

DMH Autism Update

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Deputy Commissioner
DMH

Overview of Presentation

- **DMH Activities to date**
- **DDS/DMH ISA work together**
- **Work with Beacon to serve the behavioral health needs of individuals with Autism**
- **Challenges facing Emergency Departments**

DMH Autism Efforts Background

- **DMH Autism Survey January 2014**
 - **Training, Services, Interagency Effort**
- **DMH Autism Task Force**
 - **January 2014 to December 2014**
 - **Final Report completed January 2015**
 - **Recommendations for DDS and DMH training, service and collaboration**
- **DDS/DMH ISA December 2015**

DMH Autism Survey

January 2014

- **142 respondents**
 - **70% Adult**
 - **30% Child/Adolescent**
 - **Variety of case managers, administrators & clinicians**
- **15% of respondents have specialized credentials or training to work with ASD**
- **~865 individuals with ASD served annually**
 - **MHIS data: FY2013 556 individuals (40% less than 18)**
- **DMH works with DDS, DCF, DYS, schools, & community agencies**

DMH Staff Survey Recommendations

- **Training**
 - **Understanding ASD diagnosis and treatment**
 - **How to support integration within community**
 - **Differentiating SPMI and ASD**
- **Services**
 - **Social Skills Training**
 - **Family supports**
 - **Job coaching and placement help**
- **Interagency**
 - **Role of each agency better defined**
 - **Collaboration in service delivery and resources**
 - **Cross agency program identification and development**

DMH Autism Task Force

Jan – Dec 2014

- **Purpose:**
 - **Achieve a better understanding of the needs of individuals and families living with SPMI & ASD**
 - **As the State Mental Health Authority, establish standards for the care and support of those living with ASD/SPMI**
- **Membership**
 - **DDS – Janet George**
 - **Clinical Experts: Drs. Jean Frazier, Joseph Gold, Gagan Joshi, John Julian, Scott McLeod, Daniel Rosenn**
 - **DMH: Drs. Terri Anderson, Margaret Guyer-Deason, & Ami Zakai and Resa Brandfonbrener**
 - **Provider Agency: Jeff Keilson from Advocates, Inc.**

Task Force Recommendations

1. DMH & DDS will establish a process for joint reviews of individuals who are eligible for DDS and are eligible for DMH services in order for both agencies to partner in developing the appropriate services.

- Training of Agency Leadership and Staff to better serve those with both ASD & SMI**

2. DDS and DMH will establish a joint training committee to develop and oversee all ASD related trainings in both agencies.

Recommendations

(continued)

3. Provide educational opportunities for staff responsible for authorizing services and managing the appeals process.

a. DDS and DMH mutual training of each others eligibility criteria and available services

b. Consistency and clarity of applying criteria

c. Differentiating ASD and SPMI

d. Include Family members

4. DDS and DMH will co-chair a working group charged with increasing the number of clinicians across the Commonwealth skilled in working with people with ASD.

Recommendations

(continued)

5. The DMH Centers for Excellence in Research will contribute to the training needs identified

6. The DMH Centers of Excellence in Research will work to identify evidence-based practices and practice-based evidence for treatment and service needs for individuals with ASD and SPMI and their families.

Recommendations

(continued)

7. DMH and DDS will jointly develop and implement a special initiative to cultivate expertise in Community Support Agencies (CSAs) and the DDS funded ASD Support Centers to provide intensive case management and other CBHI services for children with ASD and their families

8. DMH and DDS will explore with MassHealth the possibility of developing ASD Centers of Excellence (ACEs) in order to develop and certify providers of evidence-based practices in the comprehensive range of behavioral health treatments for those with ASD and a mental illness diagnosis

Recommendations

(continued)

9. DMH and DDS will work with stakeholders, including MassHealth, to explore opportunities to include comprehensive & specialized ASD services in the expansion initiatives under the ACA (e.g., ASD Health Home?)

