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Pennsylvania's Bureau of
Autism Services Adult
Autism Waiver

Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare
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BAS Vision

The Philosophy

- Adults with Autism can:
 - Continue to learn throughout their lives.
 - Achieve greater levels of independence.
 - Improve their quality of life.
- Assessments should inform the delivery of services.
- Supports should be based on evidence based, positive practices.

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BAS Vision for This Waiver

The Philosophy

- Outcomes determine our measure of success.
 - Increased hours of employment (paid or volunteer)
 - Decreased psychiatric hospitalizations and medication
 - Decreased involvement with law enforcement
 - Improved capacity to perform independently
 - Decreased frequency and length of crisis
 - Decreased family stress

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Adult Autism Waiver

First Waiver Targeting Adults with ASD in the Nation!

- Response to key findings of the Autism Task Force
- Initial capacity will serve **200 individuals** statewide
- **Administered at the state level**
- Fee-for-Service Program – 1915(c) Home and Community Based Services Waiver

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Adult Autism Waiver

To be eligible:

- Live in Pennsylvania
- Have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum disorder (ASD)
- Age 21 or older by the time of enrