

Medicaid Benefit for Adaptive Behavior Services

Recommendations of the multi-agency state autism collaborative



Interdepartmental Team Members

Special Thanks to the Governor's Office and the Commissioners and Executive Leadership from Each of the Participating Agencies.

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Examples of Agencies' Existing Autism Activities

Examples of Emerging Capacity Activities Upon Which to Build the Comprehensive Approach.	
Current Initiative	Summary
Emory Autism Center	Increasing statewide capacity of psychologist trained to provide a diagnosis of autism use ADOS – 2.
GSU Autism Training for Families & Inclusion Specialist	Providing trainings for families of children diagnosed with autism using Positive Behavior and Visual Supports.
Emory Autism Center	Providing behavioral support and training for children (ages 4 - 10) diagnosed with autism.
Rita Young & Associates	Providing training on developmental monitoring and referrals for DFCS (Foster Parents and Caseworkers) and WIC staff.
Babies Can't Wait- Part C Early Intervention Program	IDEA Part C Early Intervention Program for children birth to age 3.
Marcus Autism Center	<p>Early Intervention training for BCW providers using the Autism Navigator web-based course. Intensive and partial day treatment services to children, who are Medicaid eligible with severe and challenging behaviors including pediatric feeding disorders. Includes conducting evaluations and providing outpatient services delivered in contractor outpatient clinics as well as in community environments (i.e., homes, school, and natural environment).</p> <p>Behavioral evaluation, treatment, and/or therapy in community settings (home, school, natural environment) to Medicaid eligible children having autism spectrum disorder.</p> <p>Developmental and behavioral evaluations, treatments, therapy and/or case management services for Medicaid eligible children who are referred for such services by the DBHDD and at sites other than the Marcus Autism Center in a region comprised of the twenty-county metropolitan Atlanta region and at least four other regions of the state.</p>
Pyramid Consortium - BCW	Training BCW providers on working with families of children (ages 0-3) to improve social -emotional outcomes.
Center for Leadership in Disability at Georgia State University	Statewide Autism Conference for families and providers.
Emory Autism Center	Developing Health Care Transition materials, strategies, and resources for youth and young adults with autism.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

- 1:64 children (ages 0 to 21) in Georgia have Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
 - 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-behavior-analysis/>

BCBA-D: Board Certified Behavior Analyst – Doctoral Level

A doctoral level practitioner qualified to diagnose and provide direct services and supervise BCBA's

BCBA: Board Certified Behavior Analyst Masters/graduate level independent practitioners who provide behavior-analytic 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

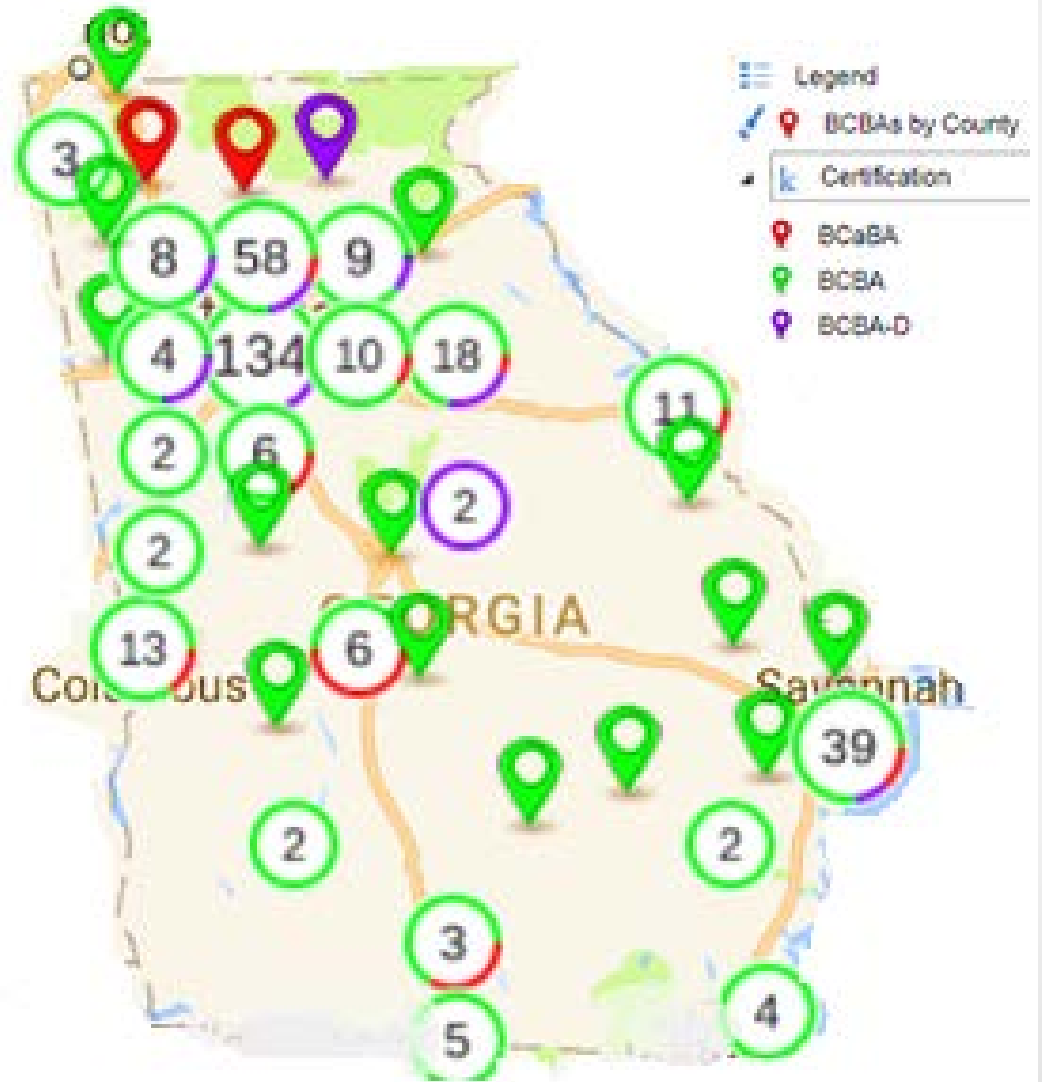
Capacity limitations based on already employed workforce

