

**Newborn Hearing Screening and Intervention Program
REPUBLIC OF PALAU**

Memorandum of Agreement Developed by Family Health Unit/UNHSI Program, Ministry of Health

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this agreement between the Ministry of Health Family Health Unit/UNHSI Program and other agencies, stakeholders, parents and families is to develop a comprehensive and coordinated statewide Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) system of care targeted towards ensuring that newborns and infants are receiving appropriate and timely services, including screening, evaluation, diagnosis, and early intervention (EI). This purpose will be achieved by focusing efforts on: 1) increasing health professionals' engagement within and knowledge of the EHDI system, 2) improving access to EI services and language acquisition, and 3) improving family engagement, partnership, and leadership within the EHDI programs and systems.

The goal is to support the development of statewide programs and systems of care that ensure that deaf or hard of hearing children are identified through newborn and infant hearing screening and receive evaluation, diagnosis, and appropriate intervention that optimize their language, literacy, and social-emotional development. The objective is to increase the knowledge and engagement of pediatric care professionals, family members of a deaf or hard of hearing child, and other relevant agencies in providing recommendations on how to improve care coordination, information sharing on how to effectively contribute to and participate in the EHDI system.

SUPPORTING LEGISLATION

In the international Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Children of Palau, under CRC article 28 gives the child the right to an education. Governments are responsible for making available free and compulsory primary education, different forms or secondary education accessible to every child, higher education on the basis of capacity, vocational education, and vocational information-guidance. Article 29 states that the aim of education should be to develop the child's personality and mental/physical abilities to the fullest extent. Education should also aim to prepare the child for an active adult life in a free society and to foster respect for the child's parents, culture, language, and values as well as for the culture and values of others.

In the Constitution Article 6.4, government provided free education through grade 12, participation was voluntary. The law was recently amended to require compulsory schooling from age 5 (kindergarten) extending through age 17 or high school graduation.

SERVICE COORDINATION

Although Family Health Unit is the only entity that provides newborn hearing screening, the program still lacks an audiologist to provide diagnosis and early intervention services. A

newborn or an infant who is identified with a hearing loss through the newborn hearing screening program is referred by an assigned pediatrician to the medical referral program to coordinate with the Tripler Medical Center for on island audiology services. (1) No single entity address the needs of 0-3 year old age group, except the Maternal and Child Health Program of the Ministry of Health; (2) There is a lack of collaboration between agencies that makes sharing of technology and other possible; (3) There is a need to develop/test/apply culturally appropriate concepts/materials that are relevant to Pacific populations and; (4) The concept of “ready to learn” must be developed with “families” in mind and therefore, parental education should be the focal point of creating the change necessary for this concept.

Palau UNHSI Services Matrix

Name of Agency, Program, Organization	Goals of Program	Target Pop.	Setting	Intervention Strategies	UNHSI Components
Palau UNHSI Program	Support the development of statewide programs and systems of care that ensure that deaf or hard of hearing children are identified through newborn and infant hearing screening and receive evaluation, diagnosis, and appropriate intervention that optimize their language, literacy, and social-emotional development	0-5	Birthing and Koror CHC	Increase the knowledge and engagement of pediatric care professionals, family members of a deaf or hard of hearing child, and other relevant agencies in providing recommendations on how to improve care coordination, information sharing on how to effectively contribute to and participate in the EHDI system	All
Head Start Program	Children of Palau will be healthy and ready to learn	3 - 5	Center	Develop & implement appropriate curriculum in the areas of development, learning, and preparing children for school readiness.	All
Emmaus Gospel Kindergarten	Provide educational program in an environment conducive to academic, moral, and spiritual development of a child.	3 - 5	Center	Integrate holistic growth and development through integration of classroom and other relevant activities along with parental cooperation.	Partial

