

## Colorado EHDI Alliance Meeting

Date: May 21, 2021

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

**Alliance & Core Team Members Present:** Marin Adkisson, Marti Bleidt, Maureen Cunningham, Jack Damico, Pat Greenway, Leann Glenn, Brian Herrmann, Sarah Honigfeld, Sara Kennedy, Shauna Moden, Cliff Moers, Amy Novotny, Margaret Rutenber, and Sara Robinson

**Alliance & Core Team Absent Members:** Emily Augsburger, Allison Cunningham, Ashley Renslow, and Christy Scott

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

**Task Force Representatives:** Annette Landes and Kristin Sommerfeldt

**Accommodations:** ASL/English Interpreters: Julia Ostberg and Leslie Blankis

<b>Agenda Item 1:</b> Adoption of Meeting Minutes		<b>Presenter:</b> n/a
<b>Summary of Discussion:</b> n/a		
<b>Conclusion:</b> April meeting minutes adopted unanimously without changes.		
<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>Presenters:</b>
<b>Summary of Discussion:</b> Margaret Ruttenber announced she is retiring from CDPHE on June 30th after 25 years of service. Leanne Glenn, the Newborn Hearing Screening Coordinator at CDPHE, will be the CDPHE representative to Alliance meetings.		
Sarah Honigfeld announced (in the comments) that Language First and she are co-hosting a series on Early Intervention this Sunday afternoon for DHH kiddos if people are interested. It is free. You can access this event at: <a href="https://language1st.org/events/early-intervention">https://language1st.org/events/early-intervention</a>		
<b>Conclusion:</b> Leanne Glenn will replace Margaret Ruttenber as an Alliance member from CDPHE		
<b>Action Items:</b> Send Leanne COEHDI Alliance welcome packet	<b>Persons Responsible:</b> Katie Cue	<b>Deadline:</b> ASAP

<b>Agenda Item 3: HIDS Database Users</b>		<b>Presenter:</b> Heather (for Margaret Ruttenber)
<b>Summary of Discussion:</b> There has been an increase in the number of users since April, 2021. There are now 132 users. They are distributed among these categories: (a) 57 screeners (increase of 2 since April); (b) 14 midwives (increase of 1 since April); (c) 50 audiologists (includes 13 educational audiologists - increase of 9 since April); and (d) 13 early intervention personnel (steady and not expected to increase).		
Leanne Glenn anticipates more HIDS users in that 58 of the 64 birthing facilities are using HIDS which leaves six sites that are not yet users.		
There are some midwives that have their own screening equipment. Leanne Glenn also mentioned that there are 10 midwives in the Colorado Springs area who are referring to Dawn O'Brien Taylor for NBH screenings. There are 10 midwives in Colorado Springs referring to Dawn O'Brien Taylor for follow up.		

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<b>Conclusion:</b> n/a		
<b>Action Items:</b> Will continue to monitor users monthly	<b>Persons Responsible:</b> Arlene & Leanne Glenn	<b>Deadline:</b> Ongoing

<b>Agenda Item 4:</b> Year 1 Subgrants		<b>Presenter:</b> Jack Damico
<p><b>Summary of Discussion:</b> Jack Damico said the Alliance subcommittee for sub-grants (himself, Pat Greenway, Arlene Stredler Brown, and Marti Bleidt) met the week of May 14th to review the year-end reports. These subgrants were awarded for: (a) AAP Initiative on cCMV; (b) H&amp;V Rural Initiative; (c) H&amp;V second language initiative; and (d) RMDS family educational programming initiative. The subcommittee reported that all four of these grants were both effective and successful. Everyone turned in their end-of-year reports in a timely fashion. There was good data that could be used to review outcomes. The subcommittee made eight suggestions for reporting in future grant years. These recommendations are in the subcommittee report which will be shared with all Alliance members. The final reporting materials for Year 2 will reflect these suggestions. In addition, Katie will share the sub-committee's report on Year 1 sub-grants with Alliance members.</p> <p>Year 2 subgrant application materials are now available on the COEHDI website. Working deadlines are: (a) applications due by June 30, 2021; (b) subcommittee review by July 16; and (c) award announcement by July 30.</p>		
<b>Conclusion:</b> n/a		
<b>Action Items:</b> Send summary of grant reports, the subcommittee report, and suggestions for reporting in future years to Alliance members.	<b>Persons Responsible:</b> Katie Cue	<b>Deadline:</b> New subgrant deadline is June 30, 2021

