Statement of Consideration (SOC)

PPTL 21-18 SOP 1.14.1 Access to Interpreters and Effective Communication for Those Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. The following comments were received in response to SOP drafts sent for field review. Thanks to those who reviewed and commented. Comments about typographical and grammatical errors are excluded; these errors have been corrected as appropriate

**SOP 1.14.1**

1. **Comment:** Under Procedure: **When a child who is deaf or hard of hearing enters care, a communication assessment may be necessary.**

Should this be mandatory? It would be better to have a good assessment on each child than to make assumptions about their abilities in my opinion.

**Response:** The word may was used because some youth may have already had a previous assessment (or a good plan in place for their communication), so a new assessment would not be necessary in every case.

1. **Comment:** Under Procedure: Individuals who are deaf and use ASL as their primary language must have access to qualified interpreters during all points of contact with CHFS staff

Does this only apply to those who are deaf and use ASL? What about those who are deaf but use other forms of sign?

**Response:** Other methods of communication are addressed in the third paragraph under Procedure.

There is a wide range of language ability and language modality among people who are deaf or hard of hearing.  Individuals may use ASL, other sign languages, gesture, speech, or a combination of methods. It is the responsibility of the Cabinet staff to determine a client’s specific language and to provide services that match communication needs.  Staff are responsible for assessing communication needs and determining if an ASL interpreter, other sign language interpreter, assistive listening device, or other accommodation is needed for the individual(s) to fully access Cabinet services.

**Comment: “**there should be a list of the people available to do the assessments or at least a link to refer to the DPP deaf and hard of hearing Liaison”

**Response:** Angela Winkfield is the DPP deaf and hard of hearing liaison and can be reached at Angelal.harris@ky.gov .

**Comment: “**it would be beneficial if they could offer assessments for parents and any child (not just OOHC) who is deaf or hard of hearing too”

**Response:** Assessments for parents may be identified as a need; however, the commission could assist staff with locating resources for this service.