

# Colorado EHDl Alliance Meeting

Date: April 21, 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:** Marti Bleidt, Sandy Bowen, Allison Cunningham, Hannah Glick, Brian Herrmann, Shauna Moden, Ashley Renslow, Julie Schlager, and Christy Scott

**Absent Members:** Emily Augsburger, Stephanie Carson, Maureen Cunningham, Jami Fries, Leanne Glenn, Sarah Honigfeld, Beth Little, Bryan McDonald, Cliff Moers, and Sara Robinson

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

**Accommodations:** ASL/ English Interpreters: Stephanie Cryer & Kelly Greer; and Zoom Live Captioning

<b>Agenda Item 1:</b> March 2023 Meeting Minutes		<b>Presenter:</b> All	
<b>Summary of Discussion:</b> March 2023 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	
1. The May 2023 COEHDl Alliance meeting will be canceled.			

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2. (Ashley Renslow) Innivee Strategies has been identified as the agency that will be conducting the CSDB superintendent search.		
<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 3:</b> Screening Task Force Update		<b>Presenter:</b> Arlene Stredler Brown
<p>The Screening Task Force has been working on scripts for screeners to use with families at the time of the newborn hearing screening/rescreening. Content was gleaned from the scripts written by Hands &amp; Voices and from NCHAM.</p> <p>These final drafts were shared with Alliance members to solicit their input. Sandy Bowen noted that “Congratulations on your new baby.” is only in the script for a “pass”. She recommended it be added to all the scripts.</p>		
<b>Conclusion:</b> One change was noted in the language for the scripts.		
<b>Action Items:</b> The recommended update to the scripts will be made and shared with task force members.	<b>Persons Responsible:</b> Arlene	<b>Deadline:</b> Next task force meeting (June, 2023)

<b>Agenda Item 4:</b> Diagnostic/Identification Task Force Update		<b>Presenter:</b> Arlene Stredler Brown
<p>This task force has not identified any urgent issues and has met only periodically. Arlene sent out some potential topics to task force members in early April and these were shared with Alliance members for their input. These topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion about terminology: AAA Board Certified as a pediatric audiologist (PASC) versus “pediatric audiologist” designation based on one’s actual scope of work.</li> <li>• Diagnostic best practices: In some states, the state EHDI program has a role in monitoring the implementation of best practices. Is there a need for us to discuss this for our state?</li> </ul>		

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- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Plan: This plan is required by HRSA. Shall we discuss the activities for clinical audiologists in Colorado in regards to this plan?
- EHDl PALS Resources: Shall COEHDl staff review these resources and bring them to the task force members? Shall we consider distributing them to all clinical audiologists working with young children?
- The role of the CO-Hear Coordinators *during* the diagnostic/identification process (in addition to their established role during a child's transition from diagnostics/identification to early intervention).
- Tele-Audiology: Please know that this topic is still active. I am engaged with audiologists at CHCO to keep this initiative moving forward.

Hannah commented that she liked the priority addressing best practice. She sees this initiative as an opportunity for education and support. She also supported teleaudiology as a focus; it ties into best practice as well. (Sarah Mullervy, the CO-Hear Coordinator in Grand Junction and an audiologist herself, commented in the chat that she agreed with Hannah's comments.) Allison Cunningham commented that any discussion about "pediatric audiologists" and/or PASC (Pediatric Audiology Specialty Certification) include representation from clinical audiologists in large hospitals in the Denver Metro area.

**Conclusion:** n/a

**Action Items:** n/a

**Persons Responsible:** Arlene

**Deadline:** n/a

### **Agenda Item 5:** Early Intervention Task Force Update

**Facilitator:** Heather Abraham

For the last two months, task force members have been discussing the resources that are shared with families as they enter early intervention. This was a frequent topic at the National EHDl conference and has been an interest of Early Intervention Task Force members for a long time.

At task force meetings, we have been discussing:

- What information is shared with families
- How is information being shared?
- Where are families getting their information?
- How do families learn about services and supports?

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- Do we know how families perceive the information they receive? If we do, is this information available? If we don't have this information, how might we collect it?
- Assurance that resources are equitable and accessible, including an appropriate reading level.

