



Bureau of Autism Services Update

National Autism Conference
August 6, 2014

Bureau of Autism Services
Office of Developmental Programs
Department of Public Welfare
Nina Wall, MSS, LSW, Director


www.dpw.state.pa.us



Today's Focus

- Who we are, how we got started, and where we fit into the system
- BAS Adult Autism Programs: General Overview
- ASERT Initiatives Overview

www.dpw.state.pa.us



Optimism is the best
Way to see life

www.dpw.state.pa.us



BAS MISSION

Our mission is to develop and manage services and supports to enhance the quality of life for Pennsylvanians living with Autism Spectrum Disorders and to support their families and caregivers.

www.dpw.state.pa.us

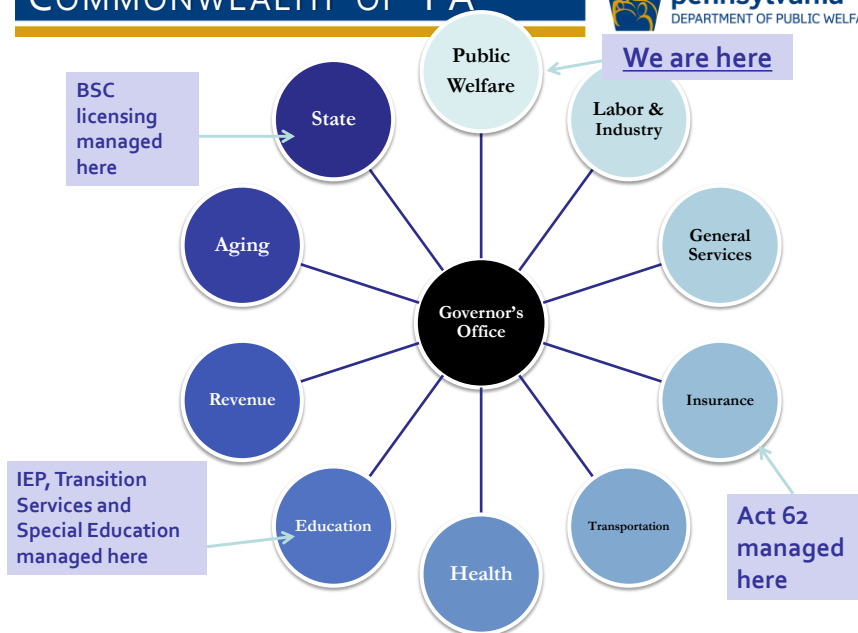


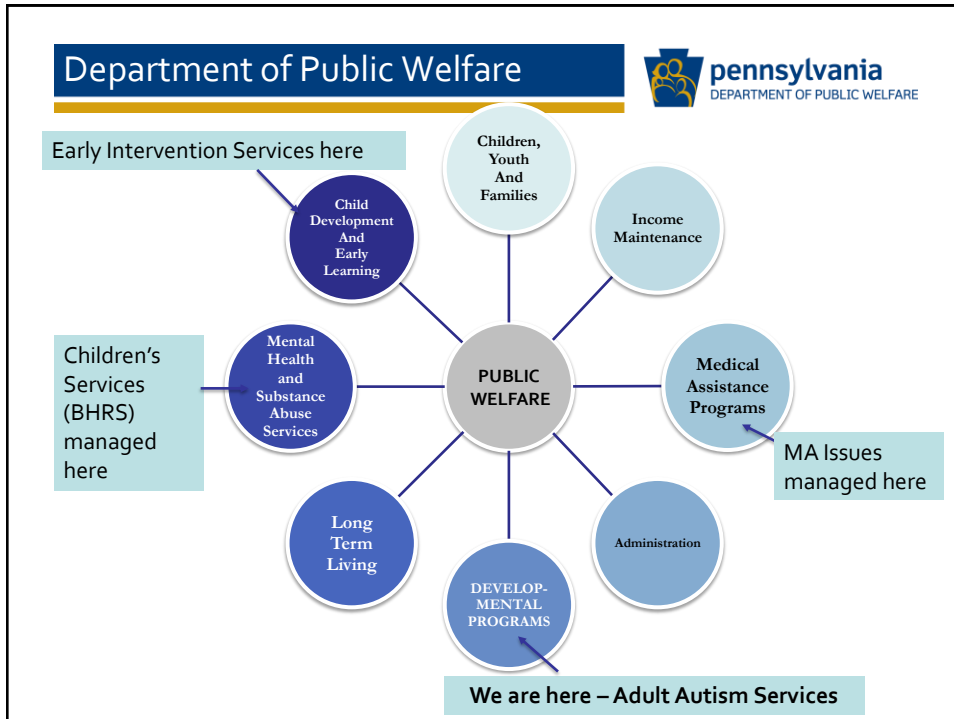
BAS Values

- Support those living with autism *throughout the life span*
- Support those living with autism *across the spectrum*
- Support families
- Every person living with autism can have an improved quality of life given the right supports delivered by trained staff
- Increased independence and self-sufficiency
- Explore innovative models

www.dpw.state.pa.us

COMMONWEALTH OF PA

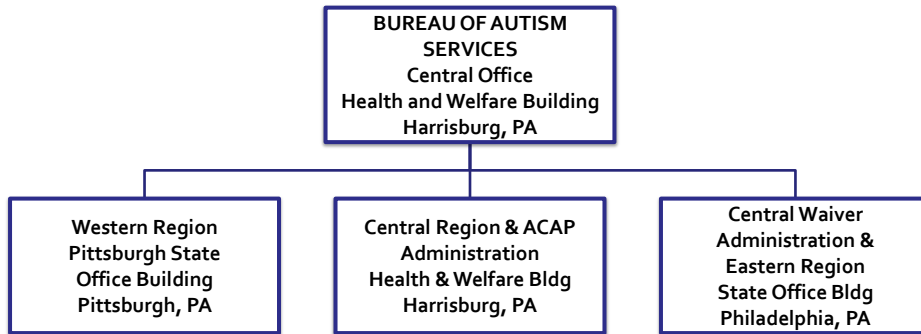




BUREAU OF AUTISM SERVICES



Central and Regional Offices



www.dpw.state.pa.us

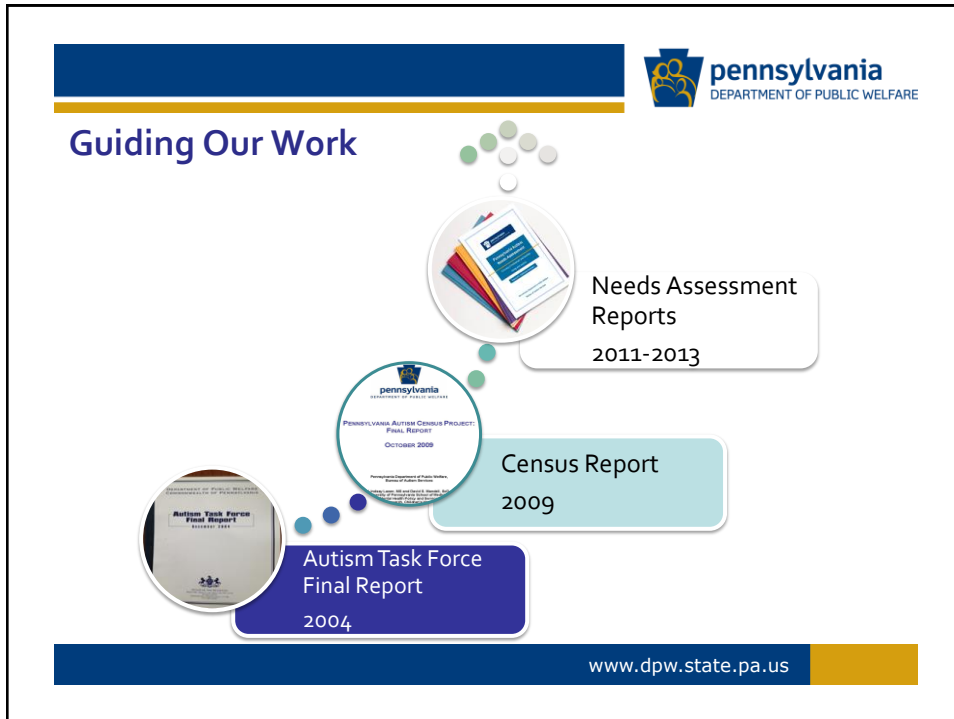
Our "Blueprint"

