

**Colorado EHDI
Early Intervention Task Force**

Meeting Notes
November 16, 2021

Attendees	
Name	Role/Agency
Heather Abraham	Notetaker
Arlene Stredler Brown	Facilitator
Marti Bleidt	CO AG Bell
Kelly Fernandez-Kroyer	Data Outreach Coordinator and Parent Guide, CO Hands & Voices; & Parent of a child with UHL
Kirsten Gardzelewski	CO-Hear Coordinator;
Sarah Honigfeld	Bilingual/ASL/Early Intervention Consultant
Beth Little	Early Intervention Program Manager; Developmental Pathways CCB
Shauna Moden	CO Dept. of Education: DHH Consultant/Notetaker
Missy Oller	Adams County CCB: Early Intervention NICU Service Coordinator
Ashley Renslow	CSDB; Early Education Consultant
Jennifer Schryer	Educational Audiologist; Colorado River BOCES
Allison Sedey	CU-Boulder; Director of ODDACE Project; & CSDB; Assessment and Accountability Coordinator for B-3
Tiffany Sharpe	Developmental Disabilities Resource Center
Lynn Wismann	CO-Hear Coordinator (Arapahoe & Douglas Counties)

Agenda Overview

Facilitator: Arlene Stredler Brown

Notetaker: Shauna Moden

Accommodations: ASL Interpreter Provided, Live Captioning Enabled

Outcomes

- Increased understanding of EHDI work topics that impact EI
- Reprioritization of EI Task Force topics

Agenda

- Announcements
- Update on UHL work in Diagnostic/Identification and Entry to Early Intervention Task Force
- Review & Update Priorities

Agenda/Actions/Decisions

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action/Decision
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The task force will not meet in December; see you in January ● Will have a representative from a local CCB participating on The Alliance starting in 2022. 	n/a
Update on UHL work in Diagnostic/Identification and Entry to Early Intervention Task Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There was a discussion about the reasons infants and toddlers with a UHL are no longer categorically eligible for Part C services as they were in the past (previous to 2005). Notably, children with UHL remain categorically-eligible for Part C services in many other states. Currently, to qualify for Part C, a child with UHL needs to have at least a 33% delay in at least one developmental area and/or another qualifying condition. We have 66 children with UHL enrolled in Part C services who meet these criteria. ● This task force is trying to identify ways to reach families to enhance access to services. Currently, Colorado EHDI is creating an infographic about UHL which will list the resources available to families. The infographic will highlight the Regional CO-Hear Coordinator (with name & picture). This infographic will be distributed to clinical audiologists who can share it 	<p>Heather and Arlene to work on infographic for use by clinical audiologists</p> <p>Arlene and Heather to meet with CO-AAP and CAFP about messaging when a child is identified with a unilateral hearing loss</p>

with families of children with UHL. The intention is to motivate more families to utilize services (described below) that are currently underutilized.

- CO-Hear Coordinators offer a parent-report evaluation that is scored at CU-Boulder. The report is sent to the CO-Hear Coordinator who discusses the results with the family and determines next steps. This opportunity is currently under-utilized.
- Every 6 months, CO-Hear Coordinators attempt to connect with families to check on each child's development and to share resources about UHL that can be used by the family. Approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ of families cannot be reached. Of the remaining $\frac{2}{3}$ of families that are contacted by the CO-Hear Coordinators, some families may ask for information, but the majority do not access the services of the CO-Hear Coordinator nor the assessment materials. Allison Sedey described the assessment tool available to families of children with UHL and the issues with limited utilization.
- The group discussed the fact that children with UHL have not been categorically eligible for Part C services for many years. This has impacted families' access to supports. There is a list of conditions that make children categorically eligible for Part C services: [Established Eligible Conditions](#)
- Ashley reported that, as of the beginning of November, the breakdown of children with UHL accessing services (or not) is:
 - 66 children with a UHL on an IFSP
 - 35 children receiving consultation with a CO-Hear Coordinator
 - 91 children with a UHL who are not receiving services(To provide context, there are currently 192 children with *bilateral* hearing loss who are receiving services. There is documentation in the literature that there is an equal number of children with bilateral hearing loss and UHL.)

The Early Start Program, sponsored by Part C, will start in 2022. This will be a new opportunity for families of children with UHL to receive some limited services.

Kelly Doolittle, a CO-Hear Coordinator, has started doing the CU-Boulder evaluation with families of children with UHL via Zoom. The families are responsible for sending the forms to CU-Boulder for scoring. It is unclear if other CO-Hear Coordinators have sufficient time to replicate this. Not incidentally, there are language barriers impeding Kelly's process.

Next Meetings

Meetings of the Intervention Task Force are on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 2:00-3:00.

DATE	TIME	AGENDA ITEMS
January 18, 2022	2:00 - 3:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update on handout being developed for children with UHL• Identification of priority topics for this task force moving forward

*A note about accommodations: Beginning February 1, 2021, all Alliance meeting and task force meeting accommodations (e.g., American Sign Language interpreters, Cued Language Transliterations, and/or Spanish translators) must be requested at least 72 business hours or 3 business days in advance. **Requests may be made by contacting your task force facilitator.** We will also enable Zoom's Live Transcription feature for all meetings.*