

Supports Coordinators' Guide to the Communication Assessment and Reassessment

ODP Announcement 19-135

AUDIENCE:

Individuals and families, Supports Coordinators (SC), Supports Coordination Organizations (SCOs) for the Consolidated Waiver, Administrative Entities (AEs), Providers and all interested parties

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this communication is to release a guide for Supports Coordinators on the Harry M. Class Members' Communication Assessments and Reassessments.

DISCUSSION:

The Harry M. Settlement Agreement was approved by a federal court judge on August 20, 2013. The Agreement ensures that Pennsylvanians who are d/Deaf and are enrolled in the Consolidated Waiver are provided with necessary communication supports and services based on their assessed needs. Among other requirements, the Agreement requires:

- That all class members have initial assessments that evaluate expressive and receptive language skills, identify the preferred method of communication, and make recommendations for staff skills (level of ASL fluency, visual gestural communication training, etc.) needed for effective communication, specialized services and whether a fully signing environment is needed for effective communication
- That the assessment recommendations be "documented with specificity" in the class members' ISPs
- A reassessment of communication needs as recommended by the previous assessment

ODP has developed a Supports Coordinators' Guide to the Communication Assessment and Reassessment; a copy of the guide is included with this announcement.

Questions about this communication and/or the attached documents should be directed to the ODP Deaf Services Mailbox at RA-ODPDeafServices@pa.gov or to the appropriate ODP Regional Office.

This announcement obsoletes Announcement 099-16.