

Colorado EHDl Alliance Meeting

Date: March 17, 2023

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

Alliance & Core Team Members: Maureen Cunningham, Jami Fries, Sarah Honigfeld, Shauna Moden, Cliff Moers, Ashley Renslow, Sara Robinson, Julie Schlager, and Christy Scott

Absent Members: Emily Augsburger, Marti Bleidt, Sandy Bowen, Stephanie Carson, Allison Cunningham, Leanne Glenn, Hannah Glick, Brian Herrmann, Beth Little, Bryan McDonald

COEHDl Staff Participants: Heather Abraham and Arlene Stredler Brown

Accommodations: ASL/ English Interpreters: Christine Pendley & Tammy Bennet; and Zoom Live Captioning

Agenda Item 1: January Meeting Minutes		Presenter: All	
Summary of Discussion: January 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	
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1. The National EHDl Conference took place earlier this month in Cincinnati. A Colorado Stakeholder meeting was held at the beginning of the conference. Some feedback from Alliance members who attended the conference include:
 - a. (Arlene) Colorado presented on the Virtual Site Visit (VSV) initiative. We also had two AuD students at CU-Boulder present a poster on VSVs.
 - b. (Arlene) There are several states where the HRSA/EHDl grant is in an agency other than the State Health Department. Arlene had an opportunity to share perspectives with the EHDl Coordinators in these states.
 - c. (Arlene) There was a strong focus on early intervention at the conference.
 - d. (Heather) Colorado presented the Ascent Program and the CO-Hear model (with CSDB and H&V)
 - e. (Shauna Moden) There are some inequities among families in some programs. Some families feel their decisions are judged by some professionals.
 - f. (Ashley) Ashley did a presentation on the relationship between CO-Hear Coordinators and Facilitators.
 - g. (Ashley) Ashley spoke with colleagues in other states who have similar issues as our state.
 - h. (Jami) There are more parents attending the conference and there are more DHH adults attending too. Jami was disappointed to hear stories that suggest "parents are overwhelmed with information". Jami made a point that we need to be certain to offer equitable and consolidated information while being wary about offering less information.
2. Ashley introduced Sarah Mullervy who is the new CO-Hear Coordinator in Grand Junction. Sarah is an audiologist who graduated from CU-Boulder. She has a younger brother who is profoundly deaf and implanted bilaterally. He did not receive EI services which has led her to become an advocate for EI services.
3. (Ashley) There are many April events that are sponsored by CSDB and an event in Durango in May. Contact Ashley for specifics.
4. (Ashley) Three additional states are going to participate in the upcoming early intervention conference.
5. (Ashley) The RFP process for selecting the new superintendent is on hold while the CSDB board identifies a different firm to bid on the process.

Conclusion: n/a

Action Items: n/a

Persons Responsible: n/a

Deadline: n/a

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Agenda Item 3: Screening Task Force Update		Presenter: Arlene Stredler Brown
<p>Screening Task Force: This task force is currently working to create scripts for hospital-based newborn hearing screeners to use. This activity was identified as a priority by task force members after reviewing the VSV reports from 17 hospitals. The VSV findings indicate that a variety of people conduct hearing screenings and the need for scripts for screeners to use when interacting with families supports the message they give to families. There are four scripts: a) introduction; b) when a child passes the NBHS; c) when a child does not pass the NBHS; and d) when a child does not pass the <i>outpatient</i> NBHS rescreening. The language in the scripts will be finalized at the task force's April meeting. Once that is done, task force members will discuss packaging and delivery of the scripts.</p> <p>When hospitals contract with a third party to conduct hearing screening (e.g., 6 hospitals contract with Envision and 12 hospitals contract with Pediatrix), the contracted company is responsible for training their screeners. Our scripts are aimed at the hospitals (~34) that do their own NBHS with in-house personnel.</p> <p>Ashley asked how we are going to encourage people to use this resource. We anticipate a second VSV with all hospitals in the future. At this time, we will review how practices may have changed and how each hospital is using the resources that were shared during the initial VSV.</p>		
Conclusion: n/a		
Action Items: n/a	Persons Responsible: n/a	Deadline: n/a

Agenda Item 4: CDPHE Strategic Plan Update		Presenter: Christy Scott
<p>CDPHE engaged a facilitator, Kim Boyd, to conduct the strategic plan. Gaps and next steps were identified. There are currently two activities that address gaps that were identified in the strategic plan.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>MOU among state agencies:</i> The three agencies that have primary responsibility for EHDl work (CDPHE, CDEC, CDHS) plan to meet to create an MOU or an inter-governmental agreement (if monies are exchanged). This agreement among the three agencies would identify their roles and opportunities to fill existing gaps. Each of the three agencies currently has different roles:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. CDHS holds the HRSA grant;		

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- b. CDEC oversees the state EI program; and
- c. CDPHE is responsible for data collection through HIDS..

