

Colorado EHDI Alliance Meeting

Date: September 15, 2023

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

Attending Members: Sandy Bowen, Jami Fries, Leanne Glenn, Brian Herrmann, Shauna Moden, Cliff Moers, Ashley Renslow, Sara Robinson, and Christy Scott

Absent Members: Emily Augsberger, Marti Bleidt, Stephanie Carson, Allison Cunningham, Maureen Cunningham, Hannah Glick, Beth Little, Bryan McDonald, and Louanne Saraga-Walters

Members Resigned: Sarah Honigfeld (moved out of state)

COEHDI Staff Participants: Heather Abraham and Arlene Stredler Brown

Accommodations: ASL/ English Interpreters: Stephanie Cryer & Leslie Blankis; and Zoom Live Captioning

Agenda Item 1: June 2023 Meeting Minutes		Presenter: All	
Summary of Discussion: June 2023 meeting minutes were unanimously approved without discussion.			
Conclusion: n/a			
Action Items: n/a		Persons Responsible: n/a	
		Deadline: n/a	

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Agenda Item 2: Announcements		Presenter: All
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Ashley Renslow for CSDB:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The last park event sponsored by CSDB is being held in Colorado Springs in two weeks.○ On October 14, CSDB is sponsoring a community event at Sunflower Farm in Longmont.○ A workshop for early intervention facilitators is scheduled for November 4th. Early interventionists from Wyoming will also participate.○ CSDB is celebrating its 150th year. There are many activities; they can be found on the CSDB website and on social media. Your participation is welcomed.○ Cheryl Austin, the Outreach Director at CSDB, is leaving her position and taking a different position within CSDB. Tara Spangler, the interim superintendent, is reviewing the job description for Outreach Director before posting the job opening.○ The position for superintendent at CSDB will be posted at the beginning of October and will remain open for approximately six weeks. A survey soliciting stakeholder input is available at this link: https://csdb.colorado.gov/about-csdb/superintendent-search● Jami Fries for CO H&V:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The Fall Gala is next weekend. Sara Kennedy will be honored for the multiple roles she has held in both Colorado and at H&V HQ.○ A “Dad’s Day Out” will be offered in the Spring. Jami solicited input from any dads who may want to help coordinate this event.● Heather Abraham: Louanne Saraga-Walters is the new executive director at The Listen Foundation.		
Conclusion: n/a		
Action Items: n/a	Persons Responsible: n/a	Deadline: n/a

Agenda Item 3: COEHDI Funding Opportunities

Presenter: Arlene Sredler Brown

There are three grant opportunities that are in play at this time. One has been awarded. Two others are being written this month and are due to HRSA by November 6th. Details about each of these grant opportunities are described here.

1. Supplemental Grant (Awarded: September 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024): This grant gives states an opportunity to identify, and improve, child language outcomes. It seems that this grant is a precursor for an up-and-coming priority, for our funder, to investigate child language outcomes. In Colorado, we are well positioned to address child language outcomes because we have had a system in place to collect child language data for many years. Because this grant was intended to look at deficits in a state's system, we proposed these two activities: 1) investigate how child language outcomes may be impacted by health disparities (e.g., families living in rural areas, non-English speaking families, late identification as DHH, etc); and 2) increase the number of families who participate in developmental screening activities for their children with UHL (aka; unilateral hearing differences).
2. Supplemental Grant (Applying: April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025): There is yet another supplemental grant opportunity for the same purpose - looking at child language outcomes. The funder's request is for an innovative project. We solicited input from Alliance members at today's meeting toward this goal. These excellent suggestions were made and will be reflected in our application.
 - a. Ashley Renslow: Align The results of the FAMILY Assessment (the DHH-specific assessment that is supported by CSDB and CU-Boulder) with assessments that are required by Part C. Ashley suggested we discuss, perhaps in multiple focus groups (e.g., facilitators, families, CO-Hear Coordinators, Part C/LEIPs), ways to align the timelines for these assessments.
 - b. Ashley Renslow: Many Early Intervention Facilitators are retiring; many new Facilitators are being contracted by Local Early Intervention Programs (LEIPs) to deliver services. These new Facilitators will benefit from instruction on the use of assessment and the application of assessment results to treatment.

