**Colorado EHDI**

**Early Intervention Task Force**

**Meeting Notes**

April 18, 2023

| **Attendees** |
| --- |
| **Name** | **Role/Agency** |
| Heather Abraham | COEHDI, Facilitator |
| Arlene Stredler Brown | COEHDI, Notetaker |
| Marti Bleidt | AG Bell Colorado; Teacher of DHH; parent of 2 adult deaf daughters |
| Kelly Doolittle | CO-Hear Coordinator; Eastern Colorado Counties |
| Kelly Fernandez-Kroyer | CO Hands & Voices: Data Outreach Coordinator and Parent Guide Coordinator; Parent of a nine-year-old child with UHL |
| Jami Fries | CO Hands & Voices: Director |
| Moniqua Johl | CDEC/EI Colorado: Program Administrator for Part C |
| Kirsten Gardzelewski | CO-Hear Coordinator |
| Ashley Reslow | CSDB: Early Education Coordinator |
| Jennifer Schryer | Educational Audiologist: Western Slope and Early Intervention Facilitator |
| Allison Sedey | CU-SLHS; Assessment Coordinator for CSDB; Director of ODDAC |

| **Agenda/Actions/Decisions** |
| --- |
| **Agenda Items** | **Discussion** | **Action/Decision** |
| **Announcements** | (Allison Sedey) CU Boulder has an open position for a full-time clinical supervisor in audiology.(Jami Fries) New parent guide has been hired. She is hard of hearing herself.  |  |
| **Discussion about Information shared with families** | Last month, we discussed the resources that are shared with families. It has been suggested by many people, and in different forums, that now is an appropriate time to establish a forum to discuss resources. The two questions posed during the last meeting are: 1. How information is being shared. Where families are getting information. Where families learn about supports and resources.
2. How do families perceive the resources they receive? If we don’t know, how might we solicit the family perspective?

The themes that emerged in small group discussions about these two questions include: * We have multiple agencies sharing different information with families. There used to be a more cohesive approach among agencies.
* The information families receive varies based on who they see and who they see first.
* People seem positive about having this opportunity to discuss resources and a way to create a more cohesive approach to the information and its dissemination.
* There was consensus about soliciting families’ perspectives on the resources shared. This could be done in several ways (e.g., surveys, forums, focus groups, asking parents of preschoolers, etc)

Today, a third question was discussed in small groups. It is related to readability of resources, accessibility to and equitability (i.e., geographic, language, all populations) of these resources. As groups shared their conversations, these issues were noted: * Group 1:
	+ Equitability by population: 1) families with children with a unilateral hearing difference; 2) children with deaf parents; 3) families that speak spoken languages other than English; 4) the constellations of different families (e.g., multi-generational, stay-at-home dads, grandparents, separated parents, etc.); 5) rural versus urban families; and 6) families without access to the internet.
	+ Readability is able to be controlled by grade level, but acronyms complicate readability
	+ Translation to other languages is valuable. There are H&V Guides in other states that could help our efforts. And, LENA materials address this too.
	+ Can we have a shared Google doc to document resources that are shared with families?
* Group 2 (additional topics to what was shared by Group 1):
	+ Use of readability programs to check on the reading level of any materials.
	+ Might a Padlet for Parents be a way to share resources electronically?
	+ Since an EI Facilitator is in the home each week, they are a good person to continually share resources and to individualize the pace at which resources are shared.

 A conversation about next steps ensued. Might we get representation from the agencies that share information and develop a subcommittee to review resources and make recommendations to the task force? Heather will reach out to representatives of each organization to form a subcommittee. Jami encouraged us to include a representative who is culturally deaf. Heather asked each person for a one-word checkout which included: intrigued, what’s next? hopeful, good, actionable, excited (about collaboration), focused, collaboration, and transparency.  |  |

| **Next Meeting****Meetings of the Intervention Task Force are on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 2:00-3:00.**  |
| --- |
| **DATE** | **TIME** | **AGENDA ITEMS** |
| May 16, 2023 | 2:00-3:00 PM | * TBD
 |

*A note about accommodations: Beginning February 1, 2021, all Alliance meeting and task force meeting accommodations (e.g., American Sign Language interpreters, Cued Language Transliterators, and/or Spanish translators) must be requested at least 72 business hours or 3 business days in advance.* ***Requests may be made by contacting your task force facilitator****. We will also enable Zoom's Live Transcription feature for all meetings.*