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<b>Agenda Item 5:</b> Colorado EHDl Newsletter Updates		<b>Presenter:</b> Katie Cue & Heather Abraham
<b>Summary of Discussion:</b> Our goal has been to share information via the newsletter and to offer the information in three languages: English, Spanish, ASL. Input was solicited from Alliance members about the content and the frequency of the newsletter going forward.  The discussion indicated that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It would be nice to have more people writing the columns and articles.</li><li>• Continue including reports from each task force; focus on active issues.</li><li>• Include more human interest stories.</li><li>• Spotlight some of the programs in the state (e.g., CO Hands &amp; Voices, CO AG Bell, RMDS)</li></ul> By request, the newsletter will continue to be published monthly.		
<b>Conclusion:</b> The suggestions will be considered for Year 2.		
<b>Action Items:</b> Add an “ask” in future newsletters to solicit articles from stakeholders and to identify topics stakeholders want.	<b>Persons Responsible:</b> Katie Cue	<b>Deadline:</b> ASAP

<b>Agenda Item 6:</b> Screening and Entry into Clinical Audiology Task Force		<b>Presenter:</b> Kristin Sommerfeldt
<b>Summary of Discussion:</b> in the next few months, will start to ask all HIDS users to enter 2020 data into HIDS.  A subcommittee is updating the old NBHS brochure.		

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A best practice issue was discussed regarding the importance of rescreening both ears when there is a unilateral referral on the initial screen. Thanks to Bill Vertrees and Leanne Glenn at CDPHE for identifying this issue as they reviewed the 2019 data. This made it possible for the Screening Task Force to reinforce the importance of this best practice. COEHDI is announcing this practice in our newsletter. Notably, the newsletter goes to Ted Maynard (President of CO AAP). We hope he will highlight this article in the CO AAP newsletter. Sara Kennedy reported that the CIHAC guidelines include this best practice.

In Year 2, COEHDI plans to reach out to Family Practice doctors, Nurse Practitioners, and Physician Assistants about newborn hearing screening practices and their importance. Leanne reports that pediatricians are not HIDS users at this time.

COEHDI is reviewing the opportunity to host regional meetings. A pilot site on the W. Slope has been self-identified. At this point in time, the Screening Task Force is reviewing the guiding principles for establishing regional meetings. These guiding principles will be written in the Screening Task Force meeting minutes which are available on our COEHDI website ([www.coehdi.org](http://www.coehdi.org))

**Conclusion:** Follow-up on announcing best practice for bilateral rescreening of a unilateral “did not pass” result.

**Action Items:** Include best practice in as many publications as possible

**Persons Responsible:** Hannah Glick

**Deadline:** Ongoing

### Agenda Item 7: Diagnostic/Identification and Entry to Intervention Task Force

**Presenter:** Annette Landes

**Summary of Discussion:** The Tele-Audiology Subcommittee made a recommendation to pursue a model in which a hub site (presumably on the Front Range) and a remote site (the Western Slope) are established. A professional (likely educational audiologist/s) will see children at the remote site. A three-pronged approach to developing this initiative includes: (a) identify remote site (Western Slope); (b) identify a host site; and (c) identify and secure equipment. Subcommittee members also recognize a need to ensure there is buy-in from professionals (e.g., ENTs, pediatricians, audiologists, etc) and parents on the Western Slope. This effort is currently in the exploratory phase.

