The Autism Division & DDS Family Support Programs

An Overview

August 28, 2014
Types of Programs

The Autism Division Programs:
- Community Based Supports through Autism Centers
- Medicaid Home and Community Based Services Waiver-Autism Waiver Program

The DESE/DDS Program
- A residential prevention program funded by DESE and administered by DDS Staff

DDS Family Support Programs
- General Family Support
- Family Support Centers
- IFFS (Intensive Family Flexible Supports)
Autism Support Centers
Community Initiatives

Autism Support Centers (seven statewide) contract with DDS to provide the following community based supports:

- Information, Referral, Training & Support Groups

- Community Based Services including social skills, sensory/gym programs and family activities
Autism Waiver Program Overview

- Participants must meet level of care & have MassHealth Standard
- Participants must be under the age of 9
- Families must be willing to subscribe to the Participant Directed Model
- Families have a freedom of choice among service providers
- Funds and hiring of staff managed by Financial Management Service (FMS), currently Public Partnerships, Limited (PPL)
- Current Renewal Waiver ends on 09/30/2015 has a current one-time capacity of 220 and overall of 325
## Waiver Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Type</th>
<th>Overview</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expanded Habilitation, Education (In-Home Services)</td>
<td>Remains available for 3 years or until 9th Birthday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Habilitation, Community Integration</td>
<td>Must be tied to Education Habilitation goals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Training</td>
<td>Used more often with families new to the waiver</td>
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<tr>
<td>Respite</td>
<td>Option for Respite Services in home of a caregiver</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homemaker</td>
<td>Available on a short term basis to assist family in times of need</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Goods &amp; Services</td>
<td>Limit of $1500 a year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home &amp; Vehicle Modifications</td>
<td>Lifetime limit of $10,000 and $5,000 limit per year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adaptive Aids</td>
<td>Overall limit of one computer per participant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech Therapy</td>
<td>Must try to access MassHealth (MH) first for therapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Occupational Therapy</td>
<td>Must try to access MassHealth (MH) first for therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Therapy</td>
<td>Must try to access MassHealth (MH) first for therapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Behavioral Consultation</td>
<td>Not offered in years when participant is receiving Expanded Habilitation, Education</td>
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Autism Waiver Program

Staff

- Autism Clinical Manager
  - Works for DDS
  - Provides oversight/monitoring for program

- Autism Support Broker
  - Work for one of seven MA Autism Support Centers
  - Plan, collaborate and troubleshoot with parent/caregivers around Autism Waiver Services & Supports
Current Waiver Highlights

- **Reserved capacity for 3 year olds transitioning from Early Intervention (EI)**

- **Participants receive up to three years of Expanded Habilitation, Education and other Ancillary Supports at up to $25,000 a year ($5,500 cap on Ancillary Supports)**

- **After three years, they go into the Step Down Program and receive up to $5,500 of Behavioral Consultation and Ancillary Supports.**

- **A small group of aging out of autism children went into the DESE/DDS Program as part of a Pilot during FY 13 and FY 14**
DESE/DDS Program

• A residential prevention program funded by DESE/Administered by DDS

• Provides in-home services aimed at developing the capacity of the participant and the family to assist with keeping student at home and in the community and out of a residential school program

• Supplements does not supplant additional services from school, private providers, MassHealth, etc.

• Currently program has about 450 participants and another 50 will start in FY 15

• Open enrollment held and then a regional/area based prioritization process to determine who is assessed for the program

• Program ends either based on no longer meeting the assessed need or the participant’s 22nd birthday.
DDS Family Support Programs

- DDS Area Based Family Support:
  - DDS Area based services that offer Limited funding to families to cover services such as respite and community integration activities

- Family Support Centers:
  - Network of Family Support Centers across Commonwealth that offer a variety of general developmental disability related information and referral resources
  - Additional targeted case management to assist with a particular concern or issue is also available through these Family Support Centers

- IFFS (Intensive Flexible Family Support)
  - A short term set of services (approximately six months) that help address more imminent needs of a DDS eligible child/young adult such as the need for crisis management or the intervention of an in-home behavioral team