

# Colorado EHDl Alliance Meeting

Date: February 16, 2024

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

**Attending Members:** Marti Bleidt, Sandy Bowen, Allison Cunningham, Maureen Cunningham, Leanne Glenn, Shauna Moden, and Ashley Renslow

**Absent Members:** Emily Augsberger, Stephanie Carson, Jami Fries, Hannah Glick, Brian Herrmann, Beth Little, Bryan McDonald, Cliff Moers, Sara Robinson, Louanne Saraga-Walters, and Christy Scott

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

**Accommodations:** ASL/ English Interpreters: Danielle Strom, Karen McCullah; and Zoom Live Captioning

<b>Agenda Item 1:</b> October 2023 Meeting Minutes		<b>Presenter:</b> All
<b>Summary of Discussion:</b> October 2023 meeting minutes were unanimously approved with one comment asking to edit the date on the meeting minutes.		
<b>Conclusion:</b> n/a		
<b>Action Items:</b> Correct the date of the October minutes	<b>Persons Responsible:</b> Heather Abraham	<b>Deadline:</b> ASAP; before posting to COEHDl website

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<b>Agenda Item 2: Announcements</b>		<b>Presenter:</b> All	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leanne Glenn: The new CRCSN program manager at CDPHE, Ashley Juhl, was introduced. Ashley attended the Alliance meeting.</li><li>• Ashley Renslow: After approximately two years, the search committee for the new superintendent has recommended Tera Spangler for the position.</li><li>• Ashley Renslow: There will be two March events at CSDB: 1) An event on March 9th in Ft. Collins; and 2) a virtual event for families of children birth-three years of age for all families in the state.</li><li>• Shauna Moden: If you have summer activities to announce, please share them with Shauna so she can post them on CDE's events board. Shauna's email address is: <a href="mailto:Moden_s@cde.state.co.us">Moden_s@cde.state.co.us</a> (note the underscore between moden_s). Shauna emphasized the importance of events for children who are DHH with additional needs.</li></ul>			
<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: Updates</b>		<b>Presenter:</b> Katie Cue, Arlene Stredler Brown, Heather Abraham	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Katie Cue: Katie shared, on behalf of Cliff Moers, that the announcement for the next HRSA grant, which will begin on April 1, 2024, should be made in March. Once this award is announced, CCDHHDB will work to promote the transition from the current grant to the new grant. She hopes it will be a smooth transition.</li><li>• Heather Abraham: The national EHDI conference will be held in Denver in March. Colorado will hold a "social hour" (aka; a state stakeholder meeting) on Monday, March 18 from 5:30 - 7:30. All Colorado conference attendees are welcomed to attend. Please share this information.</li></ul>			

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- Arlene Stredler Brown: Arlene is on the planning committee for the national EHDl conference and was tasked with recruiting room monitors. Room monitors are offered free registration in exchange for 3-5 hours of volunteer work.
- Arlene: COEHDl will give two presentations at the national EHDl Conference. One is about our statewide database at CU-Boulder documenting child language and developmental outcomes. Allison Sedey, Lynn Wismann, and Arlene are the presenters. The second presentation, led by Jami Fries, is about our Virtual Site Visit program. Arlene and Lauren Pontis will present with Jami.
- Arlene: Arlene is giving two virtual presentations for the American Academy of Pediatrics. One is about state and national resources for healthcare providers and parents. The other is a case presentation about a family's process of selecting a communication approach. Anyone can join these presentations. Contact Arlene for registration information.
- Arlene: Arlene was invited to present a two-hour module as part of the curriculum for second year Physician Assistants in training.

**Conclusion:** n/a

**Action Items:** n/a

**Persons Responsible:** n/a

**Deadline:** n/a

### **Agenda Item 4:** Family-to-Family Support Data

**Presenter:** Heather Abraham

Heather briefly discussed the F2F data which does not exhibit much change from previous reports. The link to this report is: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1APVdZ4Mqwsc-\\_H1tqvm9MDZGTijW4ISz3EKXzG8l6aA/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1APVdZ4Mqwsc-_H1tqvm9MDZGTijW4ISz3EKXzG8l6aA/edit)

Notably, HRSA sets a goal for each state to increase, by 10% annually, the number of families receiving F2F support. Colorado has not reached this benchmark. Heather is leading efforts to investigate possible reasons for this issue.

