

Colorado EHDl Alliance Meeting

Date: May 20, 2022

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

Alliance & Core Team Members: Sandy Bowen, Jami Fries, Leanne Glenn, Brian Herrmann, Shauna Moden, Cliff Moers, Ashley Renslow, Sara Robinson, and Kristin Sommerfeldt

Absent Members: Emily Augsburger, Marti Bleidt, Allison Cunningham, Maureen Cunningham, Hannah Glick, Pat Greenway, Sarah Honigfeld, Beth Little, Amy Novotny, Christy Scott

COEHDl Staff Participants: Heather Abraham and Arlene Stredler Brown

Accommodations: ASL/ English Interpreters: Leslie Blankis and Kirk Neuroth; and Zoom Live Captioning

Agenda Item 1: February Meeting Minutes		Presenter: All	
Summary of Discussion: February meeting minutes were unanimously approved without discussion.			
Conclusion: n/a			
Action Items: n/a		Persons Responsible: n/a	
		Deadline: n/a	

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

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Ashley Renslow: CSDB is sponsoring *Summers in the Park*; an activity for children birth to five years of age. This activity will take place in four regions: North Denver, Central Denver, South Denver, and the Pikes Peak region.

Ashley Renslow: A .35 FTE position for a new CO-Hear Coordinator in Grand Junction has been posted.

Leanne Glenn: (a) Colorado Plains Medical Center has been renamed St. Elizabeth Hospital. It has been acquired by Centura; (b) Sedgwick County Hospital has closed their OB Department due to a lack of births. They are looking for a new home for their screening equipment. Leanne has contacted Arlene who has included Hannah Glick and Jami Fries in the discussion about distribution. We have many people, including midwives and one hospital, who have asked for equipment.

Jami Fries: E-mail addresses for CO Hands & Voices have been changed. New e-mail addresses follow this format: firstname@co-hv.org. If you want to reach Sara Kennedy, who is working for Hands & Voices national, use this e-mail address: Sara@handsandvoices.org

Kristin Sommerfeldt: The call for papers has been announced for the CO Academy of Audiology Fall convention. Applications are due in August, 2022. If you are interested in submitting a paper, you can find information at: coaudiology.org. The convention will be held in Beaver Creek on October 20-22, 2022.

Conclusion: n/a

Action Items: n/a

Persons Responsible: n/a

Deadline: n/a

Agenda Item 3: EHDI Updates

Presenter: Jami Fries, Arlene Stredler Brown, Heather Abraham

Summary of Discussion:

Distribution of Donated OAE Equipment (Jami Fries): CO Hands & Voices (H&V) has accepted a donation of six OAE units from CHCO. MSR West is uploading software to the recently-purchased harddrives. Thank you to the

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CCDHHDB for purchasing these harddrives. Midwives have been a priority for receiving this equipment; but one hospital has recently asked for support in replacing their broken equipment. H&V is issuing contracts along with the equipment which includes: (a) recipient takes the NCHAM NBS Training; (b) annual calibration of equipment is at the users' expense; (c) an annual meeting will be held with Hannah Glick (for technical assistance); and (d) purchase of disposables is the responsibility of the recipient of the equipment. In addition, each person receiving a unit will commit to returning the equipment, with updated calibration, if they were to suspend use or move out of state.

National EHDI Legislation (Arlene): The reauthorization of the federal EHDI legislation is in Congress. The legislation passed through the House of Representatives fairly quickly. The funding for HRSA was not increased in the House bill; however, funding was increased for the CDC. The Bill went to the Senate HELP Committee (Health, Education, Labor and Pensions). EHDI Coordinators, who have Senators in the HELP Committee, are working with their senators' offices to express interest in increased funding. Senator Hickenlooper is on the HELP Committee; and some CO stakeholders met with staffers in his office. The outcome of these meetings suggests that the EHDI legislation will pass as long as there is level funding. Senator Hickenlooper's staff suggested that a request for an increase in funding could jeopardize the passage of the bill.

Diversity and Inclusion Plan (Heather): A plan is required by HRSA. No additional funding is connected with this activity. To date, COEHDI has reviewed national and state resources with a plan to focus on the needs of Spanish-speaking families living in rural areas. COEHDI plans to identify what is working, and what is not working, for these families. We will amplify activities that are working and try to generalize these activities to all rural areas in the state. Collaboration with CO H&V has supported their hiring of a part-time Spanish-speaking Guide.

