



Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine

October 7, 2015

Dear CMS:

We are requesting that consideration is made for an exception to the Washington State Regional Support Network (RSN) assignments for children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing. Access to Deaf/Hard of Hearing Mental Health Specialists in Washington State is limited and generally these providers are found in urban counties such as King County. Deaf/Hard of Hearing children in the other counties do not have equal access to mental health services from mental health specialists with expertise evaluating and treating children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing.

Currently the Medicaid mental health system allows exceptions to the RSN boundaries for children with a secure PO box due to domestic violence and children in foster care. We respectfully request that a similar exception is made so Deaf/Hard of Hearing children can be enrolled in the RSN system of care that offers access to Deaf/Hard of hearing Mental Health Specialists. We believe that this unique population would benefit from accessing services from a Deaf Mental Health Specialist, with more accurate diagnosis and improved outcomes of care.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathy Melman, PhD, Clinical Psychologist

Julia Petersen, MA, LMHC, Deafness Mental Health Specialist

Regina McGinnis, MA, LMHC, Deafness Mental Health Specialist

Kathy Brewer, MS, LMHC, Manager, Insurance Processing & Utilization Review