

DATA-DRIVEN ENGAGEMENT OF FAMILIES TO IMPROVE THE NICU EXPERIENCE (DEFINE)

Spring 2026 DEFINE Forum

Thursday, April 16, 2026 ● 8:30am – 4:00pm

Donald M. Elliman Conference Center ● Anschutz Health Sciences Building

Jointly provided by:

Children's Hospital Colorado, DEFINE Colorado, and the University of Colorado Anschutz Department of Pediatrics, Section of Neonatology



Department of Pediatrics

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

Faculty

<p>Sunah Susan Hwang, MD, MPH, PhD The Lula O. Lubchenco Chair in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Associate Professor of Pediatrics Director, Perinatal Health Services Research Section of Neonatology, Department of Pediatrics University of Colorado School of Medicine</p>	<p>Jessalyn Kelleher, PsyD CONNECTIONS Program Director Assistant Professor, Psychiatry University Hospital Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus</p>
<p>Jeff Bridges Colorado State Senator, District 26</p>	<p>Alana Price St. Joseph's Hospital</p>
<p>Julie Bjorklund NICU Parent, Lived Experience Expert</p>	<p>Victoria Del Valle Clinical Nurse Specialist Children's Hospital Colorado Springs</p>
<p>Brianna Keller NICU Parent, Lived Experience Expert</p>	<p>Bernie Zarrazola MI Coordinator Medical Interpreters Children's Hospital Colorado</p>
<p>Kendall Perry NICU Parent, Lived Experience Expert</p>	<p>Christina Fisher, MD MSCS Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Section of Neonatology University of Colorado School of Medicine Children's Hospital Colorado</p>
<p>Lexie Grant NICU Parent, Lived Experience Expert</p>	<p>Shawn Taylor Executive Director, Families Forward Resource Center (FFRC)</p>



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Overview, Target Audience, and Learner Outcomes

The goal of DEFINE is to ensure that mothers, birthing individuals, and their families in Colorado receive culturally relevant, safe, equitable, high-quality care no matter who they are or where they live. We are working toward a future where all of Colorado's pregnant and postpartum people have equitable access to care, safer birth experiences, and the support of their community and peers.

Through specific lectures and discussion led by experts in the field of Neonatology, the goal of the conference is for participants to enhance their knowledge and practical management strategies to better care for their patients. This program will be of interest to physicians, registered nurses, advanced practice nurses, and healthcare teams caring for these newborns in the NICU.

Learner outcome: By the end of this forum, participants will be able to apply evidence-based and culturally responsive neonatal and perinatal care practices to improve safe, equitable, high-quality care for mothers, birthing individuals, newborns, and families across Colorado.

Education objectives:

- Describe the Colorado FAMLI Legislation and recent amendment for NICU families.
- Identify strategies to support families affected by fetal and/or infant loss.
- Identify approaches to communicating effectively with Non-English Preferring Families in the NICU.

Continuing Education Credit

Attendance, sign-in and submission of the evaluation, including a written response to questions related to any change in practice that you may make as a result of learning that took place at this activity, are required for successful completion and receipt of the certificate of attendance.

Children's Hospital Colorado is approved with distinction as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by Colorado Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. This offering for 5 nursing contact hours is provided by Children's Hospital Colorado. A certificate of attendance will be available upon completion of the online evaluation for all other attendees.

Financial Disclosure

Planners, faculty, and others in control of content (either individually or as a group) have no relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies.

Registration and Contact Information

Register at [Children's Hospital Colorado Continuing Education DEFINE](#) | No registration fee required.

If you have questions or to request arrangements to accommodate a disability, please contact Heather Reichenbach, heather.reichenbach@cuanschutz.edu at least 3 weeks prior to conference.