December 2004: The PA Autism Task Force published a 1,000+ page final report, outlining solutions for improving the organization, financing, & delivery of services to individuals living with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in the Commonwealth.

Over 250 families, clinicians, educators and administrators from around the Commonwealth met to share their personal experiences and professional expertise.



www.dpw.state.pa.us



Gaps in the Service System for Children with ASD

- Dearth of professionals trained in ASD
- No incentives for quality service delivery
- Disagreement over which system will cover necessary services (Special Education vs. Mental Health vs. Medical)
- Zero tolerance in schools (resulting in children and teens entering the juvenile justice system)
- Inappropriate or inadequate transition services to prepare students for work after school
- BHRS is based on rehabilitative model, which is not a good fit for individuals with autism
- ID waivers have waiting lists and do not serve people with IQ over 70

www.dpw.state.pa.us



Gaps in the PA Service System for Adults with ASD

- Intellectual Disability Services
 - ♦ Two waivers have waiting lists
 - ♦ Do not cover those with an IQ over 70
- Non-ID, Developmental Disabilities Waiver
 - ♦ Service package designed for people with physical disabilities
- Mental Health
 - ♦ Services limited to those with co-occurring mental illness.
 - ♦ Not designed to meet needs of people with an ASD diagnosis
- Vocational Rehabilitation
 - ♦ Too limited to help people with ASD get & maintain jobs

www.dpw.state.pa.us



Autism Insurance Legislation (Act 62)

- This legislation was introduced to mitigate the heavy burden caused by health insurance companies' discrimination against individuals with autism.
- It creates a liability for private insurers to cover services for children with autism that would have turned to MA for assistance.

www.dpw.state.pa.us



Autism Insurance: ACT 62

Specific to autism insurance reform, Act 62 does three main things:

1. Requires private health insurance companies to begin covering the costs of diagnostic assessments for autism and of services for individuals with autism who are under the age of 21.
2. Requires the PA Department of Public Welfare to cover those costs for individuals who have no insurance coverage, or for individuals whose costs exceed \$36,000 that year.
3. Requires the PA Department of State to license professional behavior specialists and to establish minimum licensure qualifications for them.

www.dpw.state.pa.us



BAS Initiatives

- **Adult Autism Waiver (AAW)** 1915(c) fee for service & the **Adult Community Autism Program (ACAP)** 1915(a) managed care: *the first programs in the nation for adults with autism*
- **Initiatives to support or inform the work** we're doing in our programs, and meet the needs of individuals with autism and families beyond ACAP and AAW
 - ♦ Autism Services, Education, Resources and Training Collaborative (ASERT)
 - ♦ Training
 - » Annual PA Autism Training Conference (PATC)
 - » Act 62 Behavior Specialist License
 - » Ongoing training for professionals supporting individuals with autism and their families/caregivers
 - ♦ Ongoing clinical support to other systems and programs
 - ♦ Mini-Grant Program

www.dpw.state.pa.us



Training: A Critical & Consistent Priority

Training needs to be:

