

# Colorado EHDl Alliance Meeting

Date: February 18, 2022

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

**Alliance & Core Team Members:** Marti Bleidt, Sandy Bowen, Allison Cunningham, Gera Fayas, Leanne Glenn, Sarah Honigfeld, Sara Kennedy, Shauna Moden, Ashley Renslow, Sara Robinson, Christy Scott, and Kristin Sommerfeldt

**Absent Members:** Emily Augsburg, Maureen Cunningham, Pat Greenway, Brian Herrmann, Cliff Moers, and Amy Novotny

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

**Task Force Representatives:** Sara Robinson and Kristin Sommerfeldt

**Accommodations:** ASL/ English Interpreters: Leslie Blankis and Lynda Remmel and Zoom Live Captioning

<b>Agenda Item 1:</b> January Meeting Minutes		<b>Presenter:</b> All	
<b>Summary of Discussion:</b> January 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	
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### Summary of Discussion:

We have some new Alliance members: Jami Fries will represent CO Hands & Voices effective March 1; Kristin Sommerfeldt, incoming president for the CO Academy of Audiology, has taken Marin Adkisson's seat; and Sandy Bowen from the Teacher of the DHH Program at the University of Northern Colorado. Welcome all!

Colorado EHDI is using travel monies that will not be spent by supporting the registration of several people working with COEHDI: Hannah Glick, Kristin Sommerfeldt, Maureen Cunningham, Sonia Tapia-Loya and Sarah Honigfeld.

Leanne Glenn: CDPHE is purging older cases from HIDS. All cases that are inactive, with dates of birth before December 31, 2018, will be purged. "Inactive", in OIT lingo, is defined as a case that no one has accessed since HIDS was launched. In addition, if the only information entered in HIDS is "passed a screen", and there is no additional information, that case is deemed inactive. Purged cases will be archived; the data about a purged case can be accessed by contacting Leanne. Leanne was asked for some reasons a case may be inactive. She identified three examples: (a) child moved out of state; (b) child is deceased; and (c) the child graduated from early intervention.

Children's Hospital of Colorado (CHCO) shared a recently-developed "New-ID Roadmap" specific to children seen at their facilities. Some input was offered; Allison was asked to reach out to solicit this input if the creators of the document want to do that. Another publication from CHCO is a one-page handout, sponsored by "In Care of Kids" which describes the different types and degrees of hearing differences.

The Western Regional Early Intervention Conference (WREIC) has partnered with the Texas School for the Deaf for upcoming professional development opportunities. On March 3rd, there will be a presentation about parents as their children's "first teacher". You can learn more at:

[https://txtsbvi.escworks.net/catalog/session.aspx?session\\_id=40410](https://txtsbvi.escworks.net/catalog/session.aspx?session_id=40410)

**Conclusion:** n/a

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<b>Action Items:</b> n/a	<b>Persons Responsible:</b> n/a	<b>Deadline:</b> n/a
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<b>Agenda Item 3:</b> CDC Update		<b>Presenter:</b> Arlene Stredler Brown
<p><b>Summary of Discussion:</b> A summary of the 2020 data that were reported to the CDC was shared with Alliance members prior to today's meeting. Arlene shared some additional analyses that listed percentages along with the number counts. Hopefully, this makes the data more meaningful to those reviewing it.</p> <p>Leanne and Arlene both noted that the HIDS database was only launched on October 6, 2020. Therefore, all HIDS' users needed to enter data for more than 10 months in 2020 in arrears. This may have had an impact on the completeness of the data that was reported to the CDC.</p> <p>Please contact Arlene if you, or staff in your agencies, would like to review the data with her.</p>		
<b>Conclusion:</b> This seems to be a valuable way to share the CDC data.		
<b>Action Items:</b> This data will be presented to all COEHDI task forces. Contact Arlene if you would like to have her share the information with you and/or staff in your agency.	<b>Persons Responsible:</b> All	<b>Deadline:</b> n/a

<b>Agenda Item 4:</b> Part C Update		<b>Presenter:</b> Christy Scott
<p><b>Summary of Discussion:</b> Legislation passed during the previous legislative session moved the responsibility for evaluations of children referred to early intervention (aka; Child Find) from the CO Department of Education (CDE) to the new Department of Early Childhood. This change will take effect on May 1st, 2022. Administrative Units (AUs - also known as local school districts or BOCES) will stop taking referrals on May 1st. May and June will be a transitional time; all changes will take effect on July 1, 2022.</p>		

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State personnel are working with local programs to avoid delays when children need an evaluation to qualify for early intervention services. Note that children with an “established condition” (which includes children with bilateral hearing differences) *will not* experience any changes in starting early intervention. They will still be referred by the identifying audiologist to the Regional Colorado Hearing (CO-Hear) Resource Coordinator who then refers the child to Part C. The change *will impact* all children, including children with unilateral hearing loss, who do not have an “established condition”. The new referral process will be a “central referral system”. There will be one phone number to call; it is the same as the current number for Child Find. The State will employ “care navigators” who will manage the referral and arrange for the child’s evaluation. There is a job announcement for “evaluators” who will do the testing.