10. DMH and DDS will work on strategies to implement respite services and necessary care coordination and care management for family caregivers of persons with ASD and mental health needs

DDS/DMH ISA

- **DDS and DMH leaders met throughout 2015 to establish the Interagency Service Agreement**
- **DDS and DMH eligibility and service authorization specialists trained together April 2015**
- **Reviewed current ASD population within DMH and the newly eligible ASD population within DDS**

DDS/DMH ISA

- **Recognizes DDS as lead Agency for ASD**
- **Acknowledges co-morbid mental illness with ASD and ability for individuals to be eligible for both DDS and DMH resources**
- **Acknowledges the differences between DDS and DMH around service authorization/eligibility criteria and service resources available**

DDS/DMH ISA

- **Establishes training to understand and work with these differences**
- **Affirms the complexity and variety of ASD presentations and needs**
- **Requires collaboration across state agencies, the multiple funding agencies (state, managed care organizations, health plans, school systems), families, consumers, and community-based organizations to provide the range of services and supports needed by individuals and their families**

DDS/DMH ISA

- **Interagency Service Agreement includes:**
 - **Agency structural collaboration**
 - **DDS/DMH Autism Committee oversight**
 - **Eligibility and Service Authorization guidelines**
 - **Plan for Training and Professional Consultation**
 - **Risk Assessment Services**
 - **Service Provision**
 - **Service Design**

Structural Collaboration

- **DDS Regional and DMH Area work groups**
 - Increase mutual understanding of Agency's structures, service array, delivery models and resources
 - Provide coordinated service delivery to individuals with ASD who meet service criteria for both agencies
- **DDS and DMH Central Office Leadership Autism Committee**
 - Provides policy and procedure development & oversight and monitoring of services needed by those who are dually eligible
 - Monthly meetings

Eligibility & Service Authorization Guidelines

- **Allows for Dual Eligibility**
- **Consent required for sharing information crucial**
- **Dispute resolution process**
- **Shared costs**
- **Pilot expedited eligibility process for DDS**

Plan for Training

- **Recognize the need to increase expertise about individuals with ASD and mental health issues**
- **DDS funding of ASD Fellowships through DMH Training Grant starts July 2016**
- **Training of DDS and DMH Staff funded primarily by DDS with DMH collaboration (site, logistics)**
- **DMH's Research COEs to help train as well as guide the development of new services**

Risk Assessment

- **DDS will purchase from DMH access to specialized risk assessment and treatment planning consultation**
 - **ASD and MIPSB**
 - **Dangerousness risk assessment**
 - **\$75K annually**
 - **DDS Central Risk Manager will provide access to its Risk Managers and Risk Management System to assist in this process**
 - **Coordinated through Janet George and Kathy Sanders**

Service Provision

- **DDS and DMH are committed to provide the needed services for those dually eligible for both DDS and DMH together**
- **DDS Area Offices and DMH Site Offices agree to work together to access each other's resources in the most person centered approach to service planning**
- **DMH/DDS Autism Committee will review individuals currently receiving services in only one Agency who may be better served by the other agency or both agencies together**

Service Design

- **DDS and DMH will explore how to best use the existing services for the needs of those with ASD**
- **DDS and DMH will jointly identify the need for new services and will consider funding demonstration/pilot projects to develop new service arrangements**
- **This new service design will be done through the DDS/DMH Autism Committee**

Beacon's COE in Behavioral Health for those with ASD

- **DDS, DMH, MassHealth, MBHP, Jeff Kielson have reviewed & advised Beacon's development of Centers of Excellence for the Behavioral Health Treatment of those with ASD**
- **Centers will certify clinical and operational expertise to provide state of the art assessment and treatment of those with ASD and behavioral health needs**
- **Outpatient, care coordination, crisis services, and mobile services will be offered**

ER Challenges

- **Behavioral disturbance assessment and management**
- **Placement needs**
 - **Respite**
 - **Specialized residential and inpatient settings**
- **Adequate backdoor**
 - **Adequate access to specialized outpatient providers**
 - **Residential options post discharge?**
 - **Hospitals' concern about long length of stay**
- **Insurance Coverage Issues**

ER Challenges

(continued)

- **DMH convening meeting with insurance providers to develop standards to better communicate with ER**
 - **Private insurers not usually informed**
 - **ESPs support MassHealth providers**
- **DMH convening stakeholder meetings with providers of new bed capacity in MA to meet needs**
- **DMH and MassHealth in ongoing work to support appropriate rates for specialized care and access to outpatient services**