

**ASD Advisory Committee  
Meeting Notes  
April 5, 2017**

Notes compiled by Sharon Flanagan-Hyde, Facilitator

**Participants**

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- Thomas M. Ball, MD, MPH, Banner-University Medical Center
- Rene Bartos, MD, MPH, FAAP, Medical Director, Mercy Care Plan
- Saba V. Biggar, BCBA, LBA, Allied Behavioral Consulting, LLC
- Karla Birkholz, MD, Arizona Academy of Family Physicians, HonorHealth Medical Group
- Robin K. Blitz, MD, FAAP, Chief, Developmental Pediatrics, Barrow Neurological Institute at Phoenix Children's Hospital
- Aaron Blocher-Rubin, PhD, BCBA/LBA, Chief Executive Officer, Arizona Autism United
- Laurie Brown, MD, Deputy Medical Officer, Health Choice Integrated Care
- Carrie Burgess, Arizona Autism United
- Bryan Davey, PhD, BCBA-D, Chief Executive Officer, HOPE Group, LLC; President, Highland Behavioral
- Diana Davis-Wilson, Hope Group
- Tatyana Farietta-Murray, Cenpatico
- Diedra Freedman, JD, Board Secretary/Treasurer, Arizona Autism Coalition
- Don J. Fowls, MD, Medical Strategies (formerly Chief Medical Officer), Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care (MMIC), RBHA
- Scharlie Gerard-Wolfe, Program Specialist – DDD Liaison, Program Development, Aaron Goldman, MD, Children's Medical Director, Health Choice Integrated Care, LLC, RBHA
- Jennifer Gray, PhD, Arizona Department of Economic Security
- Ramiro Guillen, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Southwest Behavioral & Health
- Joyce Millard Hoie, MPA, Executive Director, Raising Special Kids
- George Jacobson, Project Manager Payment Modernization, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)
- Joanna Kowalik, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Arizona Department of Economic Security/Division of Developmental Disabilities (DES/DDD)
- Lisa Kunz, Autism and Low Incidence Specialist, Professional Learning and Sustainability, Arizona Department of Education
- Kelly Lalan, Iasis Healthcare
- Cynthia Macluskie, Vice President, Board of Directors, Autism Society of Greater Phoenix
- Terry Matteo, PhD, Clinical Child Psychologist
- Jon Meyers, Executive Director, The Arc of Arizona

- Ann Monahan, Board President, Arizona Autism Coalition; Vice President, State and Governmental Affairs, H.O.P.E. Group, LLC
- Daniel Openden, PhD, BCBA-D, President and CEO, Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center (SARRC)
- Leslie Paulus, MD, PhD, FACP, Medical Director, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan
- Jared Perkins, MPA, Director of Operations, Children's Clinics; Vice President, Autism Society of Southern Arizona
- Sharon Perugini, PhD, Ed.S., Psychologist, Children's Developmental Center, Southwest Human Development
- Sydney Rice, MD, MSd, Board-certified Developmental Pediatrician; Associate Professor, Pediatrics, The University of Arizona College of Medicine in Tucson
- Bunnie F. Richie, DO, FAAN, Arizona Department of Economic Security
- Sara Salek, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)
- Kim Skrentny, MSW, LCSW, Arizona Department of Economic Security/Division of Developmental Disabilities (DES/DDD)
- Christopher Smith, PhD, Vice President and Research Director, Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center (SARRC)
- Karrie Steving, Children's System of Care Administrator, Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care (MMIC), RBHA
- Paulina Tiffany, AZ Autism United
- Brian van Meerten, MEd, BCBA, LBA, Director of Behavioral Health Services, Behavioral Consultation Services of Northern, Arizona, LLC (BCSNA)
- Megan Woods, MEd, BCBA, LBA, Behavior Analyst, Arizona Department of Economic Security/Division of Developmental Disabilities (DES/DDD)
- Sandra Zebrowski, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care

### **Ways the February 2016 Report Is Being Used**

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Sara Salek gave a presentation on the ways the February 2016 report produced by the ASD Advisory Committee is being used. She reminded us that the charge to the Committee was to articulate a series of recommendations to the State for strengthening the health care system's ability to respond to the needs of AHCCCS members with or at risk for ASD, including those with comorbid diagnoses.

