

Colorado EHDI Alliance Meeting

Date: October 20, 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: Maureen Cunningham, Jami Fries, Leanne Glenn, Shauna Moden, Cliff Moers, Ashley Renslow, Louanne Saraga-Walters

Absent Members: Emily Augsberger, Marti Bleidt, Sandy Bowen, Stephanie Carson, Allison Cunningham, Hannah Glick, Brian Herrmann, Beth Little, Bryan McDonald, Sara Robinson, Christy Scott

COEHDI Staff Participants: Heather Abraham and Arlene Stredler Brown

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

Agenda Item 1: September 2023 Meeting Minutes	Presenter: All	
Summary of Discussion: September 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:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The Superintendent search at CSDB is underway. Applications are being accepted. You can check the CSDB website for updates.○ A Community Literacy Event will be held in the Pikes Peak Region on Saturday, November 11. Registration is now open.○ There will be a professional development activity for early interventionists on November 4. The topic is coaching.● Jami Fries:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Victoria is a new board member of COH&V.○ A successful gala was held recently.○ An activity called “Dad’s Day Out” is being planned and will take place in Centennial.● Leanne Glenn: The CDC data report for CY 2022 is due to the CDC on December 15, 2023. Please nudge people to update data in HIDS.			
Conclusion: n/a			
Action Items: n/a		Persons Responsible: n/a	
		Deadline: n/a	

Agenda Item 3: HRSA Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)		Presenter: Heather Abraham	
<p>This will be a 5-year grant; Year 1 is for planning and Years 2-5 are for implementation. The actual grant reflects the requirements of the NOFO that were outlined by HRSA. When you review the grant application, you may</p>			

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notice some terminology that comes directly from the NOFO. We are obligated by HRSA to use 2021 data reported to the CDC as our baseline measure.

We are also writing a supplemental grant which HRSA refers to as an “innovative project” that is focused on child language outcomes and interoperability of databases. This supplemental award is competitive; 20 grants will be awarded nationally.

The grant is once again being submitted by CDEC and The Commission within CDHS. Cliff Moers and Christy Scott will continue as co-PIs. In their roles as co-PIs, they will make the final edits to the grant proposal along with managers at CDHS.

Current staff positions for Heather Abraham and Arlene Stredler Brown will be terminated on March 31, 2024 per State rules. Since HRSA requires us to identify who “may be” working on the grant, both of these names have been submitted along with biosketches. Alliance members were informed that State rules require both positions to be posted; hiring must be competitive.

Some of the comments posted on the grant draft that was distributed to Alliance members before today’s meeting were discussed today.

- Task forces and/or project-specific work groups: Based on waning attendance at task force meetings, a shift to project-specific work groups is being proposed. These projects will align with HRSA’s grant requirements including: 1-3-6; child language outcomes, and data interoperability. We have proposed to offer quarterly networking meetings as a way for stakeholders to gather.
- it was noted that there is a lot of detail in the grant proposal. An opportunity to comment on the grant application was appreciated.
- While the action steps look good, two Alliance members requested more statements about collaboration and ways to improve upon current collaborative efforts.

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- One Alliance member would like to review the protocols included in the FAMILY Assessment (this is in the grant narrative) and utilization of the assessment (which is also in the grant narrative and in the supplemental grant application)
- One Alliance member sent comments to the co-PIs in addition to the comments made on the grant proposal.
- One Alliance member appreciated the focus on families in addition to the roles and responsibilities of organizations.
- A comment in the grant about insurance payments was a reference to MCHB's Blueprint for Change. Practically speaking, one Alliance member shared that many families who are eligible for insurance don't know they are eligible. A suggestion was made for CO-Hear Coordinators to learn more about the eligibility criteria for insurance so they can help families with this. The Colorado Indigent Care Program was mentioned; this is a program in addition to Medicaid. Colorado Family Voices also supports families to obtain insurance.
- During the last 3.5 years, seven OB Departments have permanently closed. One was in Denver; one in Northern Colorado; one in Eastern Colorado; and a few in the mountains. An OB Department in the Southern region closed temporarily. When an OB Department closes, families need to drive farther to birth their baby and to obtain a hearing screen/rescreen.
- COH&V is assigned responsibility to manage the Ascent Program in the upcoming grant. Anticipate some changes based on H&V HQ guidelines. Heather suggested a discussion of these changes can occur in Year 1 - our planning year. Ashley Renslow asked if CSDB will still be involved in The Ascent Program. This, too, will be discussed in Year 1.

Probing questions posed to Alliance members:

1. What professional development (PD) activities addressing 1-3-6 activities do you envision?
 - a. Ashley Renslow: Training early interventionists to administer child development and language assessments and to utilize the data when writing the IFSP.