These themes have emerged from small group discussions at task force meetings:

- Multiple agencies share information.
- What families receive reflects who they see first (e.g., CO-Hear Coordinator, Parent Guide, etc)
- There was a time when different agencies developed and used the same resources; over time each agency seems to have developed their own information.
- We would like information from families to learn about how they perceive the information they receive. We could get this information from families currently enrolled in early intervention services and/or families with children who are now in preschool.
- The resources may need to be adjusted based on where a family lives (e.g., rural v. urban).

The aim of the Early Intervention Task Force members is to have cohesive, accessible, non-duplicative resources. Any resources will include the perspectives/needs of families who have children who are DHH with additional disabilities.

Allison Cunningham commented that, regarding families who have children who are deaf/hard of hearing with additional disabilities, that "we never assume" what families want to know. It is important to ask each family what they want.

**Conclusion:** n/a

**Action Items:** Input from Alliance members will be brought to the task force

**Persons Responsible:** Heather

**Deadline:** n/a

### Agenda Item 6: 2021 CDC Data

**Facilitator:** Arlene Stredler Brown

An analysis of the HIDS data reported to the CDC for 2019, 2020, and 2021 was shared. It was noted that data for 2019 and 2020 were incomplete and its accuracy cannot be assured, as data for these two years was entered

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into HIDS in arrears. Hannah Glick commented that an analysis of data trends will be more accurate when comparing 2021 and 2022 data.

Julie Schlager asked for clarification about who enters data into HIDS. Arlene provided some history about the development of the HIDS database and shared that any person conducting hands-on activities (e.g., screeners, clinical audiologists, early interventionists) can become HIDS users by contacting Leanne Glenn at CDPHE.

**Conclusion:** n/a

**Action Items:** n/a

**Persons Responsible:** n/a

**Deadline:** n/a

### **Agenda Item 7: Continuous Hearing Screening Plan**

**Facilitator:** Heather Abraham

Our funder (HRSA) has made continuous hearing screening an extension of our original grant. All states must submit a plan for continuous hearing screening by the end of April 2023. COEHDI staff convened a subcommittee of the Screening Task Force to help us write this plan.

Heather shared an overview of the plan which includes:

- Information gathering at the local level and at the state level
- Recognizing the changes to: 1) the Child Find system for children birth - 36 months (effective July 1, 2022); and 2) the new CO Department of Early Childhood that is responsible for these Child Find activities.
- Review current systems, identify strengths, identify gaps, and make suggestions for professional development and/or training that may be needed.

All Alliance members have commenting access on the Continuous Hearing Screening document at [This Link](#). Please share any comments soon as the plan must be submitted by April 28th.

Ashley Renslow commented that the CO-Hear Coordinators have been asked questions by personnel in the CCBs about vision and hearing screenings. She suggested there appears to be a need for technical assistance with personnel in at least some evaluation entities. Heather commented that there is variability in practices and types of questions among different communities in the state.

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<p>Sandy Bowen asked if there is a timeline for the activities in the continuous hearing screening plan. Heather shared that HRSA has not yet shared timelines for implementation of the plan. She stated that our initial activities will likely focus on gathering information.</p> <p>Hannah Glick commented on the use of a checklist in place of an audiologic screening procedure (such as OAEs) by evaluation entities. She explained that the “gold standard” for screening hearing relies on an audiologic procedure. While a checklist may gather some interesting information, you may have a child with no risk factors for a hearing difference even though a child may, indeed, have a mild or unilateral hearing difference. Christy Scott agrees that a hearing screening needs to be an audiologic procedure and OAEs have been distributed. Training in use of OAEs is being offered to all evaluation entities. If a checklist is used, there is still an expectation for an OAE screening; this could occur during the IFSP process. Because many evaluations are being done virtually, which includes use of a checklist, Child Find is setting up opportunities for OAE screening to be done in local communities. Since this new Child Find program started only nine months ago (July 1, 2022), there are many issues that are surfacing which are being addressed. Hannah reiterated that a checklist should not be considered a screening. It does not meet best practices. It only identifies “red flags”. It is not a replacement for a hearing screening.</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 7:</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: shared vision, collaboration, informed, informative, progress (collecting data), great to have data, frazzled (just returned from out of state), making progress, progress.</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.

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### The next meeting date is Friday, June 16th

*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)).*