

AUDIOLOGY SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

and

COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS
for

Provision of Audiology Services

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to outline responsibilities for delivering audiology services to children residing in Out of Home Care. The Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) is the agency statutorily charged with: (1) Kentucky's child protection and foster care and adoption; and (2) providing comprehensive services to all children in foster care through coordination with a variety of community agencies and service disciplines. The Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs (CCSHCN) is the agency statutorily charged with the responsibility of obtaining information relative to identifying infants with hearing loss and a designated "participating entity" as a provider of diagnostics of audiology and therapeutic series.

The agreement shall commence upon execution. The term of this agreement shall be open-ended from the date of commencement; however, either party may cancel this agreement at any time upon thirty (30) days written notice or immediately for cause. The terms and conditions of this agreement may be amended by mutual written consent of the parties or to conform to any applicable statutory amendments.

Kentucky Administrative Regulation (KAR) 911 KAR 1:085 defines CCSHCN's responsibilities to:

1. Maintain a statewide database that includes demographics on the state's population of children with permanent childhood hearing loss;
2. Collaborate with government and non-government organizations for the purpose of evaluating outcomes of the program and securing additional grant funding for program planning; and,
3. Provide diagnostic services, therapeutic services, and participates in case planning as warranted.

CCSHCN agrees to:

1. Fulfill the role of primary audiology provider for DCBS.

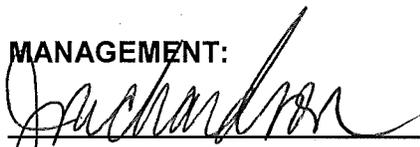
2. Provide audiology services for children in the custody of DCBS at no cost to the children's families.
3. Submit bill to Medicaid and private insurance.
4. Provide Universal Newborn Hearing Screening (UNHS) results for any newborn entering Out of Home Care upon the request of the assigned DCBS case manager.
5. Identify CSHCN Regional Nurse Consultant Inspectors (NCI) as point of contact for agency. NCI's will print the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program (EHDI) page summary from CSHCN's electronic data collection system (CUP) and fax to DCBS case manager.
6. Document audiology services on a written report to the DCBS case manager of record for inclusion in the DCBS case file. CSHCN Audiologists will provide report.

DCBS agrees to:

1. Provide consent for CSHCN to conduct an audiological evaluation for any foster child that was/is referred on the UNHS or has an identified risk factor.
2. Provide written consent and child specific data to CSHCN regarding any child that enters Out of Home Care with a history or diagnosis of hearing loss. Child specific data to be shared in a HIPAA compliant format and include; name, date of birth, range of hearing loss and if it is bilateral or unilateral loss. Data will be shared in electronic format if possible. These data are required for EHDI.
3. Contact CSHCN on the EHDI telephone line at (877) 757-4327 to determine if follow-up hearing testing is warranted. DCBS case manager will make inquiry upon receipt of the UNHS results.
4. Contact CSHCN on the EHDI telephone line at (877) 757-4327 if there are concerns regarding speech, language or hearing for a child in Out of Home Care. DCBS case manager will make inquiry to determine if a hearing evaluation is warranted.

APPROVALS:

MANAGEMENT:

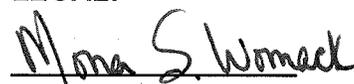


Jackie Richardson, Executive Director
Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs

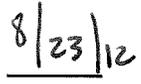


Date

LEGAL:



Assistant Counsel
Office of Legal Services



Date



Teresa James, Acting Commissioner
Department for Community Based Services



Date



WHAT: New MOU between DCBS and CSHCN (Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs) for Audiology services beginning August 1, 2012.

WHO: Any child in the care of DCBS who is at risk for hearing loss, has a hearing loss or did not pass the Newborn Hearing Screening given at the hospital when they were born.

Children at risk for hearing loss include those with:

- Caregiver concern regarding hearing, speech, language or developmental delay
- Family history of permanent childhood hearing loss
- Neonatal intensive care of >5 days or any of the following regardless of length of stay: ECMO; assisted ventilation; exposure to ototoxic medications or loop diuretics and hyperbilirubinemia that requires exchange transfusions
- In utero Infections such as CMV, herpes, rubella, syphilis and toxoplasmosis
- Craniofacial anomalies including those that affect the pinna (outer-ear), ear canal, ear tags, ear pits and temporal bone anomalies
- Physical findings (such as a white forelock) associated with a syndrome known to include hearing loss
- Syndromes associated with hearing loss or progressive or late onset hearing loss such as neurofibromatosis, osteopetrosis, Usher, Waardenberg, Alport, Pendred, Jervell and Lange-Nielson.
- Neurogenerative disorders such as Hunter syndrome or sensory motor neuropathies (e.g. Friedreich ataxia and Charcot-Marie-Tooth syndrome).
- Culture positive postnatal infections associated with hearing loss including confirmed bacterial or viral meningitis, herpes viruses and varicella
- Head trauma, especially basal skull/temporal bone fracture that requires hospitalization
- Chemo therapy
- Recurrent or persistent otitis media for at least 3 months

To determine if the child did not pass the newborn hearing screening, the DCBS staff should contact the CSHCN regional Nurse Consultant Inspector (NCI) assigned to their region. The CSHCN NCI can access the child's newborn hearing screening results in the CSHCN data base and provide that information to DCBS.

WHEN: Upon entry into DCBS care, at risk children, hearing impaired children and any child that failed the newborn hearing screening (see WHO above) should be referred to CSHCN EHDI (Early Hearing Detection and Intervention) by calling 1-877-757-4327 toll free.

HOW: Determine if a referral to CSHCN is needed (see WHO and WHEN above); call the toll free number **1-877-757-4327** and provide child specific contact data to the CSHCN EHDI staff. CSHCN EHDI staff will schedule any needed testing. CSHCN Pediatric Audiologists will complete the testing and provide a written report to DCBS.

WHERE: CSHCN has 12 offices across the state. The child will be scheduled for services at the nearest regional office. Services will be provided at no cost to the family, CSHCN will bill Medicaid/insurance for payment.

WHY: Hearing loss is the most frequently occurring birth defect. Early diagnosis and intervention for hearing loss can prevent delays in child development. Undiagnosed hearing loss in children is a developmental emergency!