Early Intervention Colorado (Part C), in partnership with CDE, has been working with the Federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to define a new “extended Part C service”. Some families can choose to continue to receive early intervention services even after the child’s third birthday. The child must be eligible for both Part C and Part B services and have an IEP. Parents may choose to continue Part C services until the start of the school year for their local AU. Eligible children, at this time, must have their third birthday on **May 1, 2022** or later. The applicable date may change to an earlier date in future years. This initiative is supported with new funding from OSEP. The comment period for the OSEP extended service option ends on February 18, 2022. The link is: <https://coloradoofficeofearlychildhood.secure.force.com/eicolorado/?lang=en>

The new Department of Early Childhood (DoEC) was created by legislation. All programs within the current Office of Early Childhood, currently located in the Colorado Department of Human Services, will move to the new DoEC as of July 1, 2022. There are a lot of logistics to consider during this transition. The Executive Director position for the DoEC has been posted.

### Questions:

- Is the phone number available for Child Find?
  - Answer: It is the same number that is currently in place.
  - There are plans to ramp up public awareness materials.
- Does this new opportunity through OSEP apply to children with unilateral hearing loss (UHL)? Will they become categorically eligible (aka; have an established condition)?

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Answer: This does not apply to them. There are continuing efforts to look at other alternatives to provide services to children with UHL.</li> </ul>		
<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 5:</b> Early Intervention Task Force Update	<b>Presenter:</b> Heather Abraham	
<p><b>Summary of Discussion:</b> The task force members continued their discussion of The F.A.M.I.L.Y. Assessment and its role within early intervention. The F.A.M.I.L.Y. Assessment, in spite of its name, is an assessment of the child's development and it is specific to children who are DHH.</p> <p>Heather reviewed the IDEA and ECEA regulations for evaluation (for eligibility) and assessment (for the IFSP) at the task force meeting. Allison Sedey shared the protocols (e.g., development in five domains, language, speech, listening) included in The F.A.M.I.L.Y. Assessment.</p> <p>The conversation about coordinating The F.A.M.I.L.Y. Assessment with Part C assessments will continue for the next few months.</p>		
<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 6:</b> DHHDB Adult Task Force	<b>Presenter:</b> Sara Robinson	
<p><b>Summary of Discussion:</b> This task force meets quarterly and the most recent meeting was in February. The Ascent Program, and activities to advertise it to increase utilization, were discussed. There is some consideration about making a video.</p> <p>Utilization of The Ascent Program might be enhanced if the DHH adult were to go with the early intervention clinician on a home visit. A promotional video might include the outcomes parents can expect to experience.</p>		

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<p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Why is The Ascent Program generally underutilized?           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Answer: This tends to be a national trend. Individual family visits are utilized less frequently than group activities. More requests come for school-age children. Perhaps families are overwhelmed with information and focusing on their “primary” services (e.g., early intervention sessions). It may be intimidating for parents to meet a DHH adult who they don’t know.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Question: If a video is produced, will it include participation of DHH adults?           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A video is only in the brainstorming phase; there are many factors to consider. We do want to emphasize the diversity of the DHH adults who have been trained. A video will likely include information describing The Ascent Program, what a visit would look like, and describe the diversity among the adults who participate in the program.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<p><b>Action Items:</b> n/a</p>	<p><b>Persons Responsible:</b> Heather and the DHH Adult Task Force members</p>	<p><b>Deadline:</b> Ongoing</p>

<p><b>Agenda Item 9:</b> Closing</p>	<p><b>Presenter:</b> All</p>
<p><b>Summary of Discussion:</b> At the beginning of today’s meeting, this question was posed to all Alliance members: As you think about the agency/stakeholders you represent on the Alliance, what is one goal you have regarding the EHDI system? Answers included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reconcile data across agencies</li> <li>● Most parents don’t understand EHDI; can COEHDI proactively reach out to families during their entire journey?</li> <li>● Have an overall understanding of how each agency works; this can help families</li> <li>● Provide more information to Part C Service Coordinators so they can better advocate for and support families with appropriate resources.</li> <li>● Enhance early intervention in the pre-service training of students enrolled in teacher training programs to better prepare them to be early intervention clinicians (in Colorado and around the US). Also, build the capacity of early interventionists.</li> <li>● Build trust among stakeholders by assuming positive intent.</li> </ul>	

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- Match the diversity of our kids (as seen in the CDC data) with similar diversity in task force membership and programs (e.g., The Ascent Program).
- Use HIDS data to inform our activities with respect for the diversity of the population of the children we see.
- Match the interventions we provide with the needs of the child; especially with respect to the diversity of the children as evidence in the CDC data
- Apply information collected through COEHDI Alliance meetings to inform H&V Guides
- Increase utilization of The Ascent Program; H&V may be able to support this program
- Increase the number of DHHDB adults who are participating in COEHDI (e.g., Alliance, task forces) by creating partnerships with additional DHHDB community members.
- Collaborate and communicate with Alliance members, task forces members, and personnel in stakeholder agencies.

**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 March 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)).*