The next step is to engage a facilitator to promote the development of an MOU or IGA. The same facilitator, Kim Boyd, will be engaged to do this work. Christy reported that she hopes to have an agreement among agencies in place before the next EHDl grant application is due.

Christy shared that she will engage CSDB in this activity.

2. *Data Integration:* Currently, several agencies hold data. CDPHE has a data system. EI Colorado has a robust data system for all children referred to and enrolled in EI. A discussion about interoperability between systems, with the goal to share data between agencies, is being discussed by CDPHE and CDEC personnel.

The current gap is reflected in the annual reports to the CDC. EI data is chronically under-reported. CDPHE and CDEC aim to identify the fields collected by each system. After that, they will discuss how to report complete and accurate data.

Conclusion: n/a

Action Items: n/a

Persons Responsible: n/a

Deadline: n/a

Agenda Item 5: Family-to-Family (F2F) Support Data

Facilitator: Heather Abraham

HRSA defines F2F support as activities that are provided by an agency that is *parent-led*. They refer to this as a Family-Based Organization (FBO). COEHDl collects data from Hands & Voices to meet this requirement.

In addition, we solicit data from all agencies providing F2F support; this includes four additional agencies that are professionally-led. The data we collect is used by COEHDl personnel to inform and prioritize our activities (e.g., our equity and diversity plan that we submitted to HRSA).

The report you received, prior to today's Alliance meeting, describes the activities of all five agencies including: a) Hands & Voices; b) The Listen Foundation; c) Colorado AG Bell; d) RMDS; and e) CSDB . In the report, activities are separated for children birth - 6 months (HRSA's goal) and children inclusive of our entire population (birth - 36 months).

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Julie Schlager asked for clarification for the term “F2F support”. Does this include social gatherings in addition to programmatic material? Heather responded that the activities are inclusive of all activities. Jami mentioned that there are questions about direct and indirect supports. Indirect supports include emails, FB, websites, newsletters, and etc.		
Conclusion: n/a		
Action Items: n/a	Persons Responsible: n/a	Deadline: n/a

Agenda Item 6: Ascent Program (offering DHH Adult-to-Family Support)	Facilitator: Heather Abraham
<p>A video has been produced by Erika O’Connor who is the daughter of one of the DHH adults in The Ascent Program. Thanks are extended to the two families who participated in the filming and to our DHH adults, Cathy Noble Hornsby and Sara Robinson, who were also filmed. Hearty thanks are extended to the CCDHHDB for funding this film.</p> <p>The group watched the video. Comments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Shauna Moden asked if the video was fully accessible in ASL. At this time, only captions are provided. ASL access can be considered. The film will be translated into Spanish.● Julie Schlager asked how to access the list of DHH adults who are in the Ascent Program. She is interested in the communication opportunities afforded by all of the DHH adults. Heather directed Julie to our website to review the list. Heather also noted that there is an application on the COEHDl website for DHH adults to apply to contract with The Ascent Program.● Currently, this program is only available to children birth to three years of age. It is fully funded by our HRSA grant.● Please feel free to share this resource with families.● The DHH adults are paid for their visits. This includes individual home visits and their attendance at community/regional events.	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults participate in a training before seeing families. We try to capture diversity among all of the DHH adults in terms of where they live, the hearing technologies they choose to use (or not use), the communication approaches they use, and etc. Sara Robinson recently met with two families. The extended family attended the visit. Interpreters were provided. Information about The Ascent Program was shared with all CO-Hear Coordinators and Facilitators approximately 6 weeks ago. Since that time, there has been an uptick in the number of requests for DHH adults to meet with individual families. 		
Conclusion: n/a		
Action Items: n/a	Persons Responsible: n/a	Deadline: n/a

Agenda Item 7: Closing & Reflection	Facilitator: All	
At the end of the meeting, these reflective comments were made by Alliance members: hopeful, thoughtful, motivated, collaborative, encouraged (about The Ascent Program), ascending, impressed (with the work being done), thankful (that so much is going on).		
Conclusion: n/a		
Action Items: n/a	Persons Responsible: n/a	Deadline: n/a

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

The next meeting date is Friday, April 21st

*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**. 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)).*