The report recommended a two-pronged approach: short-term policy changes and long-term policy changes.

Short-term solutions included:

- Improving access to ASD services through the RBHAs
- Expanding the types of providers from whom DDD accepts an ASD diagnosis
- Web-based resources to navigate the current system
- An evidence-based practice (EBP) tool

Long-term solutions included:

- Integration of physical and behavioral health
- Enhanced care coordination
- Utilizing value-based purchasing (VBP) strategies

Summary of accomplishments:

1. Successfully registered BCBAs as independent AHCCCS provider type
  - 108 BCBAs AHCCCS registered as of 4-4-17
2. Researched and determined appropriate code set to be linked to BCBA Provider Type
  - Dual code set—HCPCS and CPT
  - Services provided not limited to autism
3. Designated websites at AHCCCS and each RBHA
 

AHCCCS Website Dedicated to Autism: <http://www.azahcccs.gov/shared/asd.html>

CIC: <https://www.cenpaticointegratedcareaz.com/inthecommunity/community-resources/autism-spectrum-resources.html>

MMIC: <https://www.mercymaricopa.org/health-and-wellness/conditions/autism>

HCIC: <http://www.healthchoiceintegratedcare.com/members/childrens-services/>
4. Identified Specialized ASD Diagnosing Providers by RBHA
 

CIC: [http://www.cenpaticointegratedcareaz.com/content/dam/centene/cenpaticoaz/Provider%20Forms%2C%20Attachments%2C%20and%20Deliverables/PMA\\_3-3-2.pdf](http://www.cenpaticointegratedcareaz.com/content/dam/centene/cenpaticoaz/Provider%20Forms%2C%20Attachments%2C%20and%20Deliverables/PMA_3-3-2.pdf)

CRS: [http://www.uhccommunityplan.com/content/dam/communityplan/plandocuments/findaprovider/AZ\\_Autism\\_Spectrum\\_Disorder.pdf](http://www.uhccommunityplan.com/content/dam/communityplan/plandocuments/findaprovider/AZ_Autism_Spectrum_Disorder.pdf)

HCIC: <http://www.healthchoiceintegratedcare.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/HCIC-ASD-Providers.pdf>

MMIC: <http://www.mercymaricopa.org/assets/pdf/members/directories-guides/AutismSpectrumDisorderProviders.pdf>
5. RBHA network expansion: Maricopa County
  - Centers of Excellence: increased capacity for outpatient assessment and treatment services
  - New inpatient program for children and adolescents with developmental disabilities (anticipated opening May 2017)
6. Evaluated designation of ASD in system and determined it should remain “BH” until integration occurs for acute members
7. AHCCCS Awarded Targeted Improvement grant from CMS
  - Continue to remain focused on recommendations from the ASD Advisory Committee
8. AHCCCS RFI for 10/1/18 integrated contracts

9. DDD updating Article 3 to address ASD specialized diagnosing providers recommendations—developmental pediatricians and child neurologists have been added. Some people would like to see pediatricians with additional specialized training added, while others have voiced concerns. The proposed changes will be upon for public comments on a date to be determined; it will be sent to the legislature by November 1, 2017.
10. DDD implementing Hab-C
11. Workgroup re-convened to evaluate any updates to Appendix H: Systemic Review Studies (EBP Tool)
12. AHCCCS consulted with independent BCBA to update Covered Behavioral Health Services Guide re: focused and comprehensive behavioral interventions including appropriate coding
13. 13. AHCCCS vendor to conduct study in 2017 (including gap analysis) of the services that currently exist in Arizona for diagnosis and treatment of ASD for children and adults
14. AHCCCS and DDD updating 1240-E *Habilitation Early Childhood Autism Specialized*
15. 15. ASD Advisory Committee continues to be actively engaged and provide constructive feedback

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### **Expanding Access to Specialized ASD Diagnosing Providers**

