

Qualifications for an Intervener (all levels) in the DB-MD Medicaid Waiver.

Excerpt from The HHSC Medical Care Advisory Committee Meeting of January 14, 2010 (page 46 and 47) These are proposed rules, which are slated to be finalized and approved May, 2010.

(d) A program provider must ensure that:

(1) an intervener:

(A) is at least 18 years of age;

(B) is not the spouse of the individual to whom the intervener is assigned;

(C) holds a high school diploma or a high school equivalency certificate;

(D) has at least two years of experience working with individuals with

developmental disabilities; and

(E) has the ability to proficiently communicate in the functional language of the individual to whom the intervener is assigned;

(2) an intervener I:

(A) meets the requirements for an intervener as described in paragraph (1) of this subsection;

(B) has at least six months of experience working with persons who have deafblindness or function as persons with deafblindness;

(C) has completed at least eight semester credit hours in deaf-blind-related course work at a college or university accredited by:

(i) a state agency recognized by the United States Department of Education; or

(ii) a non-governmental entity recognized by the United States Department of Education;

(D) a one-hour practicum in deaf-blind-related course work at a college or university accredited by a state agency or a non-governmental entity recognized by:

(i) a state agency recognized by the United States Department of Education; or

(ii) a non-governmental entity recognized by the United States Department of Education;

(3) an intervener II:

(A) meets the requirements of an intervener I as described in paragraphs (2)(A), (C), and (D) of this subsection;

(B) has at least nine months of experience working with persons who have deafblindness or function as persons with deafblindness; and

(C) has completed an additional 10 semester credit hours in deaf-blind-related course work at a college or university accredited by:

(i) a state agency recognized by the United States Department of Education; or

(ii) a non-governmental entity recognized by the United States Department of Education; and

(4) an intervener III:

(A) meets the requirements of an intervener II as described in paragraph (3)(A) of this subsection;

(B) has at least one year of experience working with deaf-blind persons;

and

(C) holds an associate's or bachelor's degree in a course of study with a focus on deaf-blind-related course work from a college or university accredited by:

(i) a state agency recognized by the United States Department of Education; or

(ii) a non-governmental entity recognized by the United States Department of Education;

Definition of Deaf-Blind related Coursework (page 46)

(c) For purposes of subsection (d) of this section and consistent with Texas Government Code, §531.0973, "deaf-blind-related course work" means educational courses designed to improve a person's:

(1) knowledge of deafblindness and its effect on learning;

(2) knowledge of the role of intervention and ability to facilitate the intervention process;

(3) knowledge of areas of communication relevant to deaf-blindness, including methods, adaptations, and use of assistive technology, and ability to facilitate a deaf-blind person's development and use of communication skills;

(4) knowledge of the effect that deaf-blindness has on a person's psychological, social, and emotional development and ability to facilitate the emotional well-being of a deaf-blind person;

(5) knowledge of and issues related to sensory systems and ability to facilitate the use of the senses;

(6) knowledge of motor skills, movement, orientation, and mobility strategies and ability to facilitate orientation and mobility skills;

(7) knowledge of the effect that additional disabilities have on a deaf-blind person and ability to provide appropriate support; or

(8) professionalism and knowledge of ethical issues relevant to the role of an intervener.