

To: All Early Intervention contract managers and FCFC coordinators

From: Nathan DeDino

Date: March 24, 2017

Subject: Early Intervention Program Updates, #1707

CC: Allyson Vanhorn, Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Coordinator
Jye Breckenridge, Early Childhood Home Visiting Administrator

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: REFERRALS AND SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH HEARING LOSS

This joint communication from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) seeks to clarify and answer questions about:

1. How children who are deaf or have hearing impairments are referred to Early Intervention; and
2. What specialized resources are available for the functional assessment and IFSP process.

The Ohio Department of Health's Infant Hearing Program's goal is to ensure all newborns receive a hearing screening before hospital discharge. Legislation in Ohio requires all babies to receive a hearing screening to find hearing loss risk or risk for hearing loss.

The ODH provides follow up coordination for tracking and surveillance of babies that need hearing evaluations after non-pass hearing screening results to find hearing loss early in life. When a baby or toddler is reported by the diagnosing provider to have a hearing loss, ODH refers families for home-based, early intervention services to help with the development of communication and language in infants and toddlers under the age of three.

Currently, ODH is the primary referral source for babies or toddlers diagnosed with hearing loss. The referral information sent to Central Coordination includes baby and parent demographics for contact purposes as well as diagnostic facility information. It is our intention that babies who have been diagnosed with hearing loss who have a need for EI services to be enrolled in early intervention by six months of age in order to foster communication, language and/or speech skills that are equal to their peers. Meeting the six month enrollment is supported by the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing (JCIH), Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Human Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). If a family is interested in Early Intervention, Central Coordination will facilitate the EI program referral to the county EI service coordination agency.

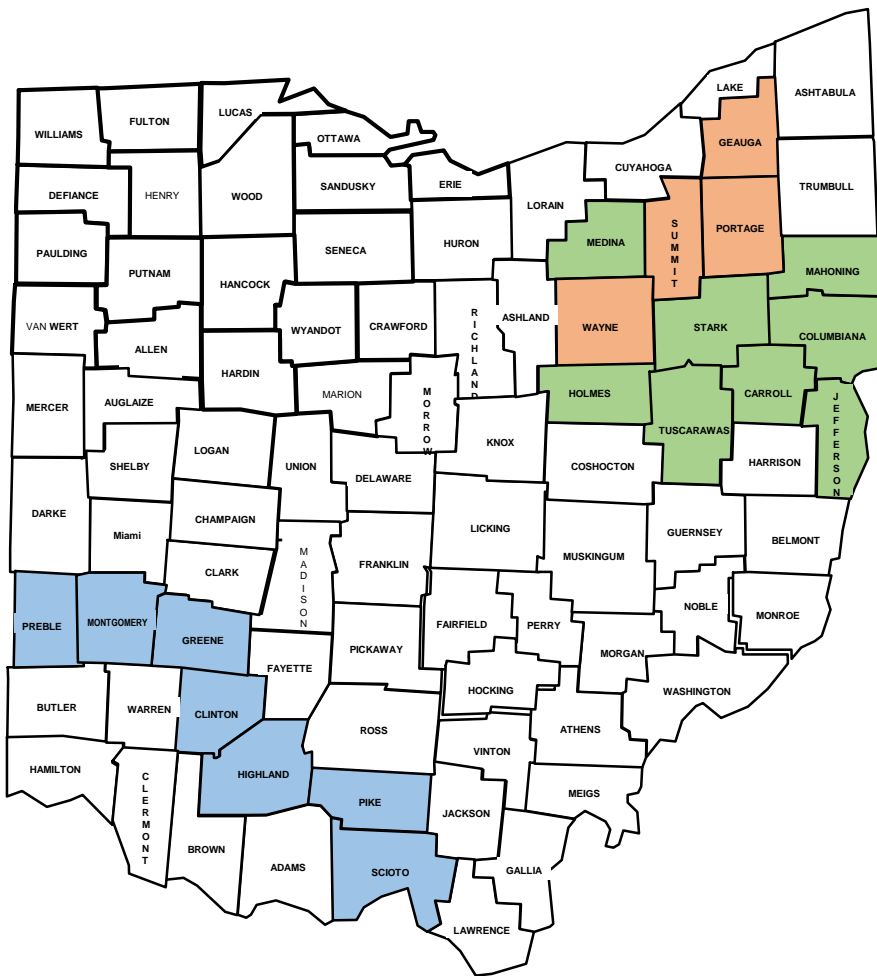
The Department of Developmental Disabilities is the lead agency for the Part C Early Intervention program. Children who are deaf or have hearing impairments are eligible for EI in Ohio (OAC

3701-8-07, Appendix 07-A). If the service coordinator is able to obtain documentation of the diagnosis, an evaluation is not necessary. DODD maintains contracts with a provider in every county that has specialized knowledge about hearing loss. A list of the providers and the counties for which they are responsible accompanies this communication. Service coordinators should invite these providers to take part in the functional assessment to determine if an eligible child has a need for EI services. If a child has a need for EI services, these specialized providers should also take part in determining the child's primary service provider (PSP), writing IFSP outcomes, and determining the services needed to meet those outcomes. In many cases, these specialized providers will be the family's PSP. In other cases, the specialized providers will support another interventionist who is serving as the child's PSP through coaching at team meetings, joint visits, etc.

If you have questions about the referral process to Central Coordination, please follow up with your CC TA consultant at ODH. If you have questions about activities after the EI program referral, please follow up with your EI program consultant at DODD.

Vision and Hearing Services

Vision



Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired - Contact: Ginny Backscheder, gabby.backscheder@cincyblind.org
Counties: Clinton, Greene, Highland, Jackson, Montgomery, Pike, Preble, Scioto

Janet Stone (mostly late afternoon/evening and weekend availability) - Contact: Janet Stone, stonejardb@aol.com
Counties: Geauga, Medina, Portage, Summit, Wayne

Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities
 Contact: Kristen Quicci, Kristen.quicci@email.sparcc.org
Counties: Carroll, Columbiana, Holmes, Mahoning, Medina, Stark, Tuscarawas

Ohio School for the Blind – Contact: Jennifer Remeis, jremeis@ossb.oh.gov for all other counties

Cleveland Hearing and Speech – Contact: Madelyn Bond, mbond@chsc.org
Counties: Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina

Allen County Bd. of DD – Contact: Kelly VonderEmbse, kvonderembse@acbdd.org
Counties: Allen, Auglaize, Mercer, Putnam, VanWert

Clermont County Bd. of DD – Contact: kszaz@clermontdd.org
Counties: Adams, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Fayette, Hamilton, Highland, Warren

Deaf Community Resource Center – Contact: Paula Vaught, pvaught@dcrcoho.org
Counties: Champaign, Clark, Darke, Green, Logan, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, Shelby

Deaf Services Center – Contact: Vickie Walker, vickiew@dsc.org
Counties: Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Licking, Union

Akron Children’s Hospital – Contact: Courtney Sprang, csprang@chmca.org
 For all other counties

Hearing