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- c. Sandy Bowen: It seems that most families are currently enrolled in weekly one-hour early intervention services. Sandy suggested individualizing the number of sessions and the length of intervention sessions based on families' and children's needs. We could start to look at just how much intervention time is needed to meet goals. (Christy Scott reported that Part C is having conversations about the amount of time for early intervention services for each family.)
 - d. Sara Robinson: Sara uses a tool to evaluate early vocal development called the Vocal Development Landmarks Interview. This was developed by Sophie Ambrose and Mary Pat Moeller at Boys Town National Research Hospital. This protocol has an app to help early interventionists and parents identify a baby's vocalizations at any point in time. The URL for this tool is:
<https://www.boystownhospital.org/news/vocal-development-landmarks-interview>
 - e. Jami Fries: Jami suggested surveying families to obtain their perspectives about the supports they receive and what works best for them.
3. Next grant round (April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2029): This will be a five year grant. The first year is a "planning year". The second through fifth years are geared toward implementation. The five-year grant focuses on these components:
- a. 1-3-6 goals: The data that CDPHE submitted to the CDC for 2021 serves as our base rate.
 - b. Interagency Collaboration: This is a requirement of the grant and places special emphasis on collaboration with Part C and F2F support organization(s).
 - c. Family-to-Family Support: Twenty percent of the grant must go to a Family Based Organization (FBO). In Colorado, Hands & Voices is our only FBO. H&V will receive \$47,000/year. Some of the grant activities that could fit into this funding allocation are: 1) a focus on child language outcomes at the screening, identification, and early intervention stages; and 2) Virtual Site Visits. Heather and Arlene are meeting with Jami to identify activities.
 - d. Child Language Outcomes: In addition to the Supplemental Grant, this topic is integrated into the main grant.

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<p>EHDl staff are meeting with key stakeholders including CU-Boulder, clinical audiologists, CDPHE, Part C, H&V, and CSDB. Our stakeholders are informing both grant applications. Heather & Arlene meet regularly with Cliff Moers and Katie Cue (who wrote the last grant).</p> <p>The first iteration of this grant needs to be reviewed by CDHS managers; the due date for this review is October 6th. Heather and Arlene will share this first iteration of the grant with our stakeholders, named above, by then. We will continue to edit the submission until November 6th when it will be submitted to HRSA.</p> <p>COEHDl staff will solicit a letter of support and/or collaboration from CDPHE. We may solicit one letter from all other Alliance members in order to reduce the number of pages in our application. Shauna Moden noted (in the chat) that CDE requires at least 6 weeks to review letters of support for approval. However, she thinks she can sign a letter as a member of the Alliance without the need for prior approval.</p>		
<p>Conclusion: n/a</p>		
<p>Action Items: Discuss this application at the October Alliance meeting</p>	<p>Persons Responsible: Heather and Arlene</p>	<p>Deadline: before October Alliance meeting</p>

<p>Agenda Item 4: Alliance Feedback about EHDl Structure - Past and Future</p>	<p>Presenter: Heather Abraham</p>
<p>COEHDl established a structure for system oversight in 2020; it has been slightly modified over the past 3 ½ years. In preparation for the next grant application, COEHDl convened a focus group of stakeholders from the Alliance and task forces to review the structure. The themes from the focus group were shared today. Alliance members were asked for their input. These are the topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose of <i>task forces</i>: We started the grant with six task forces (e.g., COVID, screening, diagnosis/identification, early intervention, DHH, family). Focus group members identified these activities of the task forces: 1) provide input to COEHDl staff and Alliance members; 2) identify challenges that exist in 	

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our system; 3) support COEHDI activities; 4) educate stakeholders; 5) share diverse views; 6) review materials; and 7) provide input about the system.

Alliance members acknowledged that these roles and responsibilities accurately portray the work of the task forces.