Palau UNHSI Services Matrix

Name of Agency, Program, Organization	Goals of Program	Target Pop.	Setting	Intervention Strategies	UNHSI Components
Maris Stella Kindergarten	Full day academic and religion in preparation for school entry to grade 1	4 - 5	Center	Motor development Social & Emotional Development and Cognitive & Language Development, and religion	Partial
Family Health Unit/Maternal and Child Health Program	To improve the health of families through provision of quality and comprehensive primary, promotive and preventive health services.	Mothers, women of reproductive age group, children, children with special needs, adolescents, fathers	Clinic Homes Communities	Provide health promotion, preventive health services Primary Health care Secondary and tertiary health services Care coordination and partnership	All
Special Education Early Childhood Program	Early Intervention and coordination of services to CSN and their families	3 – 5 (CSN Only)	Homes Schools	Care Partnership Home Visitation Child Find Family Consultation Transportation	All
SDA Kindergarten	Preparation for school entry	5 Years	Center	Academically and spiritually prepare children for school entry	Partial
PCAA Childcare Development	Provide childcare services for low-income parents to allow self-improvement for parents or childcare giver	0 – 12 Years Olds	Center and Home	Childcare to low income families Job/education find for parents and child care takers	Partial
Division of Behavioral Health	Provide Psychiatric and Psychological intervention to families	All	Clinic Home Community	Evaluation Hospital and Community-based care Health education and promotion	Partial
Palau Community College (PCC) Day Care Center	Strives to provide high quality child care services to PCC students, and serves as a training facility to child-oriented services in the community	2.5-5 years old	Center	Facilitate accessibility to health, dental, and developmental screening. Provide appropriate curriculum that enhance motor, social, and cognitive developments	All

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES OF THE PALAU UNHSI ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Schedule: The Palau UNHSI Advisory Board agrees to meet every quarter. Therefore a Yearly Schedule of Meetings will be distributed to all members of the team in the next scheduled meeting. At least one week prior to the Meeting, a notice/reminder will be sent to all members to assure adequate and timely participation.

Meeting Agenda: The Palau Advisory Board Regular Meeting Agenda will follow this format:

- I. Welcome/Attendance
- II. Energizer
- III. Review/Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meeting
- IV. Old Business
- V. New Business
- VI. Others
- VII. Adjournment

Quorum: Regular and special meetings of the advisory board requires a quorum of 1/3 of members present in order to conduct official business of the team.

Chairing of Meetings: Regular meetings are chaired by a member of each component/committee on a rotational basis and Family Health Unit/UNHSI Program hosts the meetings. At the end of each quarterly meeting a chair will be appointed (first on a volunteer basis) for the next quarterly regular Advisory Board meeting. The agency representative chairing the quarterly meeting has the opportunity to talk about the types of services they offer, upcoming events and how the rest of the collaborative members can have access to it.

Special Meeting: Any special meeting called will be chaired by the agency that requests a special meeting. Special Meetings agenda will contain: attendance sign up sheet and topic of discussion. The minutes on all special meetings will be Action Minutes, containing the following information: date/time/place of meeting, purpose of special meeting, members present and actions taken (decision/persons responsible/timeline/ and outcome).

Meeting Summary Report: Meeting Summary Report is recorded by the FHU/UNHSI Program office or a member appointed by the Family Health Unit Program Manager. Meeting summary report is officiated and distributed to all members within 30 days after each regular meeting.

Decision-Making Process: The Collaborative Team will operate through a consensus process with key representatives from the Ministry of Health, Palau Head Start Program, Special Education Program, Omekesang Association, Palau Early Childhood Comprehensive System (PECCS), Palau Parents Empowered, and family members. Further expansion of the Collaborative Team may require the formation of Executive Committee for initial decision-making then be reviewed and agreed upon by the larger body. However, for now, Decision-

making by consensus (discussion until agreement is reached) is planned to continue until the Collaborative Team finds the need for an alternative process.

Membership: Representation from the Ministry of Health, Palau Head Start Program, Special Education Program, Omekesang Association, Palau Early Childhood Comprehensive System (PECCS), Palau Parents Empowered, and family members are encouraged for community-wide member(s) participation in the Palau UNHSI Advisory Board. Expansion of the Team is decided through a consensus process within the Collaborative. Each Member Agency management will designate its representative to the Collaborative through a letter to the UNHSI Advisory Board. The management is also responsible to re-designate another representative from their agency should the current representative resigns or discontinue his/her employment. This representative will become the official representative of that agency to the Collaborative and will be required to attend the Collaborative regular and special meetings and all activities undertaken by the Palau UNHSI Advisory Board.