- Reflective of rapidly evolving knowledge
- Supported by data and the evaluation of outcomes
- Responsive to feedback from individuals, families, and the target audience (e.g., judges, educators, providers)
- Designed to increase the pool of empirically supported best practices
- Ongoing

www.dpw.state.pa.us



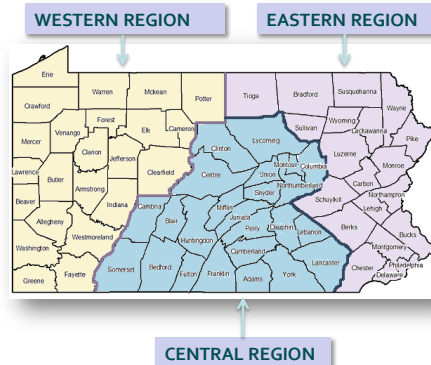
To address the challenges ahead,
we will need to develop strong
collaborations between the community
and the public and private sectors

www.dpw.state.pa.us



Autism Services, Education, Resources & Training Collaborative (ASERT)

- ASERT is a statewide initiative funded by the Bureau of Autism Services, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.
- ASERT is a unique public and private partnership between BAS and PA universities, hospitals/medical centers and private community providers.
- It is a key component of our strategy for supporting individuals with autism and their families throughout the Commonwealth.



www.dpw.state.pa.us



ASERT INITIATIVES: PROJECT OVERVIEW

www.dpw.state.pa.us



EASTERN REGION: Project Lead Summary

- Updated Census Data
- Needs Assessment Reports
- Other Initiatives
 - ♦ Employment
 - ♦ Post-Secondary Programs
 - ♦ Clinical Services Model
 - ♦ Psychopharmacology
 - ♦ BAS program focus groups and data analysis
 - ♦ Housing resources
 - ♦ Community Resource Fairs

www.dpw.state.pa.us



CENTRAL REGION: Project Lead Summary

- Resource Center: Outreach
- Other Initiatives (fully or partially funded)
 - ♦ Autism Life Care Model (ALCM)
 - ♦ Adolescent & Adult Multimedia Social Skills Trainings
 - ♦ Adult Diagnostic Clinic
 - ♦ Reassessment Clinic
 - ♦ Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Clinic
 - ♦ Psychopharmacology Management Clinic

www.dpw.state.pa.us



WESTERN REGION: Project Lead Summary

- Telemedicine Consultation to Rural Areas
- Adult Diagnostic Clinic
- Club House Model Project
- Statewide First Responders and Emergency Responders Training
- Juvenile Justice Personnel Training Manual

www.dpw.state.pa.us



- PA is leading the nation: first to map out models of service for adults with autism



www.dpw.state.pa.us

Bridge to Nowhere

Without effective supports, we see:



- Homelessness
- Crisis intervention
- Hospitalizations
- Chemical restraints
- Justice Intersections
- High family stress
- Individuals with autism living at home with aging parents or siblings

www.dpw.state.pa.us



Meeting the Need

With effective supports, individuals with autism are able to be part of the community, hold jobs, and reach their potential to live as independently as possible.

www.dpw.state.pa.us



Innovative Services for Adults with Autism

- ADULT AUTISM WAIVER (AAW)
- ADULT COMMUNITY AUTISM PROGRAM (ACAP)

Programs designed to help adults with autism live in their communities the way they want to, based on their identified needs



www.dpw.state.pa.us



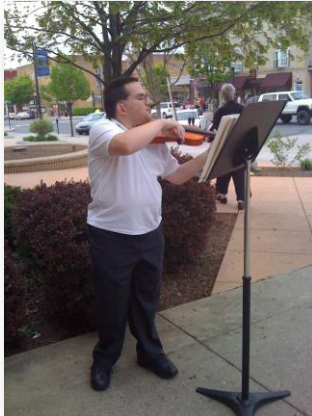
Our Two Adult Autism Programs

- The **Adult Autism Waiver (AAW)** is a 1915(c) HCBS Medicaid waiver designed to provide long-term services and supports for community living, tailored to the specific needs of adults age 21 or older with an ASD. Additionally, the Adult Autism Waiver is available statewide, and provides participants with a choice of an enrolled provider for each service.
- The **Adult Community Autism Program (ACAP)** is not a waiver. It is a managed care program that is an integrated model of care reflecting trends being seen in service delivery systems. ACAP is currently available in a limited number of counties, with services provided by one primary provider, and their network of providers, including primary care physicians and dentists. It provides physician, behavioral, and community services through an integrated approach to create a coordinated system of supports.

www.dpw.state.pa.us



What are the goals of BAS adult programs?



