

Visual Gestural Communication Training for Harry M. Class Members' Individual Support Plan Teams ODP Announcement 19-058

AUDIENCE:

Individuals, Families, Providers, Administrative Entity (AE) Administrators or Directors, County Administrators, Supports Coordination Organizations (SCO) and Other Interested Parties.

PURPOSE:

To inform stakeholders about the upcoming Visual Gestural Communication trainings for Harry M. class members' Individual Support Plan (ISP) teams.

DISCUSSION:

The Harry M. Settlement Agreement was approved by a federal court judge on August 20, 2013. According to the Harry M. Settlement Agreement, each class member will receive a Communication Assessment Report (CAR). Many of the CARs indicate that the individual either uses visual gestural communication or the individual's support team would benefit from training on visual gestural communication.

Visual gestural communication is a method of communication that provides a means of bypassing vocabulary and strict grammar rules of a language. It is a mode of communication that involves gestures, facial expression, and body language use and analysis.

ODP will be offering six, one-day, in-person sessions across the state to each of these identified Harry M. class members' teams. To keep each session small, interactive, and person-centered; these sessions are only open to one or two team members per Harry M. class member that is identified. Invitation letters will be sent to the class member's home address.

After the in-person sessions are held, ODP will be creating an online training that will be available to everyone on MyODP.org.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Special Populations Unit at RA-ODPDeafServices@pa.gov.