

Colorado EHDI Alliance Meeting

Date: August 20, 2021

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

Alliance & Core Team Members Present: Marin Adkisson, Marti Bleidt, Allison Cunningham, Pat Greenway, Leanne Glenn, Brian Herrmann, Sara Kennedy, Shauna Moden, Cliff Moers, Amy Novotny, Ashley Renslow, Sara Robinson, and Christy Scott

Alliance & Core Team Absent Members: Emily Augsburger, Maureen Cunningham, Jack Damico and Sarah Honigfeld

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

Task Force Representatives: Annette Landes and Kristin Sommerfeldt

Accommodations: ASL/English Interpreters: Leslie Blankis and Kirk Neuroth

Agenda Item 1: Adoption of Meeting Minutes		Presenter: n/a
Summary of Discussion: n/a		
Conclusion: June meeting minutes adopted unanimously without changes.		
Action Items: n/a	Persons Responsible: n/a	Deadline: n/a

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Agenda Item 2: Announcements		Presenters: All	
Summary of Discussion:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. (Cliff Moers) The CCDHHDB's grant program distributes up to \$50,000 annually to organizations. An organization can apply for up to \$10,000. Five organizations received awards; three received funding for work related to EHDI. These three funded projects are: (a) Colorado Hands & Voices which plans to enhance parent-to-parent support services; (b) the CO-AAP will continue their work developing cCMV resources; and (c) RMDS will expand their family education program for toddlers up to the age of three years to reach families statewide.2. (Ashley Renslow) Early literacy events will be hosted by CSDB in partnership with Hands & Voices. There will be four in-person and two virtual events.3. (Arlene Stredler Brown) The annual HRSA report for Year 1 was submitted on July 30, 2021. We are awaiting approval for our request to carry-over funds.			
Conclusion: n/a			
Action Items: n/a		Persons Responsible: n/a	Deadline: n/a

Agenda Item 3: HIDS Database Users		Presenter: Leanne Glenn	
Summary of Discussion:			
<p>HIDS User Update: There are currently 147 users, which is a net increase of 11 users since last month. The number of users, by discipline, are: 64 screeners, 18 midwives (they enter data for 31 midwives), 51 audiologists (including 13 educational audiologists), 13 early intervention personnel; one pediatrician (with another application in process).</p> <p>CDPHE has created data reports for the first quarter of 2021; they have been distributed to hospitals. In addition, CDPHE has sent outstanding worklists to hospitals.</p> <p>Going forward, CDPHE will share aggregate data with COEHDI and CIHAC members.</p>			

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There is a data subcommittee through CIHAC that is currently working to identify the early intervention data points that will be populated in HIDS.

All CIHAC meeting minutes are posted on the CDPHE website.

On September 17, 2021, there will be a presentation for midwives. You can access this information on the CDPHE website.

CDPHE has taken opportunities to ask HIDS users to input 2020 data in HIDS.

Conclusion: n/a

Action Items: n/a

Persons Responsible: n/a

Deadline: n/a

Agenda Item 4: Subgrant Update

Presenter: Pat Greenway

Summary of Discussion:

The Subgrant Committee (Pat Greenway and Marti Bleidt) met to review four applications. Their findings and recommendations are summarized here. A copy of the full report was distributed to all COEHDI Alliance members before the meeting.

Hands & Voices (Request for \$3500): Expand family-to-family support through the Guide by Your Side Program and fill ambassador positions in rural areas. Funding will provide some limited in-person support to families, focus on engaging bilingual ambassadors in the metro Denver area, offer increased access to programs virtually and in person, and update the Parent Funding Tool Kit.

Hands & Voices (Request for \$2000): Supports for Spanish-speaking families. The intent is to develop a community of Spanish-speaking resources statewide, identify and train leaders, and translate the Parent Funding Toolkit.

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Rocky Mountain Deaf School (Request \$3500): Expand the Family Education Program using a hybrid approach that includes in-person and virtual workshops. The reach will be expanded to families statewide which is a wider audience than last year's program. The emphasis is on ASL and English languages. Spanish translation will be offered on request.

CSDB (Request \$3500): Professional Development for early interventionists. This program will add three professional development activities to what is already offered. One activity will be in person. The three activities will occur during the school year in fall, winter and spring. This is a way to help facilitators fulfill their annual professional development hours that are required by EI Colorado. The topics of interest, prioritized by facilitators, includes: mental health, parent coaching, communication options and research-supported curricula.

