

# Colorado EHDl Alliance Meeting

Date: January 20, 2023

**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, Stephanie Carson, Allison Cunningham, Maureen Cunningham, Jami Fries, Brian Herrmann, Bryan McDonald, Shauna Moden, Cliff Moers, Ashley Renslow, Sara Robinson, and Julie Schlager

**Absent Members:** Emily Augsburger, Leanne Glenn, Hannah Glick, Sarah Honigfeld, Beth Little, and Christy Scott

**COEHDl Staff Participants:** Heather Abraham and Arlene Stredler Brown

**Accommodations:** ASL/ English Interpreters: Lynda Rimmel and Doris Tag; and Zoom Live Captioning

<b>Agenda Item 1:</b> August Meeting Minutes		<b>Presenter:</b> All
<b>Summary of Discussion:</b> September 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>		
1. <b>Distribution of OAE Units:</b> a) Jami Fries reported on the distribution of 5 (out of 6) OAE units to midwives. These OAE units were donated by Children’s Hospital Colorado. Units are now placed: on the Western Slope,		

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the Eastern Plains, in the northern area of the state, and in two Denver Metro locations. Hands & Voices is ready to distribute another unit to a midwifery practice in the Mennonite Community in Salida. b) Sedgwick Community Hospital has closed their birthing department. Leanne Glenn connected the nurse manager there with Arlene; the hospital will be donating their OAE unit to H&V soon. Three more midwives are on the list awaiting OAE units. c) H&V will continue to look for more opportunities to receive donated OAE units. Midwives are required to complete some requirements (e.g., NCHAM training, meeting with Hannah Glick - COEHDI Audiology Consultant) before an OAE unit is distributed to them.

2. **Reauthorization of Federal EHDI Legislation:** Arlene summarized some aspects of the newly-adopted EHDI legislation which extends funding for EHDI for an additional five years. Recognition goes to our own Senator Hickenlooper who supported the reauthorization of the law. It appears that level funding is going to both HRSA and CDC. There is a requirement in the reauthorization for the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a study to assess program performance and efforts to ensure timely screening and access to early intervention, including a focus on underrepresented populations. The information about this legislation can be accessed at:  
<https://www.asha.org/news/2022/congress-sends-newborn-hearing-screening-bill-to-presidents-desk/>
3. **Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB):** Ashley Renslow shared the following: a) CSDB winter events are starting in February; b) The Western Regional Early Intervention Conference is being held the second week of June; and c) CSDB has approved the RFP to identify a vendor to conduct the search for the new superintendent.
4. **Rocky Mountain Deaf School (RMDS):** Stephanie Carson shared that: a) RMDS will hold a toddler program on Feb. 3rd at The Butterfly Pavilion; and b) there is an opening for a director's position at RMDS (check their website for more information).
5. **Hands & Voices:** Jami Fries shared that a virtual event for Spanish-speaking families will be held on February 25th.

**Conclusion:** n/a

**Action Items:** n/a

**Persons Responsible:** n/a

**Deadline:** n/a

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<b>Agenda Item 3:</b> Task Force Updates	<b>Presenter:</b> Heather Abraham & Arlene Stredler Brown	
<b>Screening Task Force:</b> This task force continues to meet monthly. They are currently reviewing scripts that are shared with families after a newborn hearing screening has been done. Task force members are reviewing existing scripts from several sources (e.g., NCHAM, H&V, Utah’s EHDI program). These will be adapted into one master script. The scripts will be translated to be linguistically and culturally accessible.		
<b>Diagnostic/Identification Task Force:</b> This task force recently met to discuss the EHDI-PALS platform; a database of clinical audiologists. EHDI-PALS is intended to help families locate an audiologist to conduct diagnostic evaluations near them. COEHDI materials reference EHDI-PALS. NCHAM, the sponsor of this platform, asks everyone on the list to update their information annually. This effort is being supported by Heather Abraham who also contacts individuals/agencies listed on EHDI-PALS to encourage them to update their information. We have learned that many people don’t know about EHDI-PALS; we are working on ways to increase awareness of this database.		
<b>Early Intervention Task Force:</b> The 2020 data reported by CDPHE to the CDC was shared. There was a dynamic discussion about the accuracy and completeness of the data since the number of children receiving intervention is under-represented. We have multiple databases in this state about children in early intervention; these databases are not integrated at this time. There has been some discussion about data sharing among agencies. (See Agenda Item 5 below)		
<b>DHHDB Adult Task Force:</b> All COEHDI activities were reviewed and input from the task force members was obtained. Input about the new videos for The Ascent Program (shorter and longer versions) were discussed. These videos are being created to encourage utilization of The Ascent Program.		
<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 4:</b> Virtual Site Visits (VSVs)	<b>Presenter:</b> Arlene Stredler Brown	

