Medicaid Benefit for Adaptive Behavior Services

Recommendations of the multi-agency state autism collaborative
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

- Spring 2017: Governor’s Budget Proposal/Legislative Approval

- Initiated Tri-department Planning Initiative
  - Department of Community Health
  - Department of Public Health
  - Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities
  - Partner Informants include DHS and DOE
Current State of Medicaid Autism Services

- Developmental Screening*: Ages 0 to 3
- Referral for Diagnosis: Ages +/- 5
- Non-Behavioral Therapies: Ages 0 to 21

*Autism-specific screening currently limited by lack of reimbursement

Recommendations of the multi-agency state autism collaborative
Towards a Full Range of Services

- Ages 0 through 20

ASD-specific Screening → Diagnosis → Comprehensive Assessment → ASD Behavior Therapies → ASD Skills Building → ASD Group/Family Skills and Supports

Recommendations of the multi-agency state autism collaborative
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certification</th>
<th>Statewide Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BCBA-D</td>
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<tr>
<td>BCBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>BCaBA</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>359</td>
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Additional 323 Registered Behavior Technicians

Recommendations of the multi-agency state autism collaborative
Proposals for Capacity Building

- **Utilize telemedicine**
  - Equipment
  - Training

- **Infrastructure investment**
  - Engaging Community Service Boards and Public Health Sites as partners
  - Administrative oversight and implementation of key workforce and infrastructure activities
  - Options for Southern/Southwest Network Development
  - Education Opportunities

- **Expand to include crisis services**
  - Crisis Stabilization
  - Crisis Respite
  - Mobile Crisis
  - Intensive Support Coordinator