

Medical Therapy Services for Children Birth to Five Deliverable 5.1 Capacity Mapping Summary - May 2020

Background and Context: The *Pathways from Developmental Screening to Services* project is a community-level improvement effort focused on improving the receipt of services for young children identified at-risk for developmental, behavioral and social delays. One pathway for children identified at-risk for delays is **medical therapy services, specifically occupational therapy (OT), physical therapy (PT), and speech therapy**. In the Phase 1 activities, stakeholders noted the value of creating an asset map of current services and their capacity and applying an equity lens as it relates to access of those services for children who reside in different regions, whose parents may not speak English, and availability of culturally and responsible services.

Medical Therapy Capacity Map Summary: This summary report provides a summary as of May 2020 of the asset mapping that OPIP had conducted of medical and therapy services targeted for children birth to five in Central Oregon. As services, service providers, and capacity change, periodic updates to the summary table will be made as OPIP is made aware of changes in staffing, services, and capacity, we will ensure the summary is updated before the end of the project in May 2021.

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Table 1.0 below provides an overview of the nine organizations identified February-May 2020 who provide occupational therapy (OT)/physical therapy (PT) and speech therapy specifically for young children. The information provided is based on interviews that OPIP was able to conduct March-May 2020 and will be updated by OPIP if updated information is provided by these organizations or new organizations are identified. As is noted in the summary below, OPIP is still awaiting information from St. Charles Rehabilitation regarding the number of providers and their capacity, and Bend Speech Express was not willing to conduct an interview or fill out the descriptive table provided as they noted they are “at capacity” and not receiving any additional referrals.

Table 1: Overview of OT/PT and Speech Providers Serving Birth to Five & Current Capacity

Version 1.3 May 27, 2020	OT/PT and Speech Therapy Providers Who Serve Children Birth to Five in Central Oregon													
	Multidisciplinary Providers									Speech Only Providers				
Company	Treehouse Therapies		St. Charles Rehabilitation*			Blossom Therapeutics		Sonos		Redmond Speech and Language	Bend Speech Express*	Bend Speech and Language	Skidmore Speech and Language	Connections Speech & Language Pathology
Number of Providers	14 (+1 on leave)					6		5		10 (+2 on leave)		1	2 (+1 on leave)	1
	7	7				5	1	1	4					
Current Case Load (clinical hours per week)	119	157				122	30	15-30	55-71	210-245^		14	40	20^
Capacity for New Referrals	Yes	No				No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
^Site describes capacity as FTE or appointment slots; clinical hours estimated														
*Interview not completed or information not yet fully verified by OPIP														
Color Coding Legend:	Physical Therapy		Occupational Therapy			Speech Therapy								

A key goal of the project is to highlight any differences in access based on geographic location or inequitable access based on cultural or linguistic care service needs. **Table 2.0** below provides an overview of the descriptive information provided by the sites able to be interviewed of their services by priority factors identified by the *Pathways from Screening to Services* stakeholders.

Table 2: Overview of Geographic Location and Ability to Provide Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services for OT/PT and Speech Providers Serving Birth to Five

Version 1.3 May 27, 2020	OT/PT and Speech Therapy Providers Who Serve Children Birth to Five in Central Oregon													
	Multidisciplinary Providers									Speech Only Providers				
Company	Treehouse Therapies		St. Charles Rehabilitation*			Blossom Therapeutics		Sonos		Redmond Speech and Language	Bend Speech Express*	Bend Speech and Language	Skidmore Speech and Language	Connections Speech & Language Pathology
Race of Provider	White	White				White	White	White	White, Hispanic	White		White	White	White
Language	English	English, Spanish				English	English	English	English, Spanish	English, Spanish (with interpreter)		English	English, Spanish	English
Location	Deschutes (Bend & Redmond)		Deschutes (Bend)			Deschutes (Bend)		Deschutes (Bend)		Deschutes (Bend & Redmond)	Deschutes (Bend)	Deschutes (Bend)	Deschutes (Bend)	Deschutes (Bend)
Payor(s) Accepted	OHP, Private					Private		OHP, Private, not accepting United		OHP, Private		OHP, Most Private	OHP, most Private, not currently accepting BlueCross	OHP, Private
*Interview not completed or information not yet fully verified by OPIP														
Color Coding Legend:	Physical Therapy			Occupational Therapy			Speech Therapy							

