DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

SPECIALTY SERVICES FOR VERY YOUNG CHILDREN WITH ASD

Ron Benham
Director, Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition
617-624-5901

Tracy Osbahr
Director, Office of Specialty Services
413-586-7525
EARLY INTERVENTION

- Infants and toddlers with established conditions, developmental delays, or biological/environmental risk for delays

- Intervention is:
  - Family-centered
  - Comprehensive
  - Coordinated
  - Developmentally appropriate
  - Provided in natural environments

- 33,500 served annually
SPECIALIZED SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH ASD

- Highly structured, individualized treatment programs offered on an intensive basis (ABA, Floortime)

- Family support, information, and involvement in treatment plan
ELIGIBILITY FOR ASD SPECIALTY SERVICES

- Children birth to three years
- Enrolled in early intervention
- With diagnosis on autism spectrum from physician or licensed psychologist
ENROLLMENT

- FY’06: 1,042
- FY’07: 1,163
- FY’08: 1,246
- FY’09: 1,321
- FY’10: 1,378

- 1/108 CHILDREN IN UNDER THREE AGE COHORT

- FY’10: children with ASD represented 4% of EI enrollment
FY11 EI FUNDING STREAMS

NOTE: The following are projected figures for direct service funding only.

- FEDERAL: $3.6M
- STATE: $21M
- HEALTH INSURANCE
  - MASS HEALTH: $49M
  - PRIVATE INSURANCE: $41M
- ANNUAL FEES: $2.8M
SERVICE COSTS

- SPECIALTY SERVICES - $11,811,750 IN FY’10
  - AVERAGE $8500 YEAR/CHILD (SIGNIFICANT RANGE DEPENDING ON INTENSITY, LENGTH OF ENROLLMENT: FOR SOME @ $20,000 YEAR)
  - % SUPPORTED BY DPH: 100% (FEDERAL AND STATE ALLOCATIONS)

- OTHER EI SERVICES
  - @ $5740 YEAR/CHILD FOR CHILDREN WITH ASD Dx
    - % SUPPORTED BY MASS HEALTH: 46%
    - % SUPPORTED BY PRIVATE INSURERS: 33%
    - % SUPPORTED BY DPH: 20%
EARLY INTERVENTION
ANNUAL FEE

- Based on family size and income in relation to the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines
- Those with incomes under 300% of FPIG or are covered by MassHealth product are exempt
- Ranges from $250-$1,500 annually
QUALITY MANAGEMENT

- Family input & feedback:
  - Parents are members of IFSP team; opportunity to participate in all aspects of intervention program
  - Periodic family satisfaction surveys by provider agencies are reviewed by DPH, incorporated in agencies quality improvement plans
  - DPH Due Process Standards and complaint management process
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES

State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report to OSEP address provision of EI services in natural environments, child find and public awareness, family centered services, effective transition, and a general supervision system including monitoring, complaints, and hearings.
EFFICACY MEASURES

- Child status is measured at intake and exit from EI services
- Program specific data measures change on autism characteristics
- Proposed linkage to EEC and DESE data could provide more valid measures of program efficacy
ISSUES

- Limited pool of trained providers
- Competition to recruit and retain staff
- Increasing identification of very young toddlers and infants – what is appropriate for them?
- Adequate resources to fully fund high intensity programs
How the Commission can help

- Interface with other payers specific to autism services
- Consider challenge of ERISA exempt insurers
- Promote linkages among agencies to facilitate transition