

AHCCCS ASD Advisory Committee
January 10, 2018 Meeting Notes

Notes compiled by Sharon Flanagan-Hyde, Facilitator—sharon@flanagan-hyde.com

Participants

1. Ann Monahan, Board President, Arizona Autism Coalition; Vice President, State and Governmental Affairs, Hope Group, LLC
2. Bohdan Hrecznyj, MD, Children's Medical Administrator, Health Choice Integrated Care (HCIC), RBHA
3. Brian Kociszewski, Behavioral Health Program Manager, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)
4. Brian van Meerten, MEd, BCBA, LBA, Director of Behavioral Health Services, Behavioral Consultation Services of Northern, Arizona, LLC (BCSNA)
5. Bryan Davey, PhD, BCBA-D, CEO, Touchstone Health Services
6. Carol Parra, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)
7. Christopher Smith, PhD, Vice President and Research Director, Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center (SARRC)
8. Dana Hearn, Assistant Director, Division of Health Care Advocacy and Advancement, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)
9. Dennis Friedman, DO, Psychiatrist, Banner University Medical Center - Phoenix, University of Arizona
10. Diedra Freedman, JD, Board Secretary/Treasurer, Arizona Autism Coalition
11. Don J. Fowls, MD, Medical Strategies (formerly Chief Medical Officer), Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care (MMIC), RBHA
12. Ginger Ward, MAEd, Chief Executive Officer, Southwest Human Development
13. Jared Perkins, MPA, Director of Operations, Children's Clinics; Vice President, Autism Society of Southern Arizona
14. Jennie McMillian, Chief Clinical Officer, Health Choice Integrated Care (HCIC), RBHA
15. Joanna Kowalik, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Arizona Department of Economic Security/Division of Developmental Disabilities (DES/DDD)
16. Jon Meyers, Executive Director, The Arc of Arizona
17. Jonathan Mueller, Managing Director, Ascend Behavior Partners
18. Joyce Millard Hoie, MPA, Executive Director, Raising Special Kids
19. Karla Birkholz, MD, Arizona Academy of Family Physicians
20. Karrie Steving, Children's System of Care Administrator, Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care (MMIC), RBHA
21. Kellie Bynum, Program Director, Southwest Autism Center of Excellence (SACE), Southwest Behavioral & Health Services
22. Kelly Lalan, Clinical Care Coordinator/DDD Liaison, Health Choice Integrated Care (HCIC), RBHA

23. Lauren Prole, Clinical Project Manager, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)
24. Leslie Paulus, MD, PhD, FACP, Medical Director, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan
25. Lisa Kunz, Autism and Low Incidence Specialist, Professional Learning and Sustainability, Arizona Department of Education
26. Melissa Ritchey, Children's Clinics
27. Michael Wright, LCP, BCBA; Chief Medical Officer, Ascend Behavior Partners
28. Monica Coury, Vice President of Legislative and Government Affairs, Centene
29. Ramiro Guillen, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Southwest Behavioral & Health
30. Ron Copeland, Senior Director of Program Development, Cenpatico Integrated Care (CIC), RBHA
31. Saba V. Biggar, BCBA, LBA, Allied Behavioral Consulting, LLC
32. Sara Salek, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)
33. Steven Sheets, MC, LPC, Senior Vice President, Southwest Behavioral & Health Services
34. Sydney Rice, MD, MSd, Board-certified Developmental Pediatrician; Associate Professor, Pediatrics, The University of Arizona College of Medicine in Tucson
35. Tatyana Farietta-Murray, MD, Children's Medical Director, Medical Management, Cenpatico Integrated Care (C-IC), RBHA
36. Terry Matteo, PhD, Clinical Child Psychologist
37. Victoria Tewa MS, LPC, Director of Children's Services, Health Choice Integrated Care (HCIC), RBHA

Adults with ASD

The AHCCCS ASD Advisory Committee recognizes the importance on including the perspectives of adults with ASD when developing recommendations for system-level changes to better meet the needs of AHCCCS members with ASD. To that end, the Committee is developing multiple approaches in order to accommodate individual differences and preferences related to communication.

Sharon Flanagan-Hyde, the Committee's facilitator, will serve as the point person for gathering the names of adults with ASD who are interested in participating in the Advisory Committee and will coordinate gathering input. Approaches may include in-person meetings and use of technology (conference calls, streaming, etc.) We hope to identify individuals throughout the state to participate, and will do our best to accommodate individuals with different levels of functioning.

Potential discussion topics include:

- Better understanding what adults with ASD identify as issues of concern, and how the Committee can provide support for their priorities
- Employment
- Transportation
- Transition to independence
- Guardianship

- Social isolation and connection
- Changes in Medicaid Home & Community Based Services (HCBS)
- Transition to adult medical services, impact of issues such as wait times and schedule changes
- Advocacy
- Transgender issues
- Opioid and other substance abuse

Upcoming Billing Changes

Ann Monahan, Board President of Arizona Autism Coalition and Vice President, State and Governmental Affairs, Hope Group, talked about ways in which providers and families will be impacted by billing changes during the next several years. The complexity of changes related to integration is compounded by the complexity of coding. Over time, there will be a transition from state-only “homegrown” codes and temporary national codes to permanent nationally recognized code sets. In addition, changes to the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) are underway.