As was noted in Table 2, all of the current providers are located in Deschutes County. However, two providers did indicate that they would consider providing services to children in their home and in counties other than Deschutes. **Table 3.0** below displays of whether these providers indicated whether they their services via home visiting and additional comments regarding their home visiting criteria or potential barriers associated with providing home visiting services.

Table 3: Overview of OT/PT and Speech Providers’ Serving Children Birth to Five that Offer Services Via Home Visits

Version 1 May 28, 2020	OT/PT and Speech Therapy Providers Who Serve Children Birth to Five in Central Oregon															
	Multidisciplinary Providers								Speech Only Providers							
Company	Treehouse Therapies		St. Charles Rehabilitation*			Blossom Therapeutics		Sonos		Redmond Speech and Language	Bend Speech Express*	Bend Speech and Language	Skidmore Speech and Language	Connections Speech & Language Pathology		
Home Visiting Available	Yes	Yes				No	No	No	No	Yes		No	No	Yes		
Home visiting available outside Deschutes County	No	No				n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Yes		n/a	n/a	Yes, if 3 or more visits in an area		
Comments on Home Visiting	Going beyond Deschutes County creates a barrier due to travel expense and time. Home visits are not efficient when many children are on the clinic’s waitlist. Seeing one client in home = time of 2 to 3 clinic kids.					Challenging to get reimbursement at rates needed to make home visiting feasible. Travel time reduces staff productivity.		Therapists are contractors and do not have resources to support home visiting. Coding and billing would also be complicated.		Case by case basis depending on insurance coverage, scheduling availability, and therapist’s willingness to travel.		Noted challenges to taking on home visiting as a one-person staff. Insurance is also more complicated.		Insurance does not cover home visits. Site provides teletherapy that allows them to be in homes virtually.		Has not traveled outside Deschutes but is willing. Need to be mindful of Medicaid reimbursement rates. Distance and drive time can create challenges to expanding this service.
*Interview not completed or information not yet fully verified by OPIP																
Color Coding Legend:	Physical Therapy		Occupational Therapy							Speech Therapy						

Contact Sheet: Medical and Therapy Providers for Children Birth to Five in Central Oregon

DESCHUTES COUNTY

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Bend and Redmond Locations

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Bend and Redmond Locations

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**Services at this organization have not yet been fully verified by OPIP. Contact information will be updated after completion of interviews.*

^Services at this organization have not been verified as the site declined to participate in the interview.

Last Updated: May 19, 2020

Part 3: Implications of Summary of Medical Therapy Services

Now that a majority of the service providers have provided site level detail, OPIP plans to provide the updated summary back to the providers and to highlight OPIP's summary about the implications of the current level and capacity of services. We also plan to facilitate a discussion at the next *Pathways from Screening to Services Stakeholder* meeting about the implications of this assessment and access to services. At this meeting, OPIP will share observations of barriers and opportunities as outlined below.

- Many providers are **operating at or near capacity** at this time, which may create a barrier to primary care providers being able to increase referrals to these services as they are guided to do via the Medical Decision Tree. This **may negatively impact increases in follow-up rates**.
- There is **inequitable access to services based on geographic location** as all clinic based services are located in Deschutes County only.
- One of four multidisciplinary providers interviewed offers **home visiting services**, and their home visiting services are available only within Deschutes County. Among Speech only providers, two of four providers offer home visiting, and each will consider home visiting outside Deschutes County given specific criteria and local need. Providers noted challenges associated with insurance coverage, time, and feasibility of supporting home visiting resources for children.
- **Culturally and linguistically appropriate services are limited** for diverse populations. Of the nine sites, only three sites reported ability provide services in Spanish. No physical therapy providers reported ability to provide services in Spanish.