Medicaid Benefit for Adaptive Behavior Services

Recommendations of the multi-agency state autism collaborative









OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

- 1:64 children (ages 0 to 21) in Georgia have Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
 0 1.1 million children in GA on Medicaid younger than 21 years of age
 - Estimated 17,000 children with autism enrolled in GA Medicaid

- Children with ASD require varying levels of support (DSM-V criteria)
 - Level 1 Requiring Support
 - Level 2 Requiring Substantial Support
 - Level 3 Requiring Very Substantial Support

Treatment for ASD

Adaptive Behavior Services (ABS)

- Behavioral therapy -- foundation for ASD treatment
- Social skills development
- Not currently available through Medicaid in GA

Non-behavioral therapies

- Speech-language therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Medical and psychiatric treatment for associated conditions

ABS Providers

- Behavior Analysis is the scientific study of principles of learning and behavior. Practitioners of behavior analysis are qualified to provide services to address organizational functioning, skill deficits (e.g., communication, adaptive behavior), and problem behavior (e.g., aggression, self-injurious behavior), for examples.
- Behavioral Analysts are Certified nationally by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board.

https://bacb.com/about-behavioranalysis/

BCBA-D: Board Certified Behavior Analyst – Doctoral Level

A doctoral level practitioner qualified to diagnose and provide direct services and supervise BCBAs

BCBA: Board Certified Behavior Analyst Masters/graduate level independent practitioners who provide behavioranalytic services. May supervise the work of Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analysts, Registered Behavior Technicians, and others who implement behavior-analytic interventions.

BCaBA: Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst

Bachelor's level practitioner, must be supervised by BCBA/BCBA-D; can supervise Registered Behavior Technicians

Registered Behavior Technicians

Paraprofessional who implements the service plan under supervision of Certified Behavior Analyst

ABS Providers

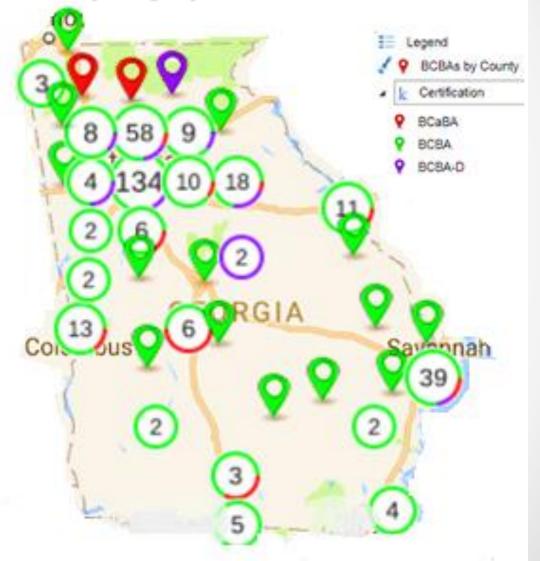
Capacity limitations based on already employed workforce

Behavioral analysts

- BCBA-D: doctoral level
- BCBA: masters/ graduate level
- BCaBA: bachelor's level; requires supervision

Certification	Statewide Count
BCBA-D	49
BCBA	284
BCaBA	26
Grand Total	359

Additional 323 Registered Behavior Technicians



• Recommendations of the multi-agency state autism collaborative

Benefit Coverage & Design

Inputs

Guiding Principles

- CMS Guidance
- Advocate and provider subject matter experts
- Autism Plan for Georgia
- Governor's Budget Recommendation and Legislative Appropriations

- Leverage existing infrastructure
- Open ABS procedure codes
- Phase in multiple access points
- Invest in early intervention
- Expand qualified provider network
 through enrollment of BCBAs