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A team approach is in place for VSVs. The team includes: Arlene Stredler Brown, Hannah Glick or Lauren Pontis (audiologists), Jami Fries, Kirsten Nelson (pediatrician), and the Regional CO-Hear Coordinator. The goals of VSVs are to fill a gap in the current COEHDI system by systematically analyzing hospital-based newborn hearing screening programs. NCHAM created the curriculum for VSVs and Colorado is one of six states participating in their pilot program. After more than a year in operation, VSVs are a robust way to obtain insights about hospital screening programs and identify initiatives COEHDI might undertake to refresh and enhance screening practices in our state.

To date, the team has conducted 16 VSVs. The VSV team meets remotely with representative(s) at a hospital and conducts a structured interview to learn about their NBHS policies and practices. After the site visit, feedback and resources are provided to the birthing facility. Please refer to the powerpoint presentation distributed with the meeting invitation for additional information about VSVs and current outcome data.

Looking ahead, the VSV team plans to conduct two site visits per month. The VSV team is streamlining the interview process for hospitals that contract with Pediatrix. Follow-up visits with each hospital will be performed as time and funding allows. Consideration is being given to developing a Quality Indicator (QI) Project in the future.

**Conclusion:** n/a

**Action Items:** Arlene plans to talk to a representative from NCHAM regarding outcome data from other states.

**Persons Responsible:** Arlene

**Deadline:** ongoing

**Agenda Item 5:** CDPHE Strategic Planning Process

**Facilitator:** Arlene Stredler Brown

The summary and recommendations from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) strategic planning process were distributed in the Alliance Meeting invitation. Notably, Rickey Tolliver from CDPHE clarified that these documents are in draft form while awaiting approval from the executive leadership at CDPHE.

Since the most recent NBHS legislation passed five years ago, it has been repeatedly acknowledged that there are gaps in the system. One recommendation from the strategic planning process endorses the development of

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<p>an agreement (type and structure TBD) among three agencies: CDPHE, CDHS and CDEC to increase data sharing capability. Cliff Moers and Arlene will participate in meetings regarding the development of any type of inter-agency agreement or MOU. It is encouraging to have higher levels of management in CDHS involved in these next steps. Work on this first recommendation - to develop some type of inter-agency data-sharing collaboration - is slated to begin in the first quarter of 2023.</p>		
<p><b>Conclusion:</b> n/a</p>		
<p><b>Action Items:</b> n/a</p>	<p><b>Persons Responsible:</b> n/a</p>	<p><b>Deadline:</b> n/a</p>

<p><b>Agenda Item 6:</b> Closing &amp; Reflection</p>	<p><b>Facilitator:</b> All</p>	
<p>At the end of the meeting, these reflective comments were made by Alliance members: informative; data analysis; destination (we are on a journey toward change); processing; progress (we've made baby steps forward with more to do); progress (heading in the right direction); taking it all in; rural (VSV data shows needs in rural areas); continuing (lots to happen); thank you (lots of work for VSVs with good progress); trending; appreciative of VSV data and quantitative analyses</p>		
<p><b>Conclusion:</b> n/a</p>		
<p><b>Action Items:</b> n/a</p>	<p><b>Persons Responsible:</b> n/a</p>	<p><b>Deadline:</b> n/a</p>

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

**The next meeting date is Friday, February 17th**

*Accommodations: 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)).*