

SFBOS Budget and  
Finance Committee

December 6, 2023

# SF Dept of Public Health Child Care Health Program Office of Childhood Hearing

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# Current State

## DPH Office of Childhood Hearing (OCH)

- Childhood hearing loss (HL) is the most common congenital sensory disorder and a significant cause of developmental delay. Newborn hearing screening is performed on 98% of babies born in the US. But after birth, objective hearing screening is not indicated until the 4-year-old pediatrician well-child-check. Lack of hearing screening for young children delays identification of HL and can lead to delays in speech, language, and cognitive development.
- OCH provides annual hearing screening for over 1,000 children 3-5yo enrolled in child care programs serving low-income families and historically underserved neighborhoods
- Currently DPH OCH is a small but highly utilized program, staffed by 1.0FTE certified Audiometrist and 1.0FTE Public Service Trainee
- Every child receives hearing screening using the “gold standard” **pure-tone audiometry method** (play based screening - child drops a toy in a box when they hear the “beep”). Sometimes children can’t complete the screening e.g. shy, not having a good day, language barrier, developmental delay, etc.
- If a child fails or can’t complete the pure-tone screen, they’re rescreened using the newer **otoacoustic emissions method** (a small ear bud is placed in the ear to measure the inner ear response to sound, without requiring the child to respond)
- Each child who doesn’t pass receives case management support to help the family access primary care and/or audiometry for further evaluation
- FY 22-23: approx. 82% of children who needed further evaluation successfully accessed follow up appointments, and 46% of children needed and received follow up medical care**

ECEAS Screening Results	FY 22-23
<b>Early Care and Education environments that received hearing screening</b>	51 school sites
<b>Children that received a hearing screening</b>	1058 children
<b>Children who passed hearing screening</b>	982 (93%)
<b>Children who failed hearing screening</b>	72 (6%)
<b>Children who were unable to follow directions</b>	4 (<1%)



## Future State DPH Office of Childhood Hearing with the PCORI Grant

- ◆ Patient Centered Outcome Research Institute (PCORI) awarded UCSF a 5yr grant (7/1/23 – 6/30/28) to study “Pure-Tone Audiometry versus Otoacoustic Emissions for Preschool Hearing Screening”
- ◆ UCSF will provide DPH Office of Childhood Hearing (OCH) with \$1.044M sub-award over five years to contribute to the study
- ◆ The goal of the study is to assess the effectiveness of both hearing screening methods in a community-based setting & assist in early identification of hearing problems or hearing loss in pre-school aged children
- ◆ As a result of the grant, OCH will:
  - ◆ Increase staffing from 2.0 FTE to 3.0 FTE for 5 years
  - ◆ Build partnership and services with 32 Head Start preschool sites
  - ◆ Partner with SFSU Nursing students to provide training and additional preschool hearing screening city-wide
  - ◆ Provide hearing screening for additional “high-need” childcare centers and family child care homes
  - ◆ Increase number of children receiving hearing screening from approx. 1,000 children per year to 2,000 children per year
- ◆ This study will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> research study collaboration between UCSF and DPH OCH
- ◆ Exactly like prior to the grant, each child that doesn’t pass hearing screening receives case management support to access primary care and and/or audiometry for further evaluation

## Retroactivity:

- This item is retroactive due to delays in the budget preparation process for this grant. Additional time was needed to find matching funds.
- Unfortunately, there were additional delays due to staff transitions. Additional DPH personnel were hired to support future grants.

- **Resolution:**

- DPH requests approval of proposed resolution

# Questions?

# Thank you!