Heather commented that attendance for task force meetings is generally waning (with the exception of the Screening Task Force). Because of this, COEHDI staff have adjusted the frequency of task force meetings accordingly. We do remain committed to creating opportunities for stakeholder input to maintain participation and trust in the system and any changes that are proposed. At this time, we are considering restructuring meetings so that they are project-based.

- Purpose of the *Alliance*: The focus group attendees defined the Alliance as: 1) an advisory; 2) a group that listens to issues; 3) a group that offers suggestions for system enhancement; 4) a group that takes information from the task forces to make informed decisions; 5) a group that provides feedback to task force members; 6) a group that offers oversight of the COEHDI system; and 7) a group that makes decisions through consensus.

Ashley commented on today's discussion about the supplemental grant proposal; she acknowledges this as a way to capitalize on the expertise of Alliance members.

COEHDI staff anticipate membership on the Alliance to be adapted to meet the goals of the new HRSA grant. For instance, additional members whose work focuses on child language outcomes will be invited.

- Roles and responsibilities of *COEHDI leadership* (e.g., Cliff Moers, Arlene Stredler Brown, Heather Abraham, and Katie Cue): COEHDI leadership: 1) identify system-level needs; 2) identify challenges in the system; 3) ask task force members to verify needs; and 4) meet, occasionally, with providers and individual families on request.

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- COEHDI *website*: Updates will be made to our current website to be in compliance with Section 508 and to adhere to HRSA's requirements. We also plan to enhance the appearance of the website.
- COEHDI *Newsletter*: At this point, we plan to continue publishing six issues each year.

Action Items: n/a	Persons Responsible: n/a	Deadline: n/a
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Agenda Item 5: Screening Task Force Update	Facilitator: Arlene Stredler Brown
<p>This task force is currently working on two projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NBHS Brochure for NICU Babies: There was an expressed need to modify the brochure we created two years ago to be more appropriate for families of babies who experience a NICU stay. The task force members are editing the copy for this brochure. Once editing is done, the brochure will be sent for a review of the reading level. We anticipate printing this brochure and distributing it to all hospitals with NICUs. (There is a surprising number of NICUs with various levels of care in the state.) 2. NBHS Scripts: Task force members are writing scripts for screeners that include language about cCMV. Notably, we have three companies that hospitals may contract with for NBHS services. These contractors have their own scripts and will not likely use ours. When we finish writing the scripts, we intend to package them and distribute them to hospitals who run their own NBHS programs. 	
Conclusion: n/a	
Action Items: n/a	Persons Responsible: n/a
Deadline: ASAP	

Agenda Item 6: Early Intervention Task Force	Facilitator: Heather Abraham
<p>This task force has not met. Rather, a subcommittee (CSDB, H&V, CHCO, Listen Foundation, and Part C) has convened to work on resources that are distributed to families. Jami expressed the willingness of all these agencies/programs to collaborate to design one product that can be adapted periodically. The group is</p>	

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conceptualizing separate sections for UHL and children who are DHH with additional disabilities. Ashley is interested in having an initial packet that will have additional information that can be added as needed by each family. The subcommittee members are looking at novel ways to share resources (e.g., Google Drive). Early Intervention Facilitators and CO-Hear Coordinators are offering input into this project. Audiological information will be solicited from audiologists.		
Conclusion: n/a		
Action Items: n/a	Persons Responsible: n/a	Deadline: n/a

Agenda Item 7: Family & DHHDB Adult Task Forces	Facilitator: Heather Abraham	
These task forces have been meeting quarterly to provide input about the EHDI system. Even with these periodic meetings, attendance is minimal. Heather is working with Jami Fries to review the structure of the Family Task Force going forward.		
Conclusion: n/a		
Action Items: n/a	Persons Responsible: n/a	Deadline: n/a

Agenda Item 8: Closing	Facilitator: HA	
A one-word checkout included these descriptors of today's meeting: refreshing; positive outlook (for the future); anticipation; filling gaps (that CDPHE cannot do); and collaboration.		
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.

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The next meeting date is Friday, October 20th

*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)].*