Benefit Coverage Framework Coding and Pricing

Code Selection

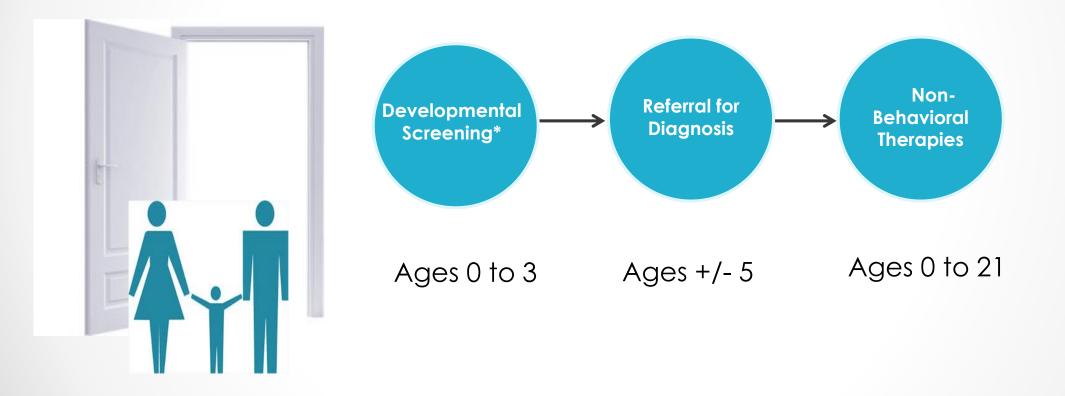
- o Other states
- CMS proposed codes
- Additions based on subject matter expert input

Pricing

- Model existing CMS-approved behavioral health reimbursement structure (Medicaid Rehabilitation Option)
- Tiered rates based on provider credentials and other criteria

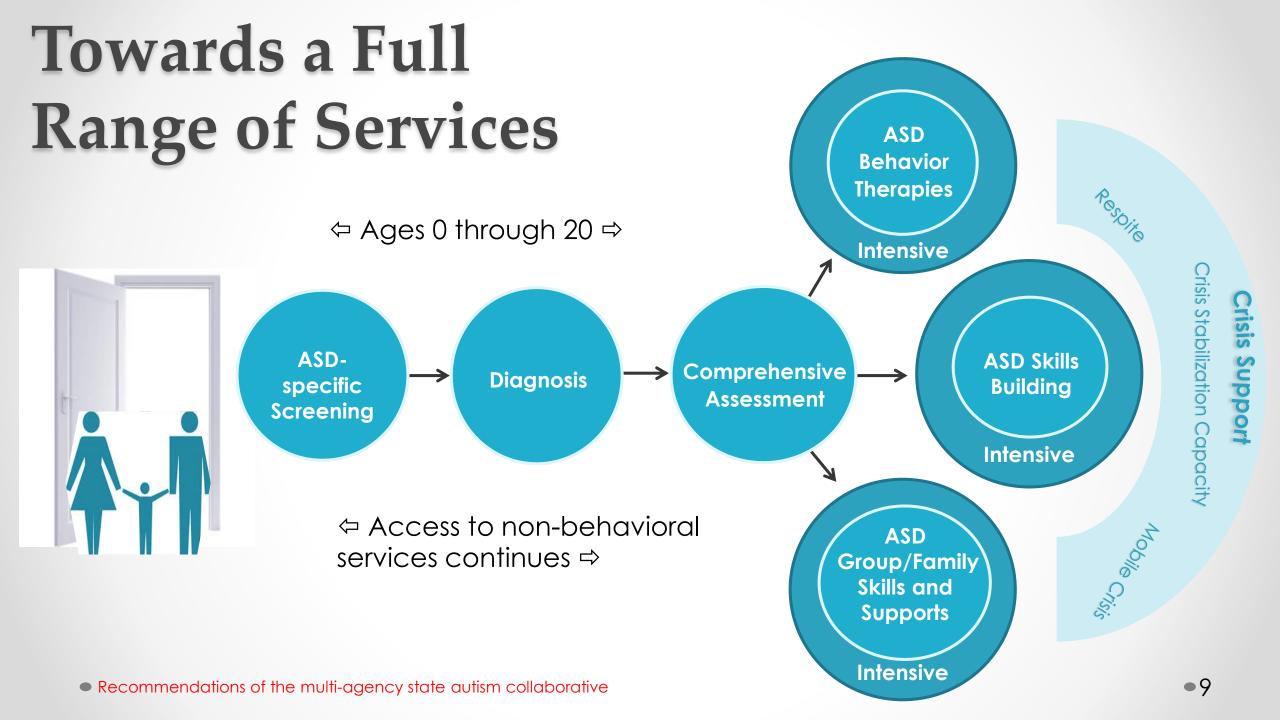
Telemedicine

Current State



• Recommendations of the multi-agency state autism collaborative

*Autism-specific screening currently limited by lack of reimbursement •8



Implementation Phases/Timeline

Phase 1: July 1, 2017

Phase 2: October 1, 2017

Pediatricians receive separate reimbursement for autism screening
 Psychologists provide/ supervise provision of autism services
 Babies Can't Wait Special Instructors provide therapies –Ages 0-3

