



Colorado Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHD)

4-Agency Overview

Colorado
Department of
Human Services

Colorado
Department of
Early Childhood

Colorado
Department
of Public Health
and
Environment

Colorado
School for the
Deaf and the
Blind

2024 Colorado EHD Steering Committee Accomplishments

General Accomplishments:

- The 4 agency Steering Committee collaborated to successfully identify and hire a professional facilitator, sharing fiscal responsibility across agencies. This initiative ensured guided strategic discussions, resulting in improved alignment of goals, streamlined decision-making, and enhanced interagency collaboration for 2024.
- Meeting monthly as a 4-agency Steering Committee since April 2024.
- Starting in August, the Steering Committee monthly meetings have a 30-minute open block where the public can participate, ask questions, inform the Steering Committee of current challenges, provide input, and invite collaboration.
- Completed an Interagency Charter among the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the Colorado Department of Human Services, the Colorado Department of Early Childhood, and the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind describing detailed responsibilities.
- Developed one-page Colorado EHD System 4-Agency Overview to be disseminated to interested providers and other stakeholders looking for a comprehensive overview of the Colorado EHD System.
- The new COEHD Director was hired and onboarded in November 2024.
- Reviewed the COEHD System Flowchart and made recommendations from updating to more inclusive and humanistic language.

Colorado EHD Interagency Steering Committee Responsibilities (also found in the EHD Interagency Steering Committee Charter):

- Assessed and prioritized EHD recommendations from 2022-23 stakeholder engagement.

Responsibility	What has the COEHD Steering Committee done?
Clarify processes for data requests, identify potential needs for data sharing agreements, establish an ad hoc Data Workgroup, as needed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Updated hospital data sharing agreement templates and drafted a cover letter explaining how the data will be used to inform the virtual site visits.
Review reporting requirements for the EHD grant and identify how the data will be shared to fulfill those reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Each agency will prioritize collecting data points related to screening, diagnostics/identification, early intervention, and family-to-family support according

<p>requirements.</p>	<p>to CDC's 1-3-6 measures. All data and reports are shared with members of the steering committee for review and input as appropriate to ensure the information is accurate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identified the need to review definitions for early intervention data points for consistency among agencies.
<p>Explore additional opportunities to fill funding gaps in the EHDI system.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CDPHE will submit an application to the CDC for CDC-RFA-DD-25-0157 Enhancing Timely Data Reporting, Quality, and Use in Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Surveillance in early 2025. ○ CDPHE investigated newborn hearing fee collection and identified potential solutions to increase receipt of fees. ○ EHDI PEC (Provider Education Center) will issue a call for AAP chapter grants in early 2025. We are monitoring this RFP and will determine a plan of action as is appropriate for the EHDI system. ○ Contract with midwives has increased in funding by CDPHE over the last three years, working in collaboration with CDSB.
<p>Make recommendation for State Audiologist, or other similar role(s), to fill the following needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clinical EHDI speciality resource ○ Training and technical assistance for screeners ○ Standardize communications with families ○ Increase workforce capacity ○ Ensure use of EHDI best practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identified a gap in technical support for hospitals, as there is currently no one to refer to for maintenance and repairs for hearing screening machines.
<p>Assess role, scope and implementation of CIHAC and EHDI Alliance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Began discussions about reducing duplication among CIHAC, which is statutorily required and focuses on NBHS, the Alliance is voluntary but focuses on all phases of the system, and the Steering Committee will function as a "core group" ensuring members' times are maximized and projects are in alignment.
<p>Ensure clarity of responsibilities for outreach to parents at each touchpoint.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CSDB is currently developing roles/ Responsibilities of the CHIP Coordinator and CHIP Facilitator and the Steering Committee will provide input and feedback.
<p>Ensure clear QI/QA capacity and structure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Anticipate development of QI Plan in the HRSA Infrastructure Plan (due August 2025) and the CDC Surveillance Grant (if awarded). These

	opportunities will elevate the QI conversation.
Collaborate on EHDl communications and outreach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Secured Lolina Solutions LLC for facilitation and team building (through June 2025) ○ Invited CIHAC members and the public to join for 30 minutes each month to ask questions of the EHDl Steering Committee ○ Addressed concerns of CIHAC in email communication and follow up meeting ○ Communications to stakeholders re: COEHDl 4-Agency Steering Committee as core working group
Collaborate on needs for training (explore opportunity to collaborate with blood spot training)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identified a potential area of support depending on the AAP grants offered in early 2025.