Terry Matteo, PhD and Robin Blitz, MD, FAAP

- Arizona Autism Diagnostic Network—lists of providers available. Sara said that AHCCCS needs to hear about a real or perceived waiting list for providers who provide ASD diagnosis. Robin has developed and implemented a program to train physicians throughout Arizona on how to assess children for ASD and provide them with a medical home. Called Early Access to Care Arizona (EAC-AZ), the program is a six-month learning collaborative. Multiple cohorts have gone through the program.
- AHCCCS/RHBA contracts with psychologists and psychologist-PCP communication & coordination—psychologists are interested in coming together as a profession (through the Arizona Psychological Association) to bring colleagues up to speed on diagnosing ASD. A training is planned on early signs of autism in toddlers. Interested psychologists will meet quarterly. Terry noted that of the 29 psychologists who expressed interest, only 7 have AHCCCS numbers. It is important to get more psychologists on the registry, which could help reduce waiting time for diagnosis. PCPs can help by providing a medical home for individuals with ASD.

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### **Acute Member Benefit: Follow Up From January Meeting**

- Linkage from PCPs to Specialized ASD Diagnosing Providers
- Network of behavioral health services, including comprehensive behavioral intervention programs

**Cenpatico Integrated Care (CIC):** Scharlie Gerard-Wolfe Program Specialist and DDD Liaison Tatyana Farietta-Murray, M.D., Children's Medical Director—lists available of providers who are comfortable making an ASD diagnosis. CIC has developed a four-step

process that starts with the PCP and is followed by getting a diagnosis and accessing services. PCPs in the network are aware of the process, and they refer children to both CIC and DDD. CIC has also identified ABAs; there are four in Pima County, and CIC is working to increase capacity.

**Children’s Rehabilitative Services (CRS):** Leslie Paulus, Medical Director, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan—list of providers who will diagnose and treat is posted; divided by age group. Reaching out to encourage psychologists who are not registered with AHCCCS to register. Working to expand ABA and other intensive services. Planning to do education to help connect PCPs with behavioral health providers.

**Health Choice Integrated Care (HCIC):** Kelly Lalan, DDD Liaison—updated list of providers who can provide diagnosis and support is on web site. PCPs are participating in Early Access to Care Arizona learning collaborative. Contracting with BCBAs. Two are trained in ADOS (Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule).

**Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care (MMIC):** Karrie Steving, Children’s System of Care Administrator—Updating web site lists of psychiatrists and psychologists who diagnose ADS; listed by area and by provider. Many activities being led by the recommendations in the ASD Committee’s report—network expansion and enhancement of communication strategies.

### **Update on Autism Centers of Excellence**

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Karrie Steving, Ramiro Guillen, and Bryan Davey

- Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care and Mercy Care Plan
- Southwest Human Development and Southwest Behavioral & Health Services
- Touchstone Health Services

It is still early in the process. Mercy Care Plan and Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care selected Touchstone Health Services and Southwest Human Development/Southwest Behavioral & Health Services to serve as ASD Centers of Excellence. Both Centers will take a whole-health approach that focuses on physical and behavioral health. In response to questions:

- Intent is for the Centers of Excellence to provide care throughout the lifespan
- Families will have a choice
- Agreement that it is important to use the words “medical home care”

### **Update on DDD Habilitation Consultation Service**

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Kim Skrentny—public comment period through April 24, with targeted implementation on May 19.

### **Update on Evidence-Based Practice Tool Work Group**

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Terry Matteo—Work group met on March 27; next meeting is May 3, 3-5 pm at AHCCCS. Tasks were assigned to work group members. Tool will be published online with an introduction and “how to use” section.

## **Update on Targeted Investment Project**

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George Jacobson, Project Manager Payment Modernization, AHCCCS—Core components are almost done. Will set up Targeted Investment web site. The basic criteria and application for providers who wish to participate should be available about June 1. Goal is to notify participants by August.