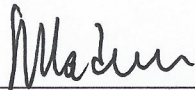
Official Lead Agency: The Family Health Unit/UNHSI Program will be the lead agency in establishing coordination and collaboration between member agencies of the UNHSI Advisory Board. The Family Health Unit in the past have led inter and intra agency collaborations to improve services for Children with Special Needs. It has also developed and implemented a Child Care Program (created by earlier funding under the Childcare America funding) that is collaboratively supported and operated under a Memorandum of Understanding between three entities (FHU/MCH, Palau Community Action Agency and Palau Community College).

Representation on the Advisory Board: As part of the agreement with the other agencies, family of a deaf or hard of hearing child, non-profit organizations represented on the UNHSI Advisory Board are identified and invited by the board to be a participating member. In order to provide administrative support and sanction for the participation of designated representatives, this agreement serves as an agency commitment for their representative to participate in all meetings and activities approved and undertaken by the UNHSI Advisory Board.

Review/Revision of Interagency Agreement: Review and revision of the UNHSI Advisory Board Agreement is conducted every year. The basis of these reviews will be to revisit and evaluate the goals and objectives of the agreement and revise them in accordance with the changing role of the Palau UNHSI.

Timeline for Implementation of Agreement: This working agreement becomes effective as soon as the last signature is obtained and is subject to review and revision every year thereafter. A list of designated advisory members from an agency, organization, family of a deaf or hard of hearing child are identified and invited by the program as a participating member of the advisory board.

Bureau of Public Health, Family Health Unit- Lead Agency



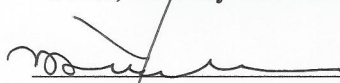
Ms. Sherilynn Madraisau
Director, Bureau of Public Health

6/6/17
Date



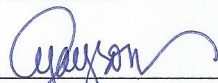
Ms. Edolem Ikerdeu
Chief, Primary and Preventive Health

6/13/17
Date



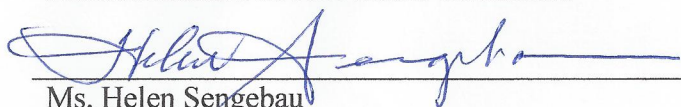
Dr. Yuriko Bechesrak
Chief/Pediatrician

June/5/17
Date



Dianne K. Brewer-Jayson
Parent/President of PPE Board Committee

6/5/17
Date



Ms. Helen Sengebau
Program Coordinator, Special Education Program

6/6/17
Date



Ms. Theresita Skang
Health Manager, Belau Head Start Program

6/8/17
Date



Ms. Tessy Nobuo
Secretary, Omekesang Association

4/6/17
Date



Ms. Kliu Basilius
Program Manager, Family Health Unit

6/13/17
Date



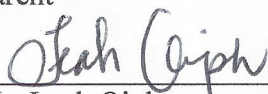
Ms. Rosemina Mechol
Nurse Supervisor, Family Health Un

6/5/17
Date



Ms. Randa Jonathan
Parent

6/6/17
Date



Ms. Leah Oiph
Parent

6/13/17
Date

Joncy Usuluku

Joncy Usuluku
Parent

6/08/17

Date

Jane Olsudong

Ms. Jane Olsudong
Coordinator, Family Health Care

6/5/17

Date

Mr. Mariano Hagileisou

Mr. Mariano Hagileisou, RN
Nurse Supervisor, OPD & ENT Services

6/5/17

Date

Ms. Clarissa Rdang

Ms. Clarissa Rdang, RN
Coordinator, UNHSI

6/13/17

Date

Ms. Mindy Sugiyama

Ms. Mindy Sugiyama
Coordinator, EHDI

6/13/17

Date

Ms. Kathrine Hindenburg

Ms. Kathrine Hindenburg
Board Member

6/08/17

Date