

Evidence-Based Practice Tool Work Group

May 3, 2017

Participants:

- Rene Bartos, MD, MPH, FAAP, Medical Director, Mercy Care Plan
- Aaron Blocher-Rubin, PhD, BCBA/LBA, Chief Executive Officer, Arizona Autism United
- Bryan Davey, PhD, BCBA-D, Chief Business Development & Compliance Officer, Touchstone Health Services; President, Highland Behavioral (on phone)
- Diedra Freedman, JD, Board Secretary/Treasurer, Arizona Autism Coalition
- Ramiro Guillen, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Southwest Behavioral & Health
- Cynthia Macluskie, Vice President, Board of Directors, Autism Society of Greater Phoenix
- Terry Matteo, PhD, Clinical Child Psychologist
- Tatyana Farietta-Murray, Children's Medical Director, Medical Management, Cenpatico Integrated Care, C-IC, RBHA
- Sharon Perugini, PhD, Ed.S., Psychologist, Children's Developmental Center, Southwest Human Development
- Lauren Prole, Clinical Project Manager, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)
- Sara Salek, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)
- Karrie Steving, Children's System of Care Administrator, Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care (MMIC), RBHA (on phone)
- Megan Woods, MEd, BCBA, LBA, Behavior Analyst, Arizona Department of Economic Security/Division of Developmental Disabilities (DES/DDD)
- Lindsey Zieder (formerly Martinell), Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care (MMIC), RBHA

Facilitator: Sharon Flanagan-Hyde (sharon@flanagan-hyde.com)

Updates and Discussion

- No questions about the AHCCCS definition of experimental services provided by Sara and distributed via e-mail before the meeting.
- Updates on tasks assigned at March 27 meeting:
 - Danny Openden sent information via e-mail about the National Standards Project-Phase 2 before the meeting. There has not been an update since the 2016 version our tool.
 - Rene Bartos talked about her review of health plan bulletins/AAP policy bulletins, sent via e-mail before the meeting.

- Diedra Freedman talked about the excellent resources available from Autism Speaks, sent via e-mail before the meeting.
- Ramiro Guillen talked about journal articles that he obtained, sent via e-mail before the meeting.

Discussion:

We don't want to follow a single approach to assessing evidence. It's important to continue looking at all systematic studies that are available, including the National Clearinghouse of Autism Practices and Evidence (NCAPE) and the next update of the National Standards Project from the National Autism Center at May Institute.

From the NCAPE website: "The National Clearinghouse on Autism Evidence and Practice (NCAPE) is conducting a 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 Disorder (NPDC) which included research published through 2011. We will review research studies published in the last five years (2012-2017) which 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."

Terry talked about the difficulty of comparing studies. The study that he shared at the last meeting (Tristram Smith & Suzannah Iadarola (2015) Evidence Base Update for Autism Spectrum Disorder, *Journal of Clinical and Adolescent Psychology*, 44:6, 897-922 (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/15374416.2015.1077448>) provides a good overview of the challenges in looking at studies.

Cynthia said that it is important that families and providers understand that no specific intervention is a good fit for all individuals. The point of providing this tool is to show that there are multiple choices.

Diedra said that BACB (Behavior Analyst Certification Board®, Inc.) came out with its own standards of practice, and they hope insurance companies will follow. This may be a problem; if another treatment does not meet their standards, then it can't be done with ABA.

It might be helpful to provide information at the next quarterly ASD Advisory Committee meeting about focused ABA and comprehensive ABA; not everyone understands the difference. It is important to make it clear that ABA is one option on a continuum of care; it is not appropriate for everyone.

Sara said that CMS is clear that it is not endorsing a single therapy. If it's medically necessary, AHCCCS will cover it, unless it is an experimental service.

The current tool includes parent-implemented interventions and floor time, among others. Capacity building to ensure access to services is the next step.

Ramiro described the comprehensive assessment that will be offered by the Center of Excellence.

Value-based Purchasing (VBP) may be useful to give clinical providers an idea about what to provide; may result in more things in the tool belt.

If anyone has information they would like to share on the AHCCCS ASD website, please send to Sharon – sharon@flanagan-hyde.com

Cynthia mentioned that a speaker at the Raising Special Kids “Partners in Care 2017” conference had excellent information. Perhaps there could be a link to the Raising Special Kids website so that people can access the slides, and perhaps we could arrange to share this information at a future ASD Advisory Committee quarterly meeting. (Gary Stobbe, MD, Clinical Associate Professor, University of Washington, Depts. of Neurology & Psychiatry) Diedra said that Tom Betlach’s slides were very good but were not shared; Sara will ask him to make the slides available.

Another good site is healthychildren.org.

EPB Tool

There was consensus to publish online the 2016 EBP Tool as a standalone PDF, with an introduction and “How to Use” guidance. Terry provided draft language.

Important points to consider:

- The tool is not intended to rule out interventions.
- We want professionals to remain objective.
- Include the diagram with circles.
- As an appendix, include the experimental services definition.
- Include a table of definitions to create common language for families and providers.

Aaron asked a question about wording of Person-Centered Treatment and said there may be confusion—does this refer to a specific model or is it a more general concept? Others said that this approach has been accepted by CMS and does not refer to a specific model. It was agreed that to reduce confusion, we’ll include the CMS definition, we won’t capitalize the term, and we’ll make it clear this is not a specific model.

Who will be the users of the tool? Families, providers, schools, and funders (MCOs).

We should provide definitions of systematic reviews and meta-analysis. There are one meta-analysis and three systematic reviews in the tool. To clarify, use the reference that Diedra provided and ask Danny Openden for more information if needed.

Tool integrates information from different reviews. We wanted a way for users to look at different interventions and analyze for themselves the level of evidence.

Many families don’t know that there are options in behavioral health in addition to ABA.

Next Steps

Sharon will draft the Introduction and How to Use This Tool sections for the standalone tool and send it to the Work Group for review and feedback. After revisions are completed, the tool will be added to the AHCCCS ASD website and shared with the full ASD Advisory Committee.

**ASD Advisory Committee
Evidence-Based Practice Workgroup
Agenda**

May 3, 2017

3:00-5:00 pm

AHCCCS, 801 E Jefferson St., 4th Floor, Arizona Room

Call-in number: 1-877-820-7831, passcode 778195#

GoToMeeting link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/934000149>

- Welcome and introductions
 - Name, affiliation, role to date in ASD Advisory Committee process
- AHCCCS definition of experimental services
- Updates on tasks assigned at March 27 meeting
 - Danny Openden—National Standards Project-Phase 2
 - Rene Bartos—Health plan bulletins/AAP policy bulletins
 - Diedra Freedman—Autism Speaks
 - Ramiro Guillen—AACAP references
 - Any other updates?
- Content for Introduction and “How to Use” guidance for online publication of 2016 EBP Tool
- Other agenda items?
- Next steps

Notes