

EHDI Advisory Committee

**July 18, 2013, 9:00am – noon,
Portland State Office Building Room 1B**

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

(Members) Pam Fortier, Heather Durham, Denise Kossover-Wechter, Anne Heassler, Nancy Ford, Victoria Keetay, Patty Vega, Rosalia Messina, Karen Rossi, Nancy Lowry, Ginna Oliver, Henry Milczuk, Emily Gallagher, Eleni Boston, Kelly Farrell, Joy Rowley

(OHA Staff) Heather Morrow-Almeida, Julie Hass, Ben Spencer, Fred King, Shelby Atwill, Chris Billington, Sharon Coryell

(Guests) Gayle Robbins (Columbia Regional Program), Evonne Serpa (Providence Audiology), Jennifer Ratigan (Legacy Audiology / Hands & Voices), Espi Pietrock (parent advocate), Joan Steiner (NW Regional ESD), Cindy Kollofski (Columbia Regional Program)

Welcome, Introductions, and Review of Minutes

Committee Chair Pam Fortier called the meeting to order. Attendees introduced themselves.

The committee reviewed the April 11, 2013 minutes. No changes were made.

EHDI Program Report

Heather Morrow-Almeida went over the EHDI Program Report. The document can be found [here](#).

Quarterly Data Update

Fred King gave the quarterly data update (document [here](#)).

Regional Programs Core Service Plan Panel and Discussion

Committee members and guests discussed the reductions in funding, increased caseloads and new regulations that contributed to changes in Oregon's Regional Program, the Oregon Department of Education's (ODE's) program that provides specialized services to students with low incidence disabilities, including deaf/hard of hearing, autism, visual impairment and others.

Working in partnership with the Columbia Regional, Willamette ESD, and Northwest Regional ESD Regional Programs, ODE's Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) program has found funding to temporarily restore certain audiological services cut from the three Regional Programs on July 1, 2013. Specifically, the restored services target children birth to age five with suspected hearing losses.

Targeted at the Portland Metro and Willamette Valley areas, the program will emphasize rapid identification, assessment, and amplification (if the parent chooses) for children who have been referred to EI/ECSE for suspected hearing loss. In addition, parents can expect training on how to maintain their child's hearing aids and earmolds using community resources.

Funding for this program is effective immediately and for the upcoming year only (July 2013 through June 2014) and is available for children birth to kindergarten who have been referred to EI/ECSE for a suspected hearing loss. The Regional Programs will provide data on the services to ODE during the year, which will be reviewed with an eye toward evaluating potential service options for the following year.

Restored audiological services provided by the three Regional Programs will include:

- Evaluations of children referred to EI/ECSE with suspected hearing loss (two failed hearing screenings);
- Regional Deaf/Hard of Hearing Program staff participation in EI/ECSE hearing impaired eligibility determinations;
- Earmold and hearing aid fitting and availability of loaner aids;
- Options for parents to purchase their child's hearing aid(s) through their Regional Program at cost, or assistance with locating a community hearing aid dispenser;
- Medicaid and/or private insurance billing for hearing aids for families who are eligible and consent;
- Training and support for parents in maintaining their child's hearing aid(s) through the use of community hearing resources.
- Support services to address the impact of each child's hearing loss on his or her education as described in the child's Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP).

Next steps identified included:

- The need to build relationships between Regional Programs/ESDs and community audiologists for seamless services for families;
- The need for continued parent training;
- The need to develop a transition plan/roadmap to help guide families as they transition to local audiologists, by months, including a copy of settings for hearing aids;
- Assurance that providers on both ends of care have consent and medical records releases;
- Concern about school age children and the role of educational audiologists;

- Concern about sustainability of this project and provision of ongoing services.

Evonne Serpa volunteered to spearhead ongoing conversation between community audiologists and Regional Programs.

Please feel free to contact your local Regional Program or e-mail ODE's Ginna Oliver at ginna.oliver@state.or.us if you need more information.

Other Business, Next Meeting Details

The next EHDI Advisory Committee meeting will be held October 17 at the Oregon School for the Deaf in Salem.

Close of Meeting

Future Committee Meetings:

October 17 – Oregon School for the Deaf