The Subgrant Committee members made a few observations during their review of Year 2 subgrant applications. They would like the Alliance to offer guidance before Year 3 subgrants are requested. These topics include:

- Is there a priority for novel projects versus expansion of current programs?
- How much weight is assigned to the scoring rubric? Is there a minimum score for funding?
- Are measurable outcomes (i.e., measurable results in numbers and/or percentages) required?
- Must an application be clearly written?
- How shall sustainability be weighted?
- Shall in-kind support be a consideration?
- Shall requests be funded if the program has adequate monies to fund the project without a COEHDI subgrant?
- Are letters of support necessary?

The Subgrant Committee recommended funding the four grants. With the expectation of more applications in the future, the Subgrant Committee members are seeking help to identify priorities, as mentioned above, and the process for evaluating applications.

Alliance members, during their discussion, agreed that measurable outcomes are important. Sustainability was also highlighted. The novelty of a program was also acknowledged as a value.

Conclusion: Alliance members voted, with consensus, to fund the four subgrant applications.

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Action Items: The Alliance will offer guidance on the criteria for reviewing subgrant applications before Year 3.	Persons Responsible: Arlene & Heather	Deadline: Before Year 3 subgrant RFPs are announced.
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Agenda Item 5: Alliance Feedback Survey		Presenter: Heather Abraham
Summary of Discussion: COEHDI has created a survey for Alliance members to complete. You can expect to see a link to the survey from Katie Cue. Responses will be anonymous. A summary of the responses will be shared at a future Alliance meeting.		
Conclusion: n/a		
Action Items: Look for the survey in your inbox.	Persons Responsible: All Alliance members	Deadline: ASAP

Agenda Item 6: Screening and Entry into Diagnostics/Identification Task Force		Presenter: Kristin Sommerfeldt
Summary of Discussion: Arlene, Maureen Cunningham and Leanne Glenn are working with the Colorado Academy of Family Physicians (CAFP) to increase physicians' awareness about COEHDI activities and HIDS. NBHS Brochure: The brochure is still In development. Priorities are: (a) family-first language; (b) an accessible reading level (3rd grade is recommended); and (c) maintain the primary message to "get your baby screened." It has taken time to explain our two-part first screen and second rescreen processes. There has also been a lot of discussion about ways to share typical developmental milestones. The committee hopes to bring a version to the Alliance at the September meeting.		

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<p>“Regional” Meetings: The task force is discussing the goals and expected outcomes for this activity as we work to refresh it. It was agreed that the newly-distributed hospital statistics can guide discussions with hospitals. The first goal that was discussed is to bring stakeholders into alignment with 1-3-6. While there is discussion at the national level about 1-2-3 benchmarks, there is also some hesitation about this.</p>		
<p>Conclusion: n/a</p>		
<p>Action Items: n/a</p>	<p>Persons Responsible: Arlene</p>	<p>Deadline: September 2021</p>

<p>Agenda Item 7: Diagnostic/Identification and Entry to Intervention Task Force</p>	<p>Presenter: Annette Landes</p>
<p>Summary of Discussion:</p> <p>Tele-Audiology Initiative: The Tele-Audiology Subcommittee has their next meeting on August 23, 2021. Arlene sent an email to all potential hub sites asking them to indicate their interest in being the hub site. To date, one site has responded affirmatively.</p> <p>Defining Terminology for Entry into Early Intervention: Arlene will convene a meeting with stakeholders from COEHDI, CDPHE, Part C, CSDB and CU-Boulder to discuss definitions of the terms used to define entry into early intervention.</p> <p>Unilateral Hearing Loss (UHL): The way in which families receive services, direct and/or indirect, has evolved over many years. As of April, 2020, the CO-Hear Coordinators receive UHL referrals from the clinical audiologists. CO-Hear Coordinators pursue these activities: (a) contact family within 48 hours of receiving a referral from the diagnosing audiologist; (b) provide information about UHL and the potential impact of UHL on development; (c) offer to meet with the family; (d) distribute, via postal mail, a packet of information; and (e) share information about EI Colorado (Part C) and eligibility criteria for Part C services. The CO-Hear Coordinator may also share these opportunities with the family: (a) meeting a Hands & Voices Guide; (b) attending community events for DHH; and (c) meeting a DHH adult through The Ascent Program.</p>	

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Some children (~29%) are enrolled in EI Colorado. To qualify for services, a child may have an additional disability that is categorically eligible, a child may have a minimum of a 33% delay in one developmental area, and there may be parental concern influencing informed opinion about a delay. Laura Merrill from EI Colorado shared a document discussing eligibility criteria based on informed opinion.

