

Colorado EHDl Alliance Meeting

Date: November 19, 2021

Meeting Called By: Colorado EHDl
Type of Meeting: Colorado EHDl Alliance
Facilitator: Arlene Stredler Brown
Notetaker: Emily Augsburger
Zoom Facilitator: Luke Adams

Alliance & Core Team Members Present: Marin Adkisson, Emily Augsburger, Allison Cunningham, Maureen Cunningham, Leanne Glenn, Pat Greenway, Brian Herrmann, Sarah Honigfeld, Sara Kennedy, Cliff Moers, Amy Novotny, Ashley Renslow, Sara Robinson and Christy Scott

Alliance & Core Team Absent Members: Marti Bleidt, Jack Damico, and Shauna Moden

EHDl Staff Participant: Arlene Stredler Brown

Task Force Representative: 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: October meeting minutes were adopted unanimously without changes.		
Action Items: n/a	Persons Responsible: n/a	Deadline: n/a

Agenda Item 2: Announcements		Presenters: All
Summary of Discussion:		

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1. There will not be an Alliance meeting in December. Happy holidays everyone!
2. Arlene and Heather are working on HRSA reporting documents that are due on December 16. We may reach out to Alliance members to collect metrics on specific issues. The reporting documents include activities for Year 2 and plans for Year 3. While we work on our diversity and equity plan and a continuous hearing screening plan (for children up to age three years), the due date has been extended, by HRSA, for one year.
3. CDPHE will be reporting 2020 state data to the CDC.
4. (Ashley Renslow) A professional development workshop was held for early interventionists; Heather Abraham was the presenter. The next professional development workshop, organized by CSDB and funded by COEHDI, will be on December 10 with Leala Holcomb about ASL language play.
5. (Sara Kennedy) Holiday parties are being hosted, collaboratively, by Hands & Voices, CSDB, AG Bell, Listen Foundation, and RMDs. They are scheduled on December 4 (in person in S. Denver) and on December 7 (virtual). There is another holiday party on December 11 that is being hosted in collaboration with the Marion Downs Center.
6. (Sarah Honigfeld) The federal reauthorization of the EHDI legislation, H.R. 5561, is being discussed in the Energy & Commerce Committee of the House of Representatives. Topics under discussion include funding and some restructuring. Fiscal changes being proposed may impact the way grants are funded to states.
7. Starting in January, we will have a member of a Community Centered Board (CCB) on the Alliance.

Conclusion: n/a

Action Items: n/a

Persons Responsible: n/a

Deadline: n/a

Agenda Item 3: Diagnostic/Identification and Entry to Early Intervention Task Force

Presenter: Arlene Stredler Brown

Summary of Discussion: This task force has been discussing children with unilateral hearing loss (UHL) who are currently underserved because the majority of families do not choose to utilize the services that are offered. Available services include connecting with the Regional Colorado Hearing (CO-Hear) Resource Coordinator and the progress monitoring tool that is available through CU-Boulder. The task force members are discussing ways to message the information about UHL that can be distributed by the diagnosing audiologist. This would include up-to-date information and contact information for the Regional CO-Hear Coordinator. Task force members are also discussing messaging to PCPs about UHL as they, too, discuss UHL with parents.

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Allison Cunningham reported that Children’s Hospital is working on new materials, including a visual “roadmap”, for families about UHL.		
Conclusion: A focus on messaging about UHL for parents will continue in task force meetings.		
Action Items: Coordinate COEHDI efforts with CHCO; also CO-AAP.	Persons Responsible: Arlene Stredler Brown to connect with Allison Cunningham and Ted Maynard	Deadline: ongoing

Agenda Item 4: Early Intervention and Transition to Part B Task Force		Presenter: Arlene Stredler Brown
<p>Summary of Discussion: For the past eight months, task force members have discussed the transition of children from Part C to Part B services. The task force members have a document with recommendations that will be shared with CDHS.</p> <p>Christy Scott reported that CDHS is in the final stages of creating an agreement between CDE and CDHS as Child Find services, for children birth to three years of age, move from one agency to another. There is a longer transition period specifically for children with sensory disabilities (e.g., DHH, BVI, DB).</p> <p>At the upcoming meeting in January, task force members will review priority topics.</p>		
Conclusion: n/a		
Action Items: Share recommendations for transition with Christy Scott and Wayla Murrow at CDHS	Persons Responsible: Heather Abraham	Deadline: ASAP

Agenda Item 5: Screening and Transition to Diagnostics/Identification Task Force	Presenter: Kristin Sommerfeldt
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Summary of Discussion: NCHAM has a new training curriculum for screeners. This curriculum is being recommended by the virtual site visit (VSV) team as they meet with birthing facilities.

