

The Ascent Program: Collaborative Development of a DHH Adult-to-Family Support Program

Colorado Early Hearing Detection &
Intervention (COEHDI)

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ASCENT PROGRAM



Learn about an evidence-based process to develop a program offering deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) adult-to-family support



Learn how one state brought all stakeholders together to create a sustainable program offering DHH adult-to-family support.



Obtain ideas, tips, and resources to integrate into their own EHD program to facilitate a DHH adult-to-family program.

Outcomes for Participants



Developing the Ascent Program



Planning & Review



Literature Review

- Review of current literature regarding approach and impact of DHH adult-to-family support programs
- Summarized themes and key findings

Program Review

- Reviewed current programs being utilized around the country for DHH adult-to-family involvement that were published by NCHAM

Incorporated findings into conversations around overall philosophy and values of Colorado's program

Collaborative Decision Making



Benefits of Partnership



- Heightened capacity to support sustainable measures.
- Promotes community and professional participation
 - Five task forces
 - Input on policies and legislation
 - Representation of families
 - Insight from engaged stakeholders
- Focus on accomplishing goals to
 - Build upon and provide supports and resources
 - Assist family members and caregivers to enhance children's learning and development through everyday learning opportunities



Colorado EHDl Alliance

- Up to 20 invited members from State agencies and community
- Serves as the advisory body
- Reviews and proposes changes for all system components

Five Task Forces

- Voluntary participation open to all stakeholders
- Agency and/or individual representation

COEHDl Structure



We aim to develop trust and confidence through...

Direct lines of communication

- COEHDl Alliance
- Five task forces

Indirect lines of communication

- e-mail
- Facebook presence
- Website
- Monthly newsletter

Who is on the Colorado EHDl Alliance?

- | | |
|---|--|
| Colorado Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing & Deafblind (CCDHHDB) | University of Colorado (CU-B) |
| Colorado Dept. Human Services - Early Intervention Colorado (EI Colorado) | University of Northern Colorado (UNC) |
| Colorado School for the Deaf & the Blind (CSDB) | Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) |
| Rocky Mountain Deaf School (RMDS) | Colorado Hands & Voices (CO H&V) |
| Colorado Academy of Audiology (CAA) | Colorado AG Bell |
| CO Chapter - American Academy of Pediatrics (CO-AAP) | Children's Hospital (CHCO) |
| Colorado Department of Education (CDE) | The Listen Foundation |
| | DHHDB Adults |
| | Parents of child who is DHH |
| | Local Early Intervention Program Representative |



With so many stakeholders, how do you get anything done?

Case Study: The Ascent Program

- Literature Review
- Program Review
- Task Force Work
 - Analysis of review
 - Creation of:
 - Philosophy
 - Values
 - Procedures
 - Protocols
- Input from all EHDl Stakeholders
- Revisions
- System Stakeholder (Alliance) Approval



Ascent Program Collaboration

Funding: Program operations funded through HRSA grant

- Operations:** Collaboration of COEHDl & Colorado School for the Deaf & the Blind (CSDB)
- Program Oversight: Colorado EHDl Family Support & Engagement Manager, CSDB Early Education Coordinator
 - CSDB employee coordinates program requests



Ascent Program Goals

Goals of the Program

- Supports connections between families and adult role models who are DHHDB
- Offers families opportunities for meaningful interactions with adults who are DHHDB
- Provides an opportunity for DHHDB adults to serve as role models, consultants, and/or mentors to families, offering information and resources and demonstrate enriching language experiences
- Uses adult teaching/mentoring strategies to assist families to learn new strengths and abilities, as well as build upon existing knowledge and skills



Adults visit families in their homes in a one-on-one setting (1-3 visits per family)

Adults attend group events sponsored by a variety of organizations throughout the state

Adults are prepared to share lived experiences with families, such as:

- Experiences growing up
- Educational experiences
- Work/career experiences
- Communication opportunities
- Perspectives on advocacy
- Perspectives on developing a healthy identity
- Support and guidance in accessing resources

Adults receive initial and follow-up training involving:

- Learning about the program (philosophy, requirements, logistics)
- Learning about personal bias vs. personal belief systems
- Learning how to tell their story in a family-friendly way

The Ascent Program



Short Version



Long Version

DISCOVER ALL THE EXCITING POSSIBILITIES FOR YOUR CHILD

The Ascent Program

A free program connecting families of DHHDB* children with DHHDB* adults of diverse backgrounds and experiences.

REQUEST FORM

COLORADO
Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind

DHHDB* = deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind

Contact Information

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