## **Announcements**

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- Raising Special Kids (RSK) Partners in Care, The Arizona Symposium on Children with Special Health Care Needs, Friday April 7 in Phoenix
- Elevate Austim conference, May 5, Flagstaff

## **Next Meeting**

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The next quarterly meeting of the ASD Advisory Committee will be Wednesday, July 26 from 3:00-5:00 pm in the Arizona Room of the AHCCCS 801 Building (801 E. Jefferson, Phoenix). The call-in number will be 877-820-7831, passcode 992862. The building, meeting room, and call-in number will be confirmed via e-mail prior to the meeting. Please send suggested agenda items to Sharon Flanagan-Hyde: [sharon@flanaghan-hyde.com](mailto:sharon@flanaghan-hyde.com).



# ASD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, April 5, 2017 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Arizona Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

801 E. Jefferson Phoenix, AZ 85034

## AGENDA

Teleconference: 1-877-820-7831 Participant Passcode: 778195#

Go-To-Meeting: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/934000149>

Time	Topic	Presenter
3:00 pm	Welcome and introductions	Sharon Flanagan-Hyde, Facilitator
3:10 pm	How is the Committee's February 2016 report to the Governor's Office being used?	Sharon Flanagan-Hyde Sara Salek, M.D.
3:30 pm	Expanding access to Specialized ASD Diagnosing Providers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arizona Autism Diagnostic Network</li> <li>AHCCCS/RHBA contracts with psychologists</li> <li>Psychologist-PCP communication &amp; coordination</li> </ul>	Terry Matteo, PhD Robin Blitz, MD, FAAP
3:45 pm	Follow-up from January 18, 2017 meeting: Acute member benefit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Linkage from PCPs to Specialized ASD Diagnosing Providers</li> <li>Network of behavioral health services, including comprehensive behavioral intervention programs</li> </ul>	Sara Salek, M.D.  CIC- Scharlie Gerard-Wolfe Program Specialist – DDD Liaison Tatyana Farietta-Murray, M.D., Children's Medical Director  CRS-Leslie Paulus, M.D., Medical Director, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan  HCIC-Laurie Brown, M.D., Deputy Medical Officer Kelly Lalan, DDD Liaison  MMIC-Karrie Steving Children's System of Care Administrator
4:05 pm	Update on Autism Centers of Excellence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care and Mercy Care Plan</li> <li>Southwest Human Development and Southwest Behavioral &amp; Health Services</li> <li>Touchstone</li> </ul>	Karrie Steving Ramiro Guillen, M.D. Bryan Davey, PhD, BCBA-D, LBA Rene Bartos, M.D., M.P.H.

4:20 pm	Update on DDD Habilitation Consultation Service	Kim Skrentny, MSW, LCSW
4:35 pm	Update on Evidence-Based Practice Tool Work Group	Terry Matteo, PhD
4:45 pm	Update on Targeted Investment Project	George Jacobson, Project Manager, AHCCCS
4:50 pm	Announcements: Events/conferences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raising Special Kids (RSK) Partners in Care, The Arizona Symposium on Children with Special Health Care Needs, Friday April 7<sup>th</sup></li> <li>Elevate Autism, Friday May 5<sup>th</sup> Flagstaff, AZ</li> </ul>	Joyce Millard Hoie, MPA  Laurie Brown, M.D.
4:55 pm	Future agenda topics	Sharon Flanagan-Hyde
5:00 pm	Adjourn	Sharon Flanagan-Hyde

**Future Meetings:** July 26<sup>th</sup> and October 4<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 5:00 pm at AHCCCS



# ASD Advisory Committee: Charge

Articulate a series of recommendations to the State for strengthening the health care system's ability to respond to the needs of AHCCCS members with or at risk for ASD, including those with comorbid diagnoses.

# Two-pronged approach

- Short term: Policy Level Changes
- Long term: System Level Changes

# Short-Term Solutions

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- Improve access to ASD services through RBHA
- Expand the types of providers from whom DDD accepts an ASD dx
- Web resources to navigate current system
- EBP Treatment Matrix

# Long-Term Solutions

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- Integration of physical and behavioral health
- Enhance care coordination
- Utilize VBP strategies

# One Year In Review

How far have we come?