UHL Infographic (Heather): This is being created to emphasize to families the importance of follow up when their child is identified as having a hearing difference in one ear. We want to dispel the myth that, "One ear is good enough". The focus of the infographic is to emphasize the importance of follow up with the child's clinical audiologist and the Regional Colorado Hearing (CO-Hear) Resource Coordinator. The working draft of the infographic has been shared with the members of the Diagnostic/Identification Task Force. Next, it will be shared with the Family Task Force members then Alliance members. In addition to distributing the final product to families, Maureen Cunningham suggested distributing this to PCPs.

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CDPHE Strategic Planning (Arlene): A letter was sent by a coalition of agencies asking CDPHE to review their role in the entire EHDl system (in addition to their role in screening). As a result, CDPHE convened a group of staff, in two divisions, and contracted with an independent facilitator (Kim Boyd with Lolina Health). Erika Wright from CHCO has experience with bloodspot screening and is an additional member of this group. Arlene has also been invited to be a part of the core group that is designing the strategic planning process. A webinar launching this initiative took place on Friday, May 13th. A survey will be forthcoming and will be distributed to all identified stakeholders who number more than 150. Then, focus groups will be convened by discipline (e.g., screeners, audiologists, etc) to gather input. Alliance members have all received an invitation to participate.

Tele-Audiology Initiative (Arlene): For the last two years, Colorado EHDl stakeholders have been discussing implementation of tele-audiology. To date, CHCO has expressed an interest in being the hub site. The western slope has been identified as the first spoke site. CHCO is committed to supporting families on the western slope; however, it is challenging to find funding for the diagnostic ABR equipment. Additional virtual services could be added over time. COEHDl has a plan in place to conduct focus groups with stakeholders on the western slope. We are waiting to conduct these focus groups until we are closer to implementing the service. A confounding issue is the changing structure of educational audiologists secondary to new legislation giving Child Find responsibilities to Part C. The decision of whether or not an administrative unit (AU) will allow their educational audiologist to participate in a tele-audiology activity may reside with each AU.

Reaching out to Nurse Practitioners & Physician Assistants (Arlene): Colorado EHDl has a relationship with the organizations representing pediatricians, family practice physicians and ENTs. To date, we have not reached out to nurse practitioners or physician assistants. Arlene is pursuing this so that we can send COEHDl information to these PCPs too.

Conclusion: n/a

Action Items: continue as described

Persons Responsible: As described

Deadline: ongoing

Agenda Item 4: Subgrant Process

Presenter: Arlene & Heather

Summary of Discussion:

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Arlene has joined Pat Greenway and Marti Bleidt on this subcommittee for two years. Subgrants have been available in three priority areas with associated funding limits: (a) resources for Spanish-speaking families (\$2000); Family-to-Family support (\$3500); professional development (\$3500). At our January Alliance meeting, we discussed broadening the scope of this pot of money including: (a) changing the amount of a grant award; (b) eliminating the competitive process; (c) and/or adjusting activities to meet existing and emerging HRSA priorities. Today's discussion was about realigning this funding to address these expanded priorities: family-to-family support, diversity and inclusion, virtual site visits, continuous hearing screening, technical assistance to screeners, and COEHDl materials.

Cliff shared that there is another opportunity for grant funding from the CCDHHDB in an amount of up to \$10,000.

Sandy Bowen suggested that any funded project collect data to assure the outcomes benefit the children and their families and that the activities are sustainable.

Conclusion: Alliance members approved a change in the way the funds previously assigned to subgrants are distributed for one year. Funding will be focused on activities of CO H&V.

Action Items: COEHDl staff to work with CO H&V

Persons Responsible: Heather & Arlene

Deadline: ASAP

Agenda Item 5: Virtual Site Visits (VSVs)

Presenter: Arlene

Summary of Discussion:

Our VSV team (Jami Fries, Kristin Sommerfeldt, Arlene Stredler Brown, Kirsten Nelson, the Regional CO-Hear Coordinator, Maureen Cunningham) have met with eight hospitals to date. We have adapted the original NCHAM VSV documents. An interview is conducted with each participating hospital (with one exception in which the hospital staff completed the questionnaire independently). The themes from these eight VSVs are in a separate document.

Leanne commented that only one person reported that they document parent refusal to screen their child in HIDS. This is of concern as it is required in the law.

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The VSV team will review the themes with the appropriate task forces. Every question reflects best practices for screening and the answers from the hospitals will be compared to best practices. Based on VSVs to date, it seems some birthing facilities are not always meeting best practices.		
Conclusion: Continue VSVs		
Action Items: Discuss themes in Screening and Dx/Id Task Forces	Persons Responsible: Arlene	Deadline: ongoing

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

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