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- b. Ashley Renslow: The CO-Hear Coordinators have a list of PD topics including: bilingual families, children who are Deaf Plus, mental health/trauma-informed care, etc.
 - c. Public Comments: Support for on-line mentorship, supervision, and PD were mentioned. The topic of teen moms and young parents was recommended. Also activities to support fathers.
2. We have data from CDPHE and UCB identifying health disparities, health access and health equity. During the past 3.5 years, COEHDI was required by HRSA to write an EDI Plan. Our plan focused on Spanish-speaking families living in rural areas. When asked which populations Alliance members see as being underserved, Jami identified populations that are not on the I-25 corridor. Even in Ft. Collins, it's hard to find services that do exist. Pueblo and points farther south have fewer services.
3. Do you see any patterns emerging that we should address?
 - a. Jami Fries wants more activities for fathers. COH&V is organizing an event specifically for dads. Louanne Saraga-Walters mentioned there is a dad-only support group at the Cochlear Implant Camp.
 - b. Ashley Renslow mentioned that families seem to want "to do it all" to support their child's language development.
 - c. Activities related to cCMV
4. What are your priorities for screening?
 - a. Leanne Glenn mentioned that there is not yet a clear definition of loss to follow-up (LTF) and different agencies are tracking LTF differently. CDPHE, therefore, cannot document LTF accurately in HIDS. It would be helpful to clarify definitions for LTF. Leanne suggested gathering information from other states. Leanne reported that CDC hasn't posted the 2021 calculations for LTF/LTD, but 2020 LTF/LTD for Colorado was 2 percent. You can access this data at:
<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/2020-data/02-screen.html>
 - b. Several years ago, Maureen Cunningham published a study that utilized de-identified data in the CDPHE database to analyze trends (e.g., geographic region) for LTF. Maureen asked who currently has access to the CDPHE data. Leanne reported that CDPHE supplies a general, aggregate report on LTF to the CDC, but that this data may not be clear without definitions of LTF. Leanne asked to review the article Maureen wrote and to consider ways to repeat this activity. Leanne shared that

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customized data requests can be made to CDPHE for research. Leanne also mentioned that CDPHE and CDEC are looking at ways to share data.

5. What are your priorities for the transition from screening to identification?
 - a. Jami reported that referrals sometimes get dropped. She also stated that many people reach out to parents at the same time. She suggested streamlining contacts with parents. Perhaps the current and ongoing work on the new resource guide that will be shared with families will be a way to streamline the information parents receive.
 - b. Ashley Renslow asked about the status of tele-audiology and if audiologists in rural areas have the skills to work with children. If not, can PD be offered to them?
6. What are your priorities for early intervention, including F2F support and DHH adult-to-family support?
 - a. Jami proposed more collaboration between COH&V Guides and CO-Hear Coordinators. Might we develop a database CO-Hear Coordinators, early interventionists, parent support personnel, DHH adults and families can access?
 - b. Ashley Renslow reported that CSDB may become more involved in early intervention by once again having Facilitators housed within CSDB. Perhaps there will be a CHIP program at CSDB again.
 - c. Ashley Renslow stated a need for more personnel.

Conclusion: n/a

Action Items: n/a

Persons Responsible: n/a

Deadline: n/a

Agenda Item 4: Letter of Support from Alliance

Presenter: Arlene Stredler Brown

- COEHDI is soliciting a letter of support from CDPHE as they have a significant role in the screening and data collection processes.
- Because of page limits to our grant application, COEHDI staff suggested providing one letter of support from The Alliance. Arlene asked for feedback as to how to obtain this letter. Ashley asked if there is a template for members to use and there is one that has been drafted by Arlene and Heather. Ashley and

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Jami offered to review, edit and share a letter of support and to obtain signatures. The due date for this letter is November 2nd.		
Conclusion: Ashley and Jami will take the lead to obtain a letter of support signed by Alliance members.		
Action Items: Obtain a signed letter of support	Persons Responsible: Ashley & Jami	Deadline: 11/2/23

Agenda Item 5: Screening Task Force Update	Facilitator: Arlene Stredler Brown	
This task force is working on two projects:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NBHS Brochure for NICU Babies: There was an expressed need to modify our current NBHS brochure to make it more specific to 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. When we finish writing the scripts, we plan to package them and distribute them to all hospitals and midwives. We are aware that hospitals that contract for NBHS services (e.g., with Pediatrix, Envision, and HSA) have their own scripts and may not use ours. 		
Conclusion: n/a		
Action Items: n/a	Persons Responsible: n/a	Deadline: ASAP

Agenda Item 6: Closing	Facilitator: All	
Reflective comments made by Alliance members include: collaboration, whew! whew! visionary and detailed		
Conclusion: n/a		
Action Items: n/a	Persons Responsible: n/a	Deadline: n/a

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

The next meeting date is Friday, November 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**. 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)].*