

**Colorado EHD
Screening Task Force**

Meeting Notes
September 13, 2022

Attendees	
Name	Role
Heather Abraham	Notetaker
Arlene Stredler Brown	Facilitator
Becky Awad	Audiologist; Children's Hospital of Colorado
Lisa Cannon	Educational Audiology Coordinator; Colorado Department of Education
Debra Draus	Educational Audiologist; Littleton Public Schools,
Brenda Elliott	Colorado Hands & Voices
Jami Fries	Executive Director; Colorado Hands & Voices
Sandra Gabbard	Audiologist; Marion Down's Center
Leanne Glenn	Newborn Hearing Screening Coordinator; CDPHE
Angela Harder	Audiology Assistant; Children's Hospital of Colorado - Colorado Springs
Brian Herrmann	ENT; Children's Hospital of Colorado
Stacy Stiell	Audiologist; University of Colorado Health (Oversight of Hearing Screening for UC Health Anschutz and Highlands Ranch

Agenda/Actions/Decisions

<p>Announcements</p>	<p>Hands & Voices Roadmaps (Jami Fries): The English version is now updated and ready for distribution. Hands & Voices is working on the Spanish translation. <i>Roadmaps</i> will be posted on the H&V website; there will be a downloadable version.</p> <p>Hands & Voices Resource Guide (Jami Fries): The English version of the Resource Guide is 95% complete; the Spanish version will follow shortly.</p> <p>Child Find & Educational Audiologists' Role: Lisa Cannon indicated there is variability in how the transition of Child Find activities to Part C is occurring around the state. Each county's process may be different. And, local control at the school district level adds to the variability. In general, the educational audiologists are not serving a role in Child Find activities at this time. There are still a lot of conversations happening at the state level. Lisa is awaiting guidance from the CO Dept. of Early Childhood (CDEC).</p> <p>Deb Draus expressed concern about the Child Find referral process in her school district. Her understanding is that all assessments in her district are being done virtually. While families have access to OAE equipment for a hearing screen, they need to travel to an evaluation office to secure that screening. She is seeing a potential gap with a seeming lack of referrals for hearing and vision screening.</p> <p>CDPHE Strategic Planning Process (Arlene): A survey was conducted and focus groups were held. There have been two subsequent meetings that included approximately 10 people from various agencies. There are lists of issues and "commitments to action" related to screening, diagnostics/identification and/or early intervention. The vast majority of the issues are related to the screening processes in our state.</p>	<p>Monitor the new Child Find hearing screening process and emerging issues</p>
<p>Prioritization of Screening Task Force Initiatives</p>	<p>Over the past several years, COEHDI has addressed activities that were prioritized by task force members approximately two years ago. Identification of new activities has been on pause during the CDPHE strategic planning process. COEDHI asked task force members for their input to help us to prioritize the next round of activities. There are four topics in play. They are ranked here (by vote of task force members):</p> <p>#1: Outreach to Physician Assistants (PAs) and Nurse Practitioners (NPs): To date, COEHDI has disseminated information in newsletters reaching PCPs (through the CO-AAP newsletter) and family practitioners (through the CAFP newsletter). There do not seem to be comparable systems for reaching</p>	

PAs and NPs. But, websites will be perused for contact information. It was noted that PAs and NPs have a lot of access to families. It remains important to search for a way to increase communication with these two communities.

#2: Scripts for Delivering NBH Screening Results to Parents: Some hospitals have adopted existing scripts (e.g., NCHAM, H&V), some use their own, some use the scripts written by a contracted screening agency (e.g., Pediatrix, Envision). We will investigate ways to offer similar scripts that can be used by all birthing facilities and midwives.

#3: Screener Training Checklists: COEHDI staff can pursue efforts to influence the quality of screener training around the state to make it more standardized.

#4: Parent Handouts (in addition to COEHDI NBHS Brochure) (No votes): NCHAM has developed materials for parents as part of their VSV curriculum. Do we want to use/create additional materials beyond the COEHDI NBHS brochure and the H&V *Roadmaps*?

Group Discussion:

Becky Awad indicated that the priorities of this task force might depend on the outcomes of the CDPHE strategic planning process. This is duly noted and next steps may await outcomes of the CDPHE strategic planning process.

Jami Fries indicated that H&V is hearing that the overall image of what it means to have and raise a DHH child is being perceived negatively by families. She asked if this task force could address the concept of happiness and the positive components of raising a DHH child. Perhaps this relates to any work COEHDI does on the aforementioned scripts. Jami recommended creating a list of terminology that could be used consistently.

Brenda Elliott stated that the terms “mild” and “moderate” can be perceived as “no big deal”. This would interfere with parents’ understanding of the significance of a child’s hearing difference.

Next Meeting

DATE	TIME	AGENDA ITEMS
October 11, 2022	11:00-12:00	Update on Child Find OAE screening processes

(tentative)		Update on the role of Educational Audiologists in screening and rescreening
-------------	--	---

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