# Summary of Accomplishments

1. Successfully registered BCBAs as independent AHCCCS provider type
  - 108 BCBAs AHCCCS registered as of 4-4-17
2. Researched and determined appropriate code set to be linked to BCBA Provider Type
  - Dual code set—HCPCS and CPT
  - Services provided not limited to autism

# BCBA Penetration Rate compared to other similar AHCCCS PTs

AHCCCS Provider Type*	AHCCCS Distinct Providers	State Wide Actively Licensed	Medicaid Penetration Rate
11-PSYCHOLOGIST	405	1,712	23.7%
85-LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER (LCSW)	498	4,205	11.8%
86-LICENSED MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPIST (LMFT)	54	545	9.9%
87-LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR (LPC)	524	3,951	13.3%
Total	1,481	10,413	14.2%

*\*Data current as of April 2016*

AHCCCS Provider Type**	AHCCCS Distinct Providers	State Wide Actively Licensed	Medicaid Penetration Rate
BC-BCBA	108	245	44%

*\*\*Data current as of April 4, 2017*

# Summary of Accomplishments

## 3. Designated websites at AHCCCS and each RBHA

- AHCCCS Website Dedicated to Autism  
<http://www.azahcccs.gov/shared/asd.html>
- CIC  
<https://www.cenpaticointegratedcareaz.com/inthecommunity/community-resources/autism-spectrum-resources.html>
- MMIC  
<https://www.mercymaricopa.org/health-and-wellness/conditions/autism>
- HCIC  
<http://www.healthchoiceintegratedcare.com/members/childrens-services/>



# Summary of Accomplishments

## 4. Identified Specialized ASD Diagnosing Providers by RBHA

- CIC

[http://www.cenpaticointegratedcareaz.com/content/dam/centene/cenpaticcoaz/Provider%20Forms%2C%20Attachments%2C%20and%20Deliverables/PMA\\_3-3-2.pdf](http://www.cenpaticointegratedcareaz.com/content/dam/centene/cenpaticcoaz/Provider%20Forms%2C%20Attachments%2C%20and%20Deliverables/PMA_3-3-2.pdf)

- CRS

[http://www.uhccommunityplan.com/content/dam/communityplan/plandocuments/findaprovider/AZ\\_Autism\\_Spectrum\\_Disorder.pdf](http://www.uhccommunityplan.com/content/dam/communityplan/plandocuments/findaprovider/AZ_Autism_Spectrum_Disorder.pdf)

- HCIC

<http://www.healthchoiceintegratedcare.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/HCIC-ASD-Providers.pdf>

- MMIC

<http://www.mercymaricopa.org/assets/pdf/members/directories-guides/AutismSpectrumDisorderProviders.pdf>

# Summary of Accomplishments

## 5. RBHA network expansion: Maricopa County

- Centers of Excellence: increased capacity for outpatient assessment and treatment services
- New inpatient program for children and adolescents with developmental disabilities (anticipated opening May 2017)

# Summary of Accomplishments

6. Evaluated designation of ASD in system and determined it should remain “BH” until integration occurs for acute members
7. AHCCCS Awarded TI from CMS
  - Continue to remain focused on recommendations from the ASD Advisory Committee
8. AHCCCS RFI for 10/1/18 integrated contracts

# Summary of Accomplishments

9. DDD updating Article 3 to address ASD specialized diagnosing providers recommendations

10. DDD implementing Hab-C

11. Workgroup re-convened to evaluate any updates to Appendix H: Systemic Review Studies

# Summary of Accomplishments

12. AHCCCS consulted with independent BCBA to update Covered Behavioral Health Services Guide re: focused and comprehensive behavioral interventions including appropriate coding

13. AHCCCS vendor to conduct study in 2017 (including gap analysis) of the services that currently exist in Arizona for diagnosis and treatment of ASD for children and adults

# Summary of Accomplishments

14. AHCCCS and DDD updating 1240-E  
*Habilitation Early Childhood Autism  
Specialized*

15. ASD Advisory Committee continues to be  
actively engaged and provide constructive  
feedback