



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Human Services

Addictions and Mental Health Division

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DATE: October 14, 2008

TO: Community Mental Health Programs
Chemical Dependency Treatment Providers
Prevention Coordinators

FROM: *Madeline M. Olson*
Madeline M. Olson
Deputy Assistant Director

RE: Position Papers on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals Seeking Behavioral Health Services

The Addictions and Mental Health Division supports the right that every individual receive culturally and linguistically appropriate addictions and mental health services. The attached documents provide useful tools and strategies for working with people who are deaf or hard of hearing as it relates to clinical, cultural and compliance issues related to the Americans with Disabilities Act. All mental health and addiction service providers must ensure that deaf and hard of hearing individuals seeking services receive effective communication.

- The first position paper acknowledges the need for direct communication, sensitivity to cultural affiliation, and sensitivity to the psychological impact of hearing loss in the delivery of mental health and addiction services for adults.
- The second position paper recognizes that mental health and addiction services should be culturally affirmative and linguistically accessible to deaf or hard of hearing children regardless of urban or rural residency, additional disabilities, and family or socio-economic status.
- The third attachment provides instructions when interacting with deaf or hard of hearing individuals in any setting.

It is my hope that every effort is made to comply with these requirements. Please refer any questions on compliance issues to the AMH Compliance Specialist for your region.

DL/pt

Attachments

If you need this letter in alternate format, please call 503-945-5763 (Voice) or 800-375-2863 (TTY)

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