Pathway to Progress

Overcoming Barriers to Access and Reducing Health Disparities by Maximizing Health & Disability Benefits

CHILDREN & YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTHCARE NEEDS
WA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH COMMUNICATION NETWORK
JANUARY 10, 2019
Whaaat is WAAA?

Find out how we're helping children and adults with ASD to thrive and succeed in life.

Learn more >
What We Do...

Our mission is to ensure that all children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD’s) & other developmental disabilities (DD’s) have every opportunity to thrive and become productive members of society. We do this by helping families access ASD & DD health insurance benefits, effective services in schools, and supportive community-based services, regardless of their personal financial situation.

“Jameses Guys”
How We Do It...

Our organization works diligently to bridge the gap between the many health and education policies that exist to serve children and adults with ASD and other DD’s, and the educators, politicians, and medical providers who want to support these policies but don’t always succeed in doing it.

“Party Boy”
Wil Kerner, Age 16
How WAAA Supports Families

• Providing pro bono Civil Legal Aid, Family Navigation (guidance, counseling, coordination), and training, resources to families, persons with ASD/IDD and professionals, to help them ACCESS effective autism services and socially significant programs statewide.

• Offering low cost or no-cost community services such as support groups and peer social communication portals so families and persons with ASD and other DD’s can connect, share experiences, and feel less overwhelmed by the intensity of living with ASD and other DD’s.

• Lobbying for legislation that directly supports and improves the health, safety, and education of children and adults with ASD and other DD’s, then working to connect the dots to make sure the policies are actually implemented to support those in need.
How WAAA Supports Families

- Family Navigators
- Training Workshops
- SPA-Supporting Parents of Autism
- Aspire Girls
- Statewide Resource Directory
- Insurance Appeal Support
- Legislative Advocacy
- Friendship Matters
- Gift of Time
- Newsletter
- Newsletter
Individuals & families helped in 2018!

9531 Interactions with families through phone, email, letter, and in person

715 Families and providers attended Legal Education training workshops

3020 Families we helped navigate insurance & education services

344 Families and youth attended social and support groups

“You must be the change you wish to see in the world.”
Common reasons benefits are denied or capped

Specific exclusions:
- ABA
- Autism treatment
- Developmental disabilities

Visitation limits:
- 25 visits per year

Presumed duplication of services that may be offered under an IEP
Obstacles to Insurance Coverage

- There’s not an adequate network of qualified providers
- Utilization management takes precedence over patient care
- Denials are not appealed 😞
Other Barriers to Accessing Health Benefits:
All Washington ABA providers

ABA Providers by County
- 0
- 1 – 3
- 4 – 7
- 8 – 50
- 250+

Map showing distribution of ABA providers in Washington state counties.
Medicaid ABA rates by state
BCBA direct treatment
0368T / 0369T

National Average source 2016 Kennell Report (Tricare)
What Are We Doing About It? On The Horizon...

- Training for Primary Care Providers
- Hybrid BCBA Training program
- BCBAs as ESAs
- Community Health Workers as Behavior Technicians
- Homecare workers trained in ASD/IDD’s
- Statewide ABA Intake Form
- In-School ABA
How to Reach Us

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