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Jami Fries reported that there has been an increase in the number of families meeting H&V Parent Guides whose children are “Deaf Plus” and/or have been diagnosed with cCMV.		
<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 5: Supplemental Grant Update</b>	<b>Facilitator:</b> Heather Abraham	
COEHDI was awarded \$75K during this grant year to study child language outcomes. Two activities are being conducted. <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To increase parent participation in progress monitoring for children with unilateral hearing differences (aka; UHL): Heather is working with Allison Sedey at CU-Boulder and Kelly Doolittle, the lead CO-Hear Coordinator at CSDB, to investigate ways to increase parent utilization of this no-cost assessment tool.</li><li>2. To analyze data for children with bilateral hearing differences: In the supplemental grant application, we proposed to investigate health disparities (e.g., maternal age, geographic location, degree of hearing difference, etc) among (at least) 100 children. Once any health disparities are identified, the next step is to investigate ways to address them.</li></ol> A report on these two supplemental grant activities is expected by the end of March.		
<b>Conclusion:</b> n/a		
<b>Action Items:</b> n/a	<b>Persons Responsible:</b> n/a	<b>Deadline:</b>

<b>Agenda Item 6: 2022 CDC Data</b>	<b>Facilitator:</b> Arlene Stredler Brown
Arlene shared the data that CDPHE sends to the CDC each year. The 2022 data was recently added to the spreadsheet, which now covers 2019 - 2022. Some general observations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Screening data is trending in the right direction.</li></ul>	

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- There has been a notable decrease in the percentage of children identified with a permanent hearing difference by three months of age. There has been a concomitant increase in the percentage of children identified between three and six months of age.
- Early intervention data continues to show a discrepancy between the number identified and the number enrolled. Work was started a few years ago to more accurately define “referral” to Part C and “enrollment” in Part C. This work was suspended, on request, for the past two years.

Allison Cunningham commented that some of the fluctuation in data from year to year may be due to changing guidance regarding how audiologists categorize the hearing difference. Leanne commented in the chat and said that this does not include the evaluations with "normal hearing" that are reported. This has been improving over time. The "no documented EI" category counts infants with a diagnosis changed to no hearing loss, those who moved out of Colorado, those for whom the family declined services, when an infant died, those who never responded to contacts, or those who have an unknown reason for not being in EI.

**Conclusion:** n/a

**Action Items:** n/a

**Persons Responsible:** n/a

**Deadline:**

### **Agenda Item 7:** Task Force Updates

**Facilitator:** Arlene & Heather

Screening Task Force: This task force has met regularly for the past four years. Recently, Alliance members were asked, via email, for their input on the screener scripts that were created by the task force. There was one dissenting vote from an Alliance member. The next step is to take the discussion about these screener scripts back to the Screening Task Force for continued discussion.

Screening Task Force: This task force is working on a NICU brochure. Task force members have created a draft which Alliance members will be asked to review after the draft is adjusted for readability level and health literacy.

Early Intervention Task Force: A subcommittee of this task force is working on the resources that are shared with families. The members of this subcommittee are currently reviewing existing resources and aiming to consolidate them into one cohesive resource for families. This activity will continue into the next grant cycle.

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To address gaps in our early intervention system, Christy Scott and Ashley Renslow asked Heather Abraham to facilitate a review of our EI system. Ashley reported that this initiative is an outcome of the strategic planning process that was conducted by representatives of four state agencies: CDPHE, CDEC, CDHS, CSDB. Twenty-two stakeholders, including parents, EI providers, and more, are in a work group that aims to identify EI themes and how to improve them. The work group has met one time to date. They will meet again in April.

Here are two links; one for a survey and the other an opportunity to join a focus group related to this initiative:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdLZwoBqsFDGFJ4er4lwrBWWZcR\\_qllHB8fJ7Nz09qav57o5g/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdLZwoBqsFDGFJ4er4lwrBWWZcR_qllHB8fJ7Nz09qav57o5g/viewform);

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScLaeL4Lb3p4C3ggwbT\\_1Nn8YV0illbiqmTuklX4wLxfjrLcw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScLaeL4Lb3p4C3ggwbT_1Nn8YV0illbiqmTuklX4wLxfjrLcw/viewform)

Ashley Renslow reported that some feel the name “CO-Hear Coordinator” may be misleading. A survey is being conducted to solicit new names for “CO-Hear Coordinators”. Here is the link if you want to suggest a new name:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdpHa\\_ktfX1tp9TVv5e3f51QnVqMpO0ww75tT\\_wPGTF7-9r-A/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdpHa_ktfX1tp9TVv5e3f51QnVqMpO0ww75tT_wPGTF7-9r-A/viewform)

**Conclusion:** n/a

**Action Items:** n/a

**Persons Responsible:** n/a

**Deadline:** n/a

### Agenda Item 8: Closing

**Facilitator:** All

These terms, about COEHDI’s work, were provided by Alliance members: appreciation; progress; data (to guide choices); data collection (accomplishments and gaps); gaps in the system; progress and questions (e.g., about data); anticipation (changes in EI system)

**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.

## Colorado EHDI Alliance Meeting

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### The next meeting date is Friday, March 15th

*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)].*