Key points:

- Complete Care (described below) will integrate physical and behavioral health care for all children and adults on AHCCCS except foster care children enrolled with Comprehensive Medical Dental Program (CMDP), ALTCS, and adults with a Serious Mental Illness (SMI) starting on October 1, 2018.
- The timeline for ALTCS integration is a start date of October 1, 2019. The procurement process will begin in Fall 2018.
- AHCCCS and DDD are committed to reducing red tape and giving providers the support they need to bill appropriately. This includes educating providers that AHCCCS member should not be billed for deductibles and copays, which AHCCCS covers in the interest of encouraging members to maintain their primary insurance.
- Bryan Davies mentioned that changes are underway at a national level for ABA codes. It is expected that some of the temporary codes will be collapsed, which will change definitions. The implementation date of changes is not known at this time.

The Advisory Committee’s Coordination of Benefits/Third Party Liability (COB/TPL) Work Group has been meeting regularly to discuss these issues. A summary is provided below. We will ask Sherri Wince and Tyra Oliver from DDD to provide an update at the Advisory Committee’s April meeting.

AHCCCS Complete Care Contract Overview

Dana Hearn, Assistant Director, AHCCCS Division of Healthcare Advocacy and Advancement (DHCAA), presented an update on procurement and implementation AHCCCS Complete Care, which will integrate physical and behavioral health care services starting on October 1, 2018.

Questions and discussion points:

- Proposals are due on 1/25/18 and contracts will be awarded by 3/8/18.

- Complete Care will cover the AHCCCS acute care population, not ALTCS, children in foster care enrolled in CMDP, or adults with SMI.
- Some individuals with autism are enrolled in ALTCS Elderly and Physically Disabled (EPD), which has always been fully integrated.
- The service array will not change with Complete Care; instead, one payer is responsible for both physical and behavioral services. This will eliminate debate about who is responsible for which services.
- During the time period before DDD integrates, families should be aware that DDD and the RBHAs have standing meetings to resolve any disagreements about who is responsible for payments. If an agreement cannot be reached, AHCCCS steps in to reach a resolution.
- AHCCCS encourages a collaborative environment to support the delivery of quality care, and recognizes that both providers and families face multiple stresses.
- AHCCCS is taking steps to streamline processes and reduce red tape during the integration process, and provide appropriate support.
- Multi-Specialty Interdisciplinary Clinics (MSICs) will continue to exist.
- Crisis services will continue to be served by the RBHAs with the existing RBHA geographic service areas unchanged on 10/1/18.

Web link: AHCCCS Integrated Care

<https://www.azahcccs.gov/AHCCCS/Initiatives/CareCoordination/integrateddelivery.html>

Update: COB/TPL Work Group

The Coordination of Benefits/Third Party Liability Work Group plans to finalize recommendations at its January 29 meeting (11:00 am-1:00 pm at AHCCCS). The group has been working through scenarios and identifying topics to be covered in a Frequently Asked Questions document. The group has included consumer advocates, providers, health plans, DDD, RBHAs, and AHCCCS.

Update: Crisis Response Work Group

The Crisis Response Work Group plans to develop and reach consensus recommendations at its next two meetings (Feb. 13 and March 13, 3:00-4:00 pm at AHCCCS). The group has been discussing crisis services, avoiding crises through identifying caregiver stress, providing support to families, the transition from inpatient to outpatient care, law enforcement issues, and other topics. The group has included consumer advocates, providers (including Aurora representatives), law enforcement representatives, health plans, DDD, RBHAs, and AHCCCS.

Evidence-Based Practice

Terry Matteo reported that he is serving as a reviewer for the National Clearinghouse of Autism Practices and Evidence (NCAPE) systematic review of the current intervention literature targeting individuals on the autism spectrum. NCAPE is a continuation of the evidence review that was completed by the National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders (NPDC) which included research published through 2011. The current effort will review research studies published in the last six years (2012-2017) that

examine the impact of behavioral, educational, clinical, and developmental practices and service models used with individuals on the autism spectrum from birth through age 21.

Autism Centers of Excellence

Southwest Autism Center of Excellence and Touchstone Autism Center of Excellence are up and running. In response to questions about changes in access to diagnoses through the Phoenix Children's Hospital autism clinic (Dr. Blitz is no longer with PCH), both Southwest and Touchstone have capacity for diagnoses.

Preschool Expulsions

Ginger Ward said that there is an epidemic of preschool expulsions. Children in this age group get kicked out at a rate 12 times as high as school-age children. Southwest Human Development is partnership with other nonprofits and the State of Arizona to address this problem. Expulsion rates are higher for children of color and children on the autism spectrum. Contact Ginger at gward@swhd.org for more information.

Action Items

- Provide web link for AHCCCS claim processing rules
- Provide web link for DDD integration procurement updates
- Share data on the number of DDD EPD members have an ASD diagnosis

Future Agenda Topics

The next meeting will be April 11, 2018, 3:00-5:00 p.m. at AHCCCS.

Suggested agenda items include:

- DDD update on billing changes
- Lisa Kunz, Autism and Low Incidence Specialist, Professional Learning and Sustainability, Arizona Department of Education, offered to share ADE data on adults with ASD regarding higher education and employment status
- Crisis Response Work Group recommendations
- COB/TPL Work Group recommendations
- Sexual abuse—see NPR stories on abuse of individuals with disabilities at:
 - <https://www.npr.org/2018/01/08/570224090/the-sexual-assault-epidemic-no-one-talks-about>
 - <https://www.npr.org/2018/01/09/572929725/for-some-with-intellectual-disabilities-ending-abuse-starts-with-sex-ed>.