

## Colorado EHDI Alliance Meeting

Date: January 21, 2022

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

**Alliance & Core Team Members:** Allison Cunningham, Maureen Cunningham, Gera Fayas, Leanne Glenn, Pat Greenway, Brian Herrmann, Sarah Honigfeld, Sara Kennedy, Cliff Moers, Shauna Moden, Amy Novotny, Ashley Renslow, and Sara Robinson

**Absent Members:** Marin Adkisson, Emily Augsburger, Marti Bleidt, Jack Damico, Christy Scott

**COEHDI Staff Participants:** Heather Abraham, Arlene Stredler Brown, and Katie Cue

**Task Force Representatives:** Kristin Sommerfeldt

**Accommodations:** ASL/ English Interpreters: Leslie Blankis and Terri Tupps

<b>Agenda Item 1:</b> November Meeting Minutes		<b>Presenter:</b> All
<b>Summary of Discussion:</b> November meeting minutes were unanimously approved without discussion.		
<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 2:</b> Announcements		<b>Presenter:</b> All
<b>Summary of Discussion:</b>		

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Sara Kennedy: Sara will be resigning her position as director of CO H&V effective February 28, 2022. A search for a new director is underway.

Ashley Renslow: After three years of collaborative work, a family ski weekend will be held in Steamboat Springs. It will take place at The Ranch on January 28th - 30th. Some adults from The Ascent Program will attend the event.

Ashley Renslow: A professional development activity, funded by COEHDI, will be held on Feb 25th. The presenter is Kimberly Sanzo who is the Founder of Language First.

Leanne Glenn: The OB Department at Sedgwick Hospital will be closing in March, 2022. Since 2021, three OB departments in different birthing facilities have closed.

Sarah Honigfeld: NCHAM is hosting a four-week workshop about the intersection of race and early intervention. The link to register is: <https://nurturely.org/intersection-of-racism-and-audism>

Ashley Reslow: Cheryl Austin is the new Director of Outreach at CSDB. Cheryl previously worked at the Texas School for the Blind/Visually Impaired. Cheryl assumed her position on January 3, 2022.

Heather Abraham: COEHDI's performance report for Year 2 has been submitted to HRSA. You can review the work we reported in the handout distributed before today's meeting. Going forward, HRSA has emphasized a focus on two new initiatives: (a) a plan for continuous hearing screening; and (b) a plan to address Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). The Screening Task Force has addressed the continuous hearing screening plan. Jami Fries (H&V), Heather Abraham, and Arlene are utilizing NCHAM guidance to develop the plan for EDI which is due March 2022. Our work on both of these initiatives will be shared. Interested stakeholders are invited to join the work we are doing. Please contact Heather or Arlene to express your interest.

**Conclusion:** n/a

**Action Items:** n/a

**Persons Responsible:** n/a

**Deadline:** n/a

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<b>Agenda Item 3:</b> NBHS Brochure	<b>Presenter:</b> Heather Abraham	
<p><b>Summary of Discussion:</b> A NBHS brochure was requested by midwives. COEHDI has been working on many iterations of this brochure for the past 10 months. A subcommittee of the Screening Task Force got us started. Members of all five task forces and Alliance members were given opportunities to provide input. Almost all suggestions received were incorporated. We created both a printed copy and an electronic version. The brochure will be available in English, Spanish, ASL, and plain text (for deafblind readers). Some copy edits are still being made. It will be distributed to midwives and possibly other stakeholders.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Leanne Glenn is listed as a resource to identify pediatric audiologists if parents or professionals were to contact her. Leanne and her supervisor, Rickey Tolliver, do not think their list of audiologists is complete; so they do not want to be listed to serve in this capacity. They recommend listing EHDI-PALS for this purpose.</li> <li>- Leanne Glenn suggested adding her email address, in addition to her phone number, as a contact when seeking a newborn hearing screening or rescreening.</li> <li>- Sara Kennedy: A suggestion was made to change the copy to read, "Illnesses and viruses, such as CMV, can cause..... "</li> <li>- Sara Kennedy: There is a preference to use "hearing difference" rather than "hearing issue".</li> <li>- Cliff Moers: Cliff appreciates the positive tone of the language in the brochure.</li> </ul> <p>All suggested changes will be considered.</p> <p>A vote was taken to proceed with distribution of the brochure after aforementioned changes are addressed. There were no dissenting votes.</p>		
<b>Conclusion:</b> Proceed with printing and distribution of the brochure after suggested edits are considered.		
<b>Action Items:</b> Arlene & Heather will discuss Leanne's suggestions with her.	<b>Persons Responsible:</b> EHDI Staff	<b>Deadline:</b> ASAP

<b>Agenda Item 4:</b> Family-to-Family (F2F) Support Data	<b>Presenter:</b> Heather Abraham
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<p><b>Summary of Discussion:</b> HRSA requires us to record the number of families involved in F2F support; HRSA's goal is a 20% increase per year in the number of families receiving F2F support by 6 months of age. We set out to collect this data as well as additional information. The report shared prior to this meeting reflects both parent-led and professionally-led activities (though HRSA is only asking us to report families involved in parent-led activities). Based on this data, we plan to focus activities on rural and culturally-diverse families.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarah Honigfeld: Sarah asked if we can identify the ages of children receiving indirect supports. According to Sara Kennedy, it is not possible to identify if families have children in the birth - 6 month or the birth - 36 month ranges.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Conclusion:</b> This data will be utilized as we create our EDI Plan.</p>		
<p><b>Action Items:</b> TBD</p>	<p><b>Persons Responsible:</b> Heather Abraham</p>	<p><b>Deadline:</b> Ongoing</p>

