Eligibility Requirements for Children with Diagnosed Hearing Loss

The current eligibility for children with diagnosed hearing loss includes the following:

- **Category 1 Eligibility** – Children age 0-3 with Bilateral Severe-Profound Hearing Loss

- **Category 2 Eligibility** – Children age 0-3 with Mild to Moderate Hearing loss with developmental delays (developmental delay is defined as 1.5 standard deviations from the mean in two or more developmental domains or 2.0 standard deviations from the mean in one domain of development).

We are changing eligibility for children with diagnosed hearing loss to:

- **Category 1 Eligibility** – Children age 0-3 with Bilateral Mild, Moderate and Severe-Profound Hearing Loss

Currently, there are less than 200 children reported to the Department with mild to moderate hearing loss.

GA Pines will continue to provide an Early Hearing Orientation Visit; and may also be able to offer direct services from a Parent Advisor. However, BCW must also assure that the child with hearing loss receives the services they need as well any services for the families, as deemed necessary by the team, which includes input from the parents.

We believe this provides the following benefits:

- All young children with hearing loss will have access to related services.
- Eligibility under Part C may significantly reduce costs under Part B.
- Eligibility is consistent with Congressional intent for Part C “to enhance the development of infants and toddlers with disabilities, to minimize their potential for developmental delay, and to recognize the significant brain development that occurs during a child’s first 3 years of life and to reduce the educational costs to our society, including our Nation’s schools, by minimizing the need for special education and related services after infants and toddlers with disabilities reach school age.”
- Eligibility under Part C eases children’s transition to Part B services.

Below are some of the possible scenarios for the relationship between the Georgia (GA) Pines Parent Advisor (PA) working in collaboration with the BCW teams, providers and service coordinators for children with hearing loss. This list assumes ongoing GA. Pines PA involvement after the initial EHOS visit:
Scenarios of involvement:

1. The GA Pines PA participates in regular BCW team meetings in person or by phone and could be the PSP listed on the IFSP for children with hearing loss. The PA would have to comply with Part C requirements regarding IFSPs, service delivery, etc and may require a separate contract with the District. GA Pines PA is totally integrated into the BCW team.

2. The GA Pines PA participates in BCW team meetings in person or by phone when a child/family they are supporting is on the agenda for discussion or review by the BCW team. The PA is listed on the IFSP services page as a BCW team member for children with hearing loss-no release of info required; or the PA could be listed under the "Other Services" section of the IFSP - release of info is required. The GA Pines PA is partially integrated into the BCW team.

3. The BCW SC arranges some visits with the family to coincide with GA Pines PA visits to improve collaboration/coordination of services. GA Pines supports are parallel to BCW supports.

4. The GA Pines PA and the BCW PSP coordinate some of their visits at the same time to improve collaboration/coordination of services. GA Pines supports are parallel to BCW supports.

5. The BCW SC coordinates initial/annual IFSP reviews to include the GA PINES PA in addition to the PSP. GA Pines PA could be partially integrated with the BCW team or could be a parallel support to families.

6. The GA Pines PA is added to the e-mail group of Service Providers/Team staying current with the team to improve collaboration and coordination of services. GA Pines supports are parallel to BCW supports.

This is not an exhaustive list, just examples of the partnership and there may be other scenarios of GA PINES involvement.