- Increase person's ability to care for themselves
- Decrease family/caregiver stress
- Increase quality of life for both the person and the family
- Provide specialized supports to adults with ASD based on need
- Help adults with ASD reach their employment goals
- Support more involvement in community activities
- Decrease crisis episodes and psychiatric hospitalizations

www.dpw.state.pa.us



BAS Adult Programs: Shared Features

The Adult Autism Programs share these features:

- Clinical & technical assistance available to enrolled providers
- Service planning and measures of success based on individual goals
- Services based on proven approaches to help individuals with ASD realize their goals
- Specifically designed to meet the needs of adults with ASD
- Administered at the state level directly by BAS
- Do not use IQ as an eligibility factor
- Providers required to complete autism-specific training & meet standards

www.dpw.state.pa.us



AAW & ACAP: Differences

Adult Autism Waiver

- Priority given to individuals not receiving ongoing state/federally funded services
- Available statewide
- Physical health services not included as a waiver service; participants retain existing medical insurance
- Choice of an enrolled provider for each service
- Does allow for residential 24/7 care if a need is determined through assessment

Adult Community Autism Program

- Available in a limited number of counties; expansion dependent on availability of resources
- ACAP becomes the participant's health plan, and integrates physical/behavioral health & community services
- One primary provider provides most services, and oversees a network of providers for other services (e.g., primary care physician, dentists)
- At intake, participant cannot require 16 or more hours of awake support

www.dpw.state.pa.us



Adult Autism Waiver Services

Case Management	Habilitation	Other Services	Extended State Plan Services
Supports Coordination	Community Inclusion	Respite	Occupational Therapy
Community Transition Services	Behavioral Specialist Services	Assistive Technology	Speech/Language Therapy
	Residential Habilitation	Job Assessment and Job Finding	Counseling
	Day Habilitation	Environmental Modifications	
	Supported Employment	Nutritional Consultation	
	Transitional Work Services	Temporary Crisis Services	
		Family Counseling	
		Family Training	

www.dpw.state.pa.us

ACAP Services



All Physician Services (including emergency services provided by a physician, psychiatric services, and direct access to a woman's health specialist to provide women's routine and preventive health care services)	Certified Registered Nurse Services	Intermediate Care Facility (ICF services)	Nursing Facility Services	Non-emergency medical transportation to services covered under the Medical Assistance Program
Health Promotion and Disease Prevention services	Medical supplies and durable medical equipment	Dentist services	Hospice services	Mental health crisis intervention services
Outpatient psychiatric clinic services	Respiratory services	Targeted Case Management	Assistive Technology	Behavioral Support (similar to Behavioral Specialist Services in the Adult Autism Waiver)
Community Transition Services	Crisis Intervention Services	Adult Day Habilitation	Environmental Modifications	Family Counseling
Habilitation	Homemaker/Chore services	Non-Medical Transportation	Personal Assistance Services	Pre-vocational Services
Residential Support	Respite	Supported Employment	Supports Coordination	Visiting Nurse
Chiropractors' services	Physical, Occupational, Vision and Mobility, and Speech therapies (group and individual)	Prosthetic eyes and other eye appliances	Optometrists' services	Additional services determined necessary
			Audiologist services	



In 2012, the Adult Community Autism Program (ACAP) was featured as a **model of excellence in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) on-line resource for Managed Long Term Services and Supports (MLTSS).**

www.dpw.state.pa.us



Our programs continue to evolve as our understanding of the needs expands.

Our understanding comes from constantly re-evaluating *what* we are doing, and *how*, and making sure we remember **why**.

www.dpw.state.pa.us



Seeing Outcomes

Our program participants are making progress toward their goals!

