Additional Considerations for Waiver Services

When working with

Individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind

All Services

- What should communication access look like when this service is provided?
- Is there a provider who is proficient in ASL if that is the individual's preferred language?
- Is the provider prepared to pay for the interpreter or other auxiliary aids and services needed?
- What adaptations may be needed for full participation?
- If the individual has the Supports for Community Living waiver, have Exceptional Supports been explored to help defray communication and language access costs?

Adult Day Training / Day Training

- What does the least restrictive option look like for this person in terms of communication access?
- Are there opportunities to have signing individuals together in the same location?
- Has the environment been modified to reduce noise, ensure lines of sight, and increase visual sharing of information?
- What communication access can be provided vs. what may be preferred or needed?

Behavioral Programming Services

- Does the positive behavior support specialists have experience working with people who have hearing loss?
- Are they able to consider the impact of hearing loss on the person's behavior?
- Does the assessor know about Deaf culture and which behaviors may be culturally specific?

Case Management

- Does the case manager know the individual's rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for services planned by the team?
- Does the case manager know about any specialized services in the area?
- Are they willing to consult with subject matter experts in program planning?
- If it's Participant Directed Services (PDS) - What skills may the individual need to best direct their services? (think exposure as well as ability)

Consultative Clinical and Therapeutic (CCT) Services – Psychological Services

- How can individuals with expertise in the intersection of hearing loss and I/DD be leveraged to provide this service?
- Is telehealth appropriate and billable in order to get a subject matter expert?

Consultative Clinical and Therapeutic (CCT) Services – Positive Behavior Supports Person Centered Coaching

Does the person conducting the assessment and providing services understand the intersection of hearing loss, communication, and behavior?

Community Access

- What skills are being taught or need to be taught regarding self-advocacy for communication in the community?
- Are socialization opportunities in the individual's preferred language being sought?

Community Guide

- Is the team defining "community" beyond the person's geography and seeking opportunities in the Deaf community as appropriate?
- How will the Community Guide ensure the participant's needs and wants for recruiting PDS staff are met, including communication access?

Community Transition

- Does the geographic area accepting the referral have adequate communication access supports?
- What education needs to happen in the receiving agencies?
- Is communication access established before the transition occurs?
- What expectations have been set for the individual in terms of communication in the community vs in a facility?

Community Living Supports

- Have providers who match the person's communication or language been recruited?
- What opportunities for collaboration exist with the Office for Vocational Rehabilitation Office of Deaf Services?

Companion

Can companions who can match the person's language and culture be recruited? (Direct communication is usually preferred)

Counseling – Individual

- Does the provider have knowledge and skills to address the interaction of behavioral health, I/DD needs and hearing loss?
- If not, are they willing to seek additional training, coaching, consultation, or supervision to practice ethically?

Counseling - Group

- Is the individual able to fully participate in this environment?
- Are the facilitators willing and able to ensure effective communication with all participants?
- If interpreters are involved, do the participants understand their role, how to work with them, and that confidentiality is protected?
- Would it be possible to have a group specialized for people who sign or have hearing loss?

Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Services Or Environmental and Minor Home Modifications

- Has an environmental assessment been conducted focused on the needs of people who are highly visually oriented?
- What high-tech and low-tech solutions can be tried?
- How can Assistive Technology (AT) improve this person's quality of life?
- Are there alerting devices, videophones, captioned phones, etc. available in the home?
- Are the choices on technology what's best for the individual or the staff / caregivers?

Family Training

- Are there Subject Matter Experts or Consultants who could assist the family with using auxiliary aids and services, transition skills, communication, etc?
- If in-state options are not available, have regional or national experts been consulted? Could the family be supported to travel for specialized training?

Natural Supports Training

- Could this service be leveraged to teach Deaf and Hard of Hearing community members about welcoming and working with people who have I/DD?
- Could this be used to help teach supports communication skills including sign language and making things more visual?

Personal Assistance or Personal Care

- Has the individual been given opportunities to learn these skills themselves?
- Can personal care attendants who match the person's language be recruited?
- How will language access be provided in a respectful manner?

Positive Behavior Support Plan

- Was this developed by someone who understands the relationship between hearing loss, communication, I/DD, and behavior?
- Has this plan been explained to the individual in a way they understand?
- Does the plan include instructions for interventions when they do and don't have full and effective communication access?

Residential Services, Respite, and Shared Living

- Has the individual been given the option of living with individuals who share their language?
- Is this residence in a location that is accessible to Deaf community events if the person wants to participate?

Speech Therapy

- Is the SLP knowledgeable about language deprivation, language dysfluency, and its effects on individuals who have hearing loss?
- If the waiver participant signs, does the SLP?

Supported Employment

What opportunities for collaboration exist with the Office for Vocational Rehabilitation Office of Deaf Services?

Technology Assisted Residential

What technology could supplement but not replace in-person effective communication?

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