Two VSVs have been conducted. Six more are planned before March 31, 2022. Our VSV team represents the 1-3-6 EHDI system and includes: a parent, the EHDI Director, a clinical audiologist, the Regional CO-Hear Coordinator, a PCP, and an ENT. By representing the full 1-3-6 system, we are addressing a long-standing recommendation to provide opportunities for regional collaborations throughout the EHDI system.

Going forward, the VSV team will look for diversity in the next six birthing facilities who receive VSVs. We are seeking facilities with geographic diversity; those that do, and do not, contract for screening services; size diversity; and the presence, or not, of an onsite clinical audiologist. In preparation for the next set of VSVs, the team is reviewing the NCHAM documents and tailoring them for our own use.

The VSV team aims to encourage adherence to best practices, according to JCIH documents, by birthing facilities. The role of COEHDI in this initiative is not to offer surveillance. Rather, we are gathering themes to support our educational efforts. We are fortunate to have University of Colorado-Boulder AuD students and LEND trainees supporting our efforts.

Notably, it is not clear as to which agency in the State is responsible for surveillance of NBHS activities. Leanne Glenn reported that the definition of surveillance adopted by CDPHE is to collect data and share it in HIPAA-compliant ways. Another definition of surveillance is to observe in order to gather evidence. COEHDI staff are clear that we have the responsibility for education. The definition of surveillance, and the agency responsibility for it, may be a topic that is better suited to the CIHAC.

CDPHE is supporting VSVs by announcing the opportunity for birthing facilities to participate in their *HIDS Monthly Bulletin*.

Conclusion: n/a

Action Items: n/a

Persons Responsible: n/a

Deadline: n/a

Agenda Item 6: Family Task Force

Presenter: Emily Augsburger

Summary of Discussion: Membership has dropped; the task force will change to quarterly meetings in an effort to increase participation. The quarterly meetings will focus on topics about the EHDI system, while also providing a forum for parents to ask questions and raise any concerns they have. Parents are being encouraged to join other task forces. Members of the Family Task force made a point of sharing that there are some barriers to parent participation in other task forces including time availability and unfamiliarity with statewide system issues.

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Conclusion: n/a		
Action Items: n/a	Persons Responsible: n/a	Deadline: n/a

Agenda Item 7: DHHDB Adult Task Force	Presenter: Sara Robinson	
<p>Summary of Discussion: This task force meets quarterly. At the November task force, the members discussed The Ascent Program and ways to promote utilization of it. Most requests for DHHDB adult visits are for events. Fewer requests are made for individual visits. To date, individual visits include families of children 6 months of age to 30 months of age. Most individual requests are for older children. A suggestion for consideration was to have a DHHDB adult join an early intervention provider on a home visit.</p> <p>COEHDl staff have been messaging The Ascent Program in novel ways in our newsletter. We are also considering ways to share The Ascent Program with the 20 CCBs statewide as all early interventionists are contracted through them.</p> <p>Members of this task force are encouraged to participate in other task forces. The members of this task force reported that timing does not always allow for this. And, DHHDB adults reported that they are not always comfortable with language that is used in the other task forces.</p>		
Conclusion: n/a		
Action Items: n/a	Persons Responsible: n/a	Deadline: n/a

Agenda Item 8: Open Forum	Presenter: All
<p>Summary of Discussion: Cliff suggested we address the terminology used in our state EHDl program in an effort to assure all stakeholders, especially parents, are using shared language. Currently, there are no plans in place to identify and define terminology. Arlene suggested that this might be the responsibility of each task force, starting with the Family Task Force as parents are the primary users of our systems. There are many materials that can be accessed including: (a) CIHAC Guidelines; (b) rules that accompany the 2018 Legislation; (c) HIDS database; (d) Alliance Handbook; and more.</p>	
Conclusion: n/a	

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Action Items: Consider the need to define terminology for our 1-3-6 system	Persons Responsible: TBD	Deadline: ongoing
Agenda Item 9: Closing		Presenter: All
Summary of Discussion: The one-word check-out included these descriptive words: progress, moving forward, consistency, spotlight (on issues), gratitude, ascending, engaging, complex, and gratefulness/thankfulness		
Conclusion: n/a		
Action Items: n/a	Persons Responsible: n/a	Deadline: n/a

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

The next meeting will be January 21, 2022

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)).*