<p><b>Agenda Item 5: Subgrants</b></p>		<p><b>Presenter:</b> Arlene Stredler Brown</p>
<p><b>Summary of Discussion:</b> Subgrants awarded in Years 1 and 2 were reviewed. COEHDI staff asked for input regarding the current structure and any recommendations going forward. The following questions were posed to the group: (a) Are we satisfied with the current structure? (b) Do we want to maintain the three categories? (c) Do we want to consider increasing the amount of a subgrant? Pat Greenway, a member of the subcommittee, asked a fourth question: Do people want to apply for a subgrant that does not align with the three existing categories (e.g., family support, Spanish-speaking families, professional development)?</p> <p>Discussion: Sarah Honigfeld suggested adding a category that is more broadly related to diversity and inclusion. Cliff Moers asked about the amount allocated and whether it is sufficient.</p> <p>COEHDI is asking for another representative to serve on the subcommittee that reviews subgrants. If an Alliance member is interested in participating in this subcommittee, contact Arlene.</p>		
<p><b>Conclusion:</b> No major changes were proposed. If you are interested in serving on the Subgrant Subcommittee, please contact Arlene.</p>		
<p><b>Action Items:</b> n/a</p>	<p><b>Persons Responsible:</b> n/a</p>	<p><b>Deadline:</b> ongoing</p>

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<b>Agenda Item 6:</b> Screening Task Force		<b>Presenter:</b> Kristin Sommerfeldt	
<b>Summary of Discussion:</b> Virtual Site Visits (VSV): The VSV team has completed two visits and will have a second visit with the third site next week. Our plan is to complete 8 visits by the end of March, 2022. The VSV team is finishing the adaptation of the NCHAM materials for our state. We are coordinating with the cCMV Project. Several CO-Hear Coordinators suggested birthing facilities to visit. Contact Arlene if you have a birthing center that you want us to contact.  Continuous hearing screening to 36 months of age: HeadStart and Early HeadStart have a mandate to screen. Denver Public Schools, with Lisa Cannon's support, is working with clinics. Some have OAE equipment. COEHDl will submit a draft for continuous screening to HRSA. Existing initiatives will be incorporated. The CO Dept. of Education has a document about continuous screening. It can be viewed at: <a href="https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/guidelines_childhoodyouth_hearingscreening_2017">https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/guidelines_childhoodyouth_hearingscreening_2017</a> . Our plan will review ways in which upcoming changes to Child Find (which is moving to Part C for young children) may impact our efforts.			
<b>Conclusion:</b> n/a			
<b>Action Items:</b> n/a		<b>Persons Responsible:</b> Heather & Arlene	<b>Deadline:</b> ongoing

<b>Agenda Item 7:</b> Diagnostic/Identification & Entry to Early Intervention Task Force		<b>Presenter:</b> Heather Abraham	
<b>Summary of Discussion:</b> The focus for the past several meetings has been to create ways to encourage families of children with UHL/SSD to access existing supports and services. This includes: (a) audiologists monitoring children's hearing levels; (b) CO-Hear Coordinators receive referrals (effective April 2020) and offer supports; and (c) a developmental screening protocol is offered through CU-B. However, these services and supports are underutilized. Since children with UHL/SSD are not categorically eligible for Part C, our approach is to identify ways to increase utilization of existing supports. This is being done in two ways. First, Arlene wrote an article for			

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<p>the CO AAP newsletter. She will reach out to the CAFp to see if they will publish information about UHL/SSD in their newsletter. The other initiative is to create an infographic that can be distributed by the diagnosing audiologist to parents. This will emphasize the benefits of follow up and provide contact information.</p> <p>Discussion: Maureen Cunningham suggested the infographic be disseminated to PCPs. Sara Kennedy emphasized the inclusion of F2F support in the infographic.</p>		
<p><b>Conclusion:</b> n/a</p>		
<p><b>Action Items:</b> Ask CAFp to publish an article; distribute the infographic to PCPs; assure F2F support is mentioned in the infographic.</p>	<p><b>Persons Responsible:</b> Arlene</p>	<p><b>Deadline:</b> ASAP</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> Utilization of The FAMILY Assessment, an assessment of child development specifically designed for children who are DHH, was the topic at this month's task force. The FAMILY Assessment is being utilized by 70% - 80% of families. COEHDl is investigating ways to integrate this assessment into Part C's activities (e.g., IFSPs). There was robust interest in this action from all stakeholders at the task force meeting.</p> <p>Discussion: Cliff asked about funding for The FAMILY Assessment which is provided by CSDB, in part, and grant funds solicited by CU-Boulder. Cliff suggested, and others agreed, that it would be of interest to learn more about The FAMILY Assessment during an Alliance meeting. Leanne Glenn mentioned that there are some fields in HIDS that relate to The FAMILY Assessment. This information can be included in any future presentations on this topic.</p>		
<p><b>Conclusion:</b> n/a</p>		
<p><b>Action Items:</b> COEHDl to meet with Part C staff; future presentation of The FAMILY Assessment and related HIDS' fields at a future Alliance meeting.</p>	<p><b>Persons Responsible:</b> Heather and Arlene</p>	<p><b>Deadline:</b> ongoing</p>

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<b>Agenda Item 9: Closing</b>		<b>Presenter: All</b>
<b>Summary of Discussion:</b> One-word reflections on today's meeting include: more time (to reflect on today's conversations); updates; processing; courageous; detail oriented; overwhelmed but excited; lively & productive; open-minded; growth; perspectives; and in-depth.		
<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 February 18, 2022, 10:00 – 11:30AM**

*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)).*