd Friday of each month from 10-11:30AM. The next meeting date is May 21, 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](#)

All Colorado EHDI Alliance and Task Force meetings will be announced here as will other Colorado EHDI system meetings. If you would like your meetings included in our monthly newsletter, contact: info@coehdi.org.

Spotlight on Maureen Cunningham

This month's spotlight highlights Maureen Cunningham, Screening Task Force and Alliance member.

Maureen Cunningham, MD, MPH has been the EHDI Chapter Champion for the Colorado American Academy of Pediatrics since 2015. She is a pediatric hospitalist at Children's Hospital Colorado and the pediatrician for the Children's Hospital Cleft Lip and Palate Team at the Anschutz Medical Campus.

She is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Aside from EHDI, her research and clinical interests include global health and early child development. Dr.

Cunningham grew up in upstate New York. Both of her parents are deaf and her mother is a graduate of the Lexington School for the Deaf in New York City. She has one sister, her twin, who is an anesthesiologist in Maryland. She is married and has two children, a son, J.T., who is 13 and a daughter, Norah, who is 10.



Announcing the Ascent Program by Heather Abraham

See below for a flyer with more information about The Ascent Program, you can [click here](#) to sign up!

THE ASCENT PROGRAM



A program for Colorado families with deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf blind (DHHDB) children, ages birth to 36 months, to connect with DHHDB adults

NOW ENROLLING FAMILIES!



Request Form:

[http://bit.ly/
AscentProgram
FamilyRequest](http://bit.ly/AscentProgramFamilyRequest)

Benefits of meeting a DHHDB adult through the Ascent Program:

The Ascent Program's mission is to connect DHHDB adults of diverse background and experiences with families in order to:

- Build relationships
- Share resources
- Develop a support system to empower families
- Support informed decision-making
- Learn about the lived lives and different ways of being for DHHDB adults

All services are provided free of charge to families of DHHDB children!

Meeting a DHHDB adult is as easy as 1-2-3!

Ready to get started with your family's journey of discovering all the exciting possibilities for your DHHDB child? Here's how to get started:

1. Fill out the request form above
2. Someone will be in touch with you to make arrangements
3. Meet with the DHHDB adult in the comfort of your own home (whether virtually or in-person!)

Questions?

Contact Kathryn Sevier
ksevier@csdb.org
(720) 317-0031 (text only)

Update on Year 2 Sub-grants by Arlene Stredler Brown

Colorado EHDI will review the end-of-year reports for all grantees that received funding during Year 1. Shortly after that, an announcement for Year 2 subgrants will be released. Stay tuned, by reading this newsletter and by checking our website (www.coehdi.org) for Year 2 application materials.

Data Report for 2019 by Arlene Stredler Brown

Thanks are in order for so many HIDS users who took the time to enter 2019 data in HIDS. Data related to screening, identification, and family demographics were provided by CDPHE. Data related to early intervention was organized and reported by Allison Sedey. The aggregate data is being shared at our task force meetings. The data has been reported to the Centers for Disease Control who have been duly impressed with our efforts.

This baserate data serves another important function. Most Colorado EHDI activities are measured by increases (or a decrease in the case of loss to follow-up) from one year to the next. We will continue to set goals and report our progress.

HIDS User Update by Arlene Stredler Brown

As of April 13th, there are now 122 HIDS users. This is an increase of eight users from one month ago. Users fall into these categories: (a) 55 screeners; (b) 13 midwives; (c) 41 audiologists (6 are educational audiologists); and (d) 13 early intervention personnel. Colorado EHDI continues to advocate for professionals to apply to CDPHE to become a HIDS user.

Task Force Updates

Families of DHH Children by Heather Abraham

(Alliance Representatives: Emily Augsburger and one position to be determined)

The Family Task Force did not meet in April.

This task force meets the 1st Friday of each month. The next meeting will be May 7, 2021 from 12:00-1:00 pm.

DHH Adults by Heather Abraham

(Alliance Representatives: Sara Robinson and Sarah Honigfeldt)

This task force did not meet in April. However, the Ascent Program continues to be a well-accepted product of our Year 1 work. Please review the short article about The Ascent Program in this newsletter. A flyer to set up a visit with a deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind (DHHDB) adult is included.

This task force meets the 2nd Monday of the month, four times per year. The next meeting date will be May 10, 2021 from 2:00-3:30 pm.

Screening Task Force by Arlene Stredler Brown

(Alliance Representative: Kristin Sommerfeldt)

As reported earlier in this newsletter, the Screening Task Force heard about the progress being made to increase the number of HIDS users. A preliminary review of 2019 NBHS data was presented. Several requests for more detailed data were made. Follow-up will be done with CDPHE, the CIHAC and/or the CDC.

Colorado midwives have asked for a brochure that describes newborn hearing screening. This recommendation has been taken to The Alliance and was approved at the April Alliance meeting. The dissemination of this brochure will reach midwives and other stakeholders (e.g., screeners, clinical and educational audiologists, physicians, etc). A writing subcommittee has been formed.

This task force meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be May 11, 2021 from 11:00-12:00 pm.

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

(Alliance Representative: Annette Landes)

This task force did not meet in April.

This task force meets on the 1st Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be May 6, 2021 from 4:00-5:00 pm.

Intervention Task Force by Heather Abraham

(Alliance Representative: TBD)

The task force began analyzing issues related to the transition of DHH children from Part C services (birth to 36 months of age) to Part B services (preschool-age services). The group reviewed the legal requirements that impact the transition process, as well as strengths and needs that are evident throughout the state during the transition. This process is complex; the group will continue to review the needs and identify resources that can be amplified to support a smooth transition for families' young children.

This task force meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be May 18, 2021 from 2:00-3:00PM.

Alliance Meeting Brief

April's Alliance meeting was attended by 13 of our 16 members. One position, to be filled by a new family task force representative, remains vacant. There were 15 additional attendees including members of the COEHDI Core Team, task force members, members of the public, and those who were providing accommodations. Reports were made on the following: updates related to the HIDS database, 2019 statistics, professional development using the Cognitive Coaching model, and the Ascent Program (our DHH Adult-to-Family support program).

The next Alliance meeting will take place on Friday June 18, 2021 from 10-11:30AM. Contact a member of the Alliance, Core Team, and/or any of the task force members to obtain meeting access information. 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

Colorado EHDI would like to thank Geoff Goodside for serving as an Alliance member during our first grant year. In addition to being on the Alliance, Geoff participates on the Family Task Force and has been a strong voice advocating for improvements in access to services and identifying new opportunities for families. Geoff's other commitments require his attention to be elsewhere at this point in time; however, we want to both recognize and thank him for volunteering to represent families on the Colorado EHDI Alliance this past year.