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<p>Colorado EHDI worked closely with CDPHE to gather screening, diagnostic and demographic data for 2019. Allison Sedey provided intervention data. Our goal, which has been met, was to gather statewide baserate data for screening, identification and intervention. The data has been reported to the CDC. The 2019 data was reviewed. There is confusion about the reasons more children are referred to Part C than the number enrolled in Part C services. The task force has been asked to review this.</p> <p>A topic was brought up at the Alliance meeting about two state initiatives; (a) the to-be-created Early Childhood Department; and (b) the new legislation moving Child Find, for children birth to 36 months of age, to CDHS.</p>		
<p><b>Conclusion:</b> 1. Solicit more information about new statewide initiatives for Child Find and the Dept. of Early Childhood 2. Consider factors that explain differences in referral to Part C and enrollment in Part C</p>		
<p><b>Action Items:</b> 1. Invite a speaker about the new state initiatives to an Alliance meeting 2. Discuss at a task force meeting</p>	<p><b>Persons Responsible:</b> Arlene &amp; Heather</p>	<p><b>Deadline:</b> Ongoing</p>

<p><b>Agenda Item 8:</b> Early Intervention Task Force</p>		<p><b>Presenter:</b> Heather Abraham</p>
<p><b>Summary of Discussion:</b> The current focus of this task force is the transition from Part C to Part B. Documentation has been obtained from the CO Dept. of Education and will be reviewed at the April task force meeting. In addition, Developmental Pathways, a community centered board in the metro area, shared the process they use to provide specialized support for families of children who are deaf and hard of hearing. The group will continue to analyze the legal requirements and current processes that exist in the state with the intention of providing recommendations for effective practices to both community center boards and administrative units statewide.</p> <p>There are no recommendations for the Alliance this month.</p>		
<p><b>Conclusion:</b> n/a</p>		
<p><b>Action Items:</b> n/a</p>	<p><b>Persons Responsible:</b> Heather and Arlene</p>	<p><b>Deadline:</b> Ongoing</p>

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<b>Agenda Item 9:</b> DHH Adult Task Force		<b>Presenter:</b> Heather Abraham
<b>Summary of Discussion:</b> This task force provided feedback regarding a variety of EHDl initiatives. They reviewed the implementation and utilization of the Ascent Program and provided recommendations for ways to promote the program throughout the state. They reviewed the 2019 CDC data fields, received information about COEHDl subgrants, and heard about our study of the transition process from Part C to Part B.		
<b>Conclusion:</b> n/a		
<b>Action Items:</b> n/a	<b>Persons Responsible:</b> n/a	<b>Deadline:</b> n/a

<b>Agenda Item 10:</b> Family Task Force		<b>Presenter:</b> Heather Abraham
<b>Summary of Discussion:</b> In May, representatives from various organizations that provide family-to-family support met to discuss EHDl's efforts to gather data about family access to family-to-family supports. The group discussed the purpose of data collection in the context of HRSA's goals and benefits to families statewide. We intend to identify: (a) trends in family-to-family support; (b) needs throughout the state; and (c) strengths and needs in our referral process.		
<b>Conclusion:</b> The Alliance endorsed Colorado EHDl's efforts to gather family-to-family support data from both family-led organizations (e.g., Hands & Voices) and other organizations in the state that provide family-to-family support. There is a need to identify ways to collect the data as well as any expanded data fields above and beyond what is required by HRSA (e.g., by geographic region, by age group, etc).		
<b>Action Items:</b> Colorado EHDl will work with organizations providing family-to-family support to identify avenues for data collection.	<b>Persons Responsible:</b> Heather	<b>Deadline:</b> Ongoing

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<b>Agenda Item 11: Closing</b>		<b>Presenter: All</b>	
<b>Summary of Discussion:</b> A one-word checkout on the work we are doing includes these “pearls”: information; progress; growth; perseverance; never-ending/busy; will (the will to keep making progress); opportunity; appreciative; improvement; intentional			
<b>Conclusion:</b> n/a			
<b>Action Items:</b> n/a		<b>Persons Responsible:</b> n/a	
		<b>Deadline:</b> n/a	

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

**The next meeting will be June 18, 2021, 10:00 – 11:30 AM**

*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)).*