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



Proposed Solutions for Capacity Building

- **Utilize telemedicine**
 - Equipment
 - Training
- **Infrastructure investment**
 - Contract with vendor to provide administrative oversight and implementation of key workforce and infrastructure activities
 - Co-Location Hub Model for Southern/Southwest Hub
 - Education Opportunities
- **Expand to include crisis services**
 - Crisis Respite
 - Mobile Crisis
 - Intensive Support Coordinator



Benefit Coverage & Design

Inputs

- CMS Guidance (June 2014)
- Advocate and provider subject matter experts
- Autism Plan for Georgia
- Governor's Budget Recommendation and Legislative Appropriations

Guiding Principles

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

Benefit Coverage Framework

Coding and Pricing

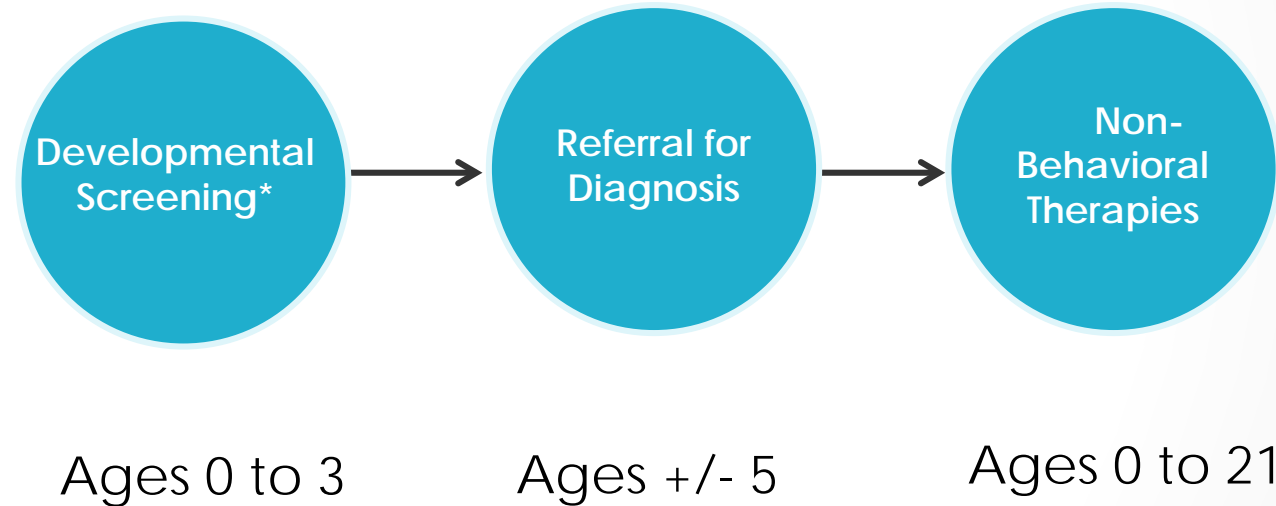
- **Code Selection**
 - Other states
 - CMS proposed codes
 - Additions based on subject matter expert input
- **Pricing**
 - Model existing CMS-approved behavioral health reimbursement structure (Medicaid Rehabilitation Option)
 - Tiered rates based on provider credentials and other criteria
- **Telemedicine**

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)

Current State



Towards a Full Range of Services

⇐ Ages 0 through 20 ⇒



ASD-specific Screening

Diagnosis

Comprehensive Assessment

ASD Skills Building
Intensive

ASD Behavior Therapies
Intensive

ASD Group/Family Skills and Supports
Intensive

⇐ Access to non-behavioral services continues ⇒



Implementation Phases/Timeline

Current State

- Limited Screening, Referral, Therapies

Phase 1: July 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

Phase 2: October 1, 2017

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

- BCBA's provide autism services
- Local Education Agencies provide autism services
- Crisis Support (Respite, Mobile, Stabilization)
- State refocuses to provider development

Phase 3: January 1, 2018





Public Notice and State Plan Amendments

- Public Notice – ABS Coverage for Children and the Enrollment of BCBAs
- CMS Approval
 - 90 Days from submission to approve



Communication and Engagement

- **Deploy Communication Plans**
 - Email blast
 - Letters and mailed “toolkits”
 - Symposium and conference representation
 - Teleconference (VICS)
 - Webinar
- **Establish seat on DCH Medical Care Advisory Committee for Autism Services Provider**

Questions?