For the majority of children (~71%) who do not qualify for EI Colorado's direct services, there is a monitoring program that is offered through CU-Boulder. Parents can complete a developmental screening of their child at 6 months, 15 months, 21 months, 27 months and/or 33 months. This developmental screening is conducted with the help of the CO-Hear Coordinator. As a child approaches 36 months of age, the CO-Hear Coordinator can help a family during the transition to preschool; a child may be eligible for Part B services even if they were not eligible for Part C services.

Early Start is an EI Colorado program currently in development for children with risk factors. It is anticipated that children with UHL will be eligible.

The task force members identified three potential action steps going forward: (a) improve messaging about UHL; (b) encourage families to agree to the developmental monitoring program; and (c) obtain data on participation of families in all aspects of programming.

Conclusion: n/a

Action Items: Continue discussion of action steps in task force meetings.

Persons Responsible: Arlene

Deadline: n/a

Agenda Item 8: Early Intervention Task Force

Presenter: Heather Abraham

Summary of Discussion:

Transition from Part C to Part B: Developmental Pathways CCB designed and implements a process that is specific to children who are DHH. The task force members started to discuss ways to enhance the process for parents statewide. There is a caveat that COEHDI staff has assumed a role of facilitating discussion about this

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transition process. Notably, it is the responsibility of individual agencies to implement any recommendations posed by the task force (or Alliance if applicable). The situation in the state is complex with 20 CCBs and dozens of Administrative Units that operate independently. Themes for ongoing analysis during our task force meetings include: (a) communication; (b) variations in the state among CCBs and AUs; (c) collaboration; (d) impact of legislative changes in Child Find; (e) MOUs between CCBs and AUs; and (f) the role of assessment. A subcommittee will be convened to address these issues efficiently. Any COEHDI efforts will align with those currently underway at El Colorado; our input will be specific to children who are DHH.

Evaluation and Assessment: With a focus on transition, Laura Merrill provided background on the requirements of Part C and Part B. The task force will continue discussing assessment with an initial focus on distinguishing Part C's Family Assessment and the decades-old FAMILY Assessment specific to children who are DHH. These two assessment protocols are different.

Conclusion: n/a

Action Items: Any Alliance member can join the subcommittee reviewing transition from Part C to Part B. Contact Heather: habraham@coehdi.org.

Persons Responsible: Heather & Arlene

Deadline: ongoing

Agenda Item 9: DHH Adult Task Force

Presenter: Sara Robinson

Summary of Discussion:

This task force meets quarterly. At the August, 2021 meeting, members discussed the Ascent Program. Here are some statistics about it: 13 adults have been trained; 7 families have made requests; the children in the families making requests range from 6 weeks - 2 years of age; and a variety of topics were requested (i.e., adult's experiences growing up, education, career, advocacy, developing a child's identify. To date, DHH adults attended two in-person events that were arranged, collaboratively, by CSDB and Hands & Voices.

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<p>The task force members are trying to develop a sign name for the program. They are also looking at ways to increase utilization of the program. Another training for additional DHH adults will be conducted this fall with an intent to add diversity to the cadre of DHH adults (e.g., Spanish-speaking, cochlear implant user, UHL, deafblind).</p> <p>If a DHH adult is interested in joining this program, they can check the COEHDl website to obtain a request form: https://www.coehdi.org/ascent-program/</p>		
Conclusion: n/a		
Action Items: n/a	Persons Responsible: n/a	Deadline: n/a

Agenda Item 10: Family-to-Family Support Data	Presenter: Heather Abraham	
Summary of Discussion: Six organizations in our state that offer parent support are developing a form to collect data on the utilization of their services. COEHDl plans to collect data two times each year and report it to HRSA in our annual report. This activity meets the definition of HRSA's QI (quality improvement) initiative.		
Conclusion: n/a		
Action Items: n/a	Persons Responsible: n/a	Deadline: n/a

Agenda Item 11: Closing	Presenter: All	
Summary of Discussion: The one-word checkout this month included these descriptors: anniversary; thank you to Heather for facilitating meetings; rejuvenated; tipping-point - things are going to start happening; organization; celebrate; efficient; wow! positive and inclusive; robust; silo-free; busy; connection - among agencies and with families.		
Conclusion: n/a		
Action Items: n/a	Persons Responsible: n/a	Deadline: n/a

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

The next meeting will be September 17, 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**. 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)).*