**SSP Advisory Committee Guidelines**

The role of the Advisory Committee is to advise Columbus Speech & Hearing (CSH) in providing effective SSP services and meet the needs of the Ohio DeafBlind Community. The Committee does not make decisions, but rather brainstorm ideas, find creative solutions, discuss and debate policies, and effect best practices in the SSP program. All of these efforts are to ensure that CSH is responsive to the needs of Ohio’s DeafBlind Community.  The Advisory Committee will include SSP program participants, SSP coordinator and related agencies such as the Ohio Association of the DeafBlind. The Committee works directly with Columbus Speech & Hearing.

The structure of the committee will include one independent chair (not an employee of CSH) and a secretary to take down meeting notes. There needs to be at least 6 members and no more than 8 including the committee chair. It is expected that the members are representative of the diverse perspectives of the DeafBlind Community in Ohio.

Below are the expectations for the SSP Program Advisory Committee Members. Please note that we are asking you to commit to biannual meetings and respond to any email requests. The meetings will be held virtually. Accessibility will be provided including American Sign Language (ASL) and/or tactile ASL.   
  
**Responsibilities of SSP Program Advisory Committee Members**  
The goal of the SSP Program Advisory Committee is to work collaboratively with CSH to:

* Brainstorm ideas
* Find creative solutions
* Discuss and debate policies
* Affect positive change in the SSP Program

All of these efforts are to ensure that Columbus Speech and Hearing is responsive to the needs of Ohio’s DeafBlind Community.

Each Committee Member must agree to:

1. Participate in biannual meetings scheduled during the typical work week  
2. Have access to a computer and the Internet  
3. Be willing to share your personal experience relating to the knowledge and understanding of the role of the SSP  
4. Share collaboratively and provide meaningful and constructive input and support to the SSP program  
5. Identify and propose ideas to support the programs and policies of SSP Program  
6. Represent the interests of Ohio’s DeafBlind people and/or the SSPs who support them  
7. Collaborate with other committee members and CSH staff to provide leadership to the SSP program  
8. Respond to requests – e-mail, phone and/or mail – for your input on a variety of issues affecting the SSP program