Early Intervention Service Coordinators
 Public Health Centers provide screening & autism services
 CSBs provide autism services
 CIS Licensed Therapists provide autism services

BCBAs provide autism services
Local Education Agencies provide autism services (tent.)
Crisis Support (Respite, Mobile, Stabilization)
State refocuses to provider development

Recommendations of the multi-state agency autism collaborative

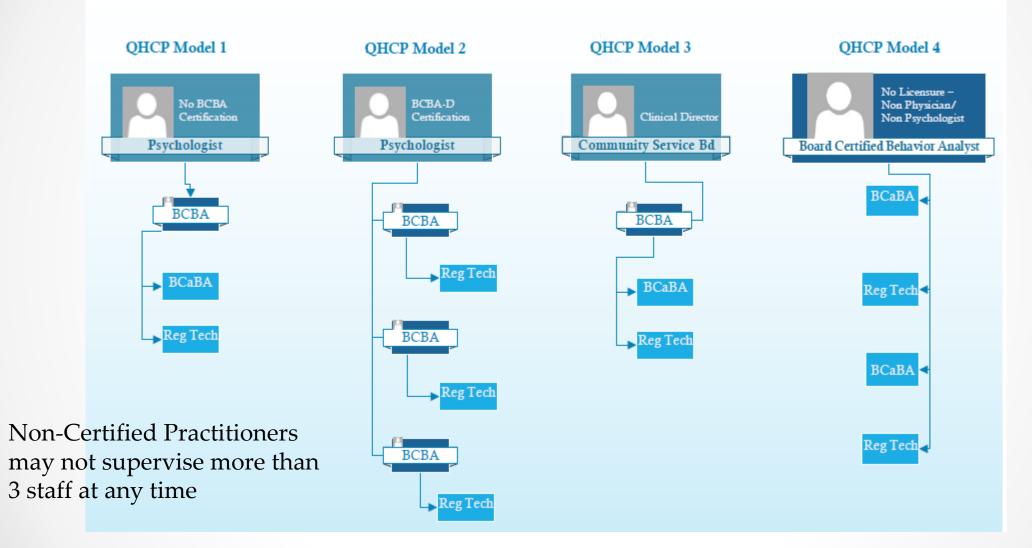
Current State

Limited Screening,

Referral, Therapies

Phase 3: January 1, 2018

ABS Supervision Model Examples



Recommendations of the multi-agency state autism collaborative

Tiered Reimbursement

Tiered Reimbursement Levels

- Level 1 Physician, Psychiatrist
- Level 2 Psychologist, BCBA-D
- Level 3 BCBA
- Level 4 BCaBA or Master's level Behavior Analyst without certification
- Level 5 Registered Behavioral Technician (RBT)

Public Notice and State Plan Amendments

- Public Notice ABS Coverage for Children and the Enrollment of BCBAs
 - o September 14, 2017 Initial
 - Opportunity for Written Comment
 - o October 12, 2017 Final
- CMS Approval
 - o 90 Days from submission to approve

Communication and Engagement

Deploy Communication Plans

- o Email blast
- o Letters and mailed "toolkits"
- Symposium and conference representation
- Teleconference (VICS)
- o Webinar

Staffing Infrastructure & Recruitment

- Advertise career announcements
- Employ and/or contract ABS providers
- Onboarding and system orientation

Establish seat on DCH Medical Care Advisory Committee for Autism Services Provider

Infrastructure Considerations

- Statewide, opening ABS procedure codes and incentivizing screening will:
 Increase the demand for providers trained to diagnose ASD
 - Decrease the average age of diagnosis, increasing the need for early intervention providers
 - Increase demand for ABS
 - o Increase the demand for intensive services, increasing wait times
- Infrastructure needs:
 - Additional trained providers
 - Increased capacity for intensive services

Proposed Solutions for Capacity Building

- Utilize telemedicine
- Infrastructure investment
- Expand to include crisis services

Questions?

Marcey Alter

malter@dch.ga.gov

Email Subject: Autism Stakeholder Input

Recommendations of the multi-state agency
 autism collaborative