With the support of their trained service providers, participants are:

- volunteering in their communities
- gaining employment in competitive fields
- moving into independent living quarters

— all with their input, based on their identified needs



www.dpw.state.pa.us



Eligibility Requirements



The individual served must meet program eligibility and financial eligibility.

Program Eligibility

- Be a PA resident at the time of enrollment*
- Be 21 or older
- Have a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD)
- Meet functional eligibility and Level of Care

Financial Eligibility

- Receive Medical Assistance (*income eligibility determined by County Assistance Office*)

** ACAP: Must live in one of the ACAP counties at the time of application*

www.dpw.state.pa.us



Financial Eligibility (MA)

- If the applicant has met all other eligibility criteria, including functional eligibility, the final step in the application process is for the County Assistance Office (CAO) to determine financial eligibility.
- All waiver programs within the Commonwealth require individuals to meet certain financial eligibility criteria.
 - ♦ ACAP financial eligibility is based on 100% of the Federal Poverty Income Guideline (FPIG)
 - ♦ AAW financial eligibility is based on 300% of the Federal Benefit Rate (FBR)

www.dpw.state.pa.us



Functional Eligibility

Individual must have substantial functional limitations in three or more of the major life activities listed below:

- self-care
- understanding and use of receptive and expressive language
- learning
- mobility
- self-direction
- capacity for independent living

www.dpw.state.pa.us



MA 51 : Level of Care/ICF-ORC/ICF-MR

- This is a form that must be done before a participant enrolls (eligibility) and then annually.
- A Pennsylvania-licensed physician (MD/DO/Psychiatrist) must sign and date the MA-51.
- The form **cannot** be signed by anyone who is not a PA-licensed physician, including: a "physician in training" (a Medical Doctor in Training [MT] or an Osteopathic Doctor in Training [OT]); a Nurse Practitioner; a Licensed Psychologist

www.dpw.state.pa.us



AAW Priority Categories (Eligibility)

- **Priority 1:** Those who are not already receiving state-funded or state and federally-funded home and community-based services.
- **Priority 2:** Those who are already receiving state-funded or state and federally-funded services (*e.g., state center, another waiver, state hospital, nursing home, Intermediate Care Facility*).
- Everyone on the interest list is placed into a priority category and receives a status letter to confirm that category.

If you are on the interest list, you must contact BAS if your status changes or your contact information changes.

www.dpw.state.pa.us



Adult Autism Waiver & ACAP Applications

To request an application for either program call toll-free in PA:

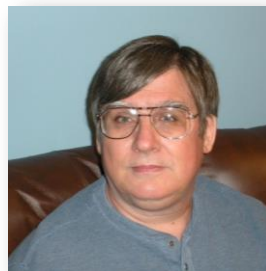
1-866-539-7689

Follow the prompts to leave a message; do not select zero

Applications may not be requested by email and are not available on-line.

Information to leave:

- Name of person who wishes to apply
- Telephone number
- Address
- County of residence
- If you are calling on the behalf of the person who wishes to apply also leave your name and daytime phone number.

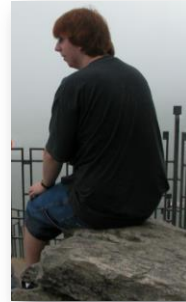


www.dpw.state.pa.us



Application Process

1. ACAP/Waiver application
2. Functional Eligibility Assessment (FEA)
3. Level of Care determination (MA 51)
4. Financial Eligibility (different for AAW and ACAP)
5. Enrollment



www.dpw.state.pa.us



Application Questions

- **Requests for applications are processed in the order they are received:**
 - ♦ If you think you may be eligible, or know someone who might be, you are strongly encouraged to request an application as soon as possible. Your name will be added to the interest list.
- **Individuals can request an application for both programs at the same time.**
 - ♦ If you think you meet eligibility for both, you can decide which one is a better fit before enrolling in one of them.
- **Individuals can request an application at any age/time; you must be eligible at the time of application to be enrolled.**
 - ♦ Individuals on wait lists for other programs can request an application for these programs without losing their placement on those wait lists.

www.dpw.state.pa.us



Application Questions

- **Applications are not sent until there is capacity in the program.** If an individual receives an application, it means there is space within the program, as long as the person meets all of the eligibility requirements.
- No assessments or paperwork is required prior to receiving an application.
- An individual who is within 90 days of turning 21 when their name reaches the top of the interest list will be sent an application when they reach their 21st birthday.

www.dpw.state.pa.us



Additional Program Resources

Fall 2014: Visit www.PAutism.org to view recorded videos providing an overview of the BAS Adult Programs and a detailed walk-through of the AAW Application Process

(Available now: PDF document of the AAW Application Process)

www.dpw.state.pa.us



Program Update

- BAS is in the process of sending applications to individuals on the interest list for each program and enrolling eligible individuals.
- Both programs will soon be at capacity and, at that point, no additional applications will be sent unless participants leave the programs, or additional funding is proposed.


www.dpw.state.pa.us



Available Services

- The range of services and supports that are available to an individual with autism is dependent upon the person's age.
- As the person gets older, the availability of services ***decreases***.

www.dpw.state.pa.us



Service Systems Access by Age

Early Intervention:

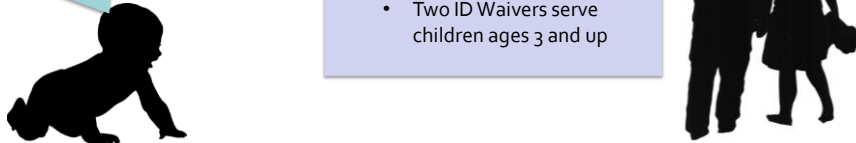
- Services for children up to age 5
- EI Waiver : For children up to age 3

Special Education:


- Services for children up to age 22 or upon graduation

Medical Assistance:

- EPSDT: mental and behavioral health (BHRS/wraparound) and physical health; medically necessary services covered until age 21
- Two ID Waivers serve children ages 3 and up



www.dpw.state.pa.us



Service Systems Access by Age


Special Education:


- Services for children up to age 22 or upon graduation

Medical Assistance:

- EPSDT: mental and behavioral health (BHRS/wraparound) and physical health; medically necessary services covered until age 21
- Two ID Waivers serve children ages 3 and up

Adults over 21:
Services are only available to the extent that we have the resources to supply them.





Service System Summary

- Services must be provided through the age of 21 if a need is identified.
- Transition services for individuals between the ages of 18-21 are limited, but are available; planning should begin at age 14.
- From the age of 21, services are not a legal entitlement, even if a need is identified. They are available only if resources are available.

www.dpw.state.pa.us

In this environment, resources have become increasingly dear.



www.dpw.state.pa.us

What now?



We have a long way to go.

www.dpw.state.pa.us

Ongoing Challenges

- Increasing population
- Limited resources
- Families and individuals with autism stressed
- Need for increased capacity of professionals trained to support individuals with autism, especially adults
- Federal eligibility criteria
- Individuals with autism housed in every system
- Multiple systems are complicated to navigate
- Tough issues: Employment, Housing, Transportation

www.dpw.state.pa.us



We can build upon what we've done

- Model Programs
- Innovative Approaches
- Collaborations
- Needs Assessment
- Census Study



www.dpw.state.pa.us



Additional information will be shared during this session by ASERT. You can access that information in the following ways:

- Stop by the ASERT Resource Table in the Exhibitor Hall during the conference
- Visit www.PAautism.org/census
- Contact the ASERT Resource Center
 - ♦ Phone: 1-877-231-4244
 - ♦ Email: info@PAautism.org

www.dpw.state.pa.us



Bureau of Autism Services, ODP, DPW Nina Wall, Director

For more information:

- Email us:
DPW-AutismOffice@pa.gov
- Visit our General Website:
www.autisminpa.org
- Visit the ASERT website:
www.PAutism.org
- Call us:
Toll-Free in Pennsylvania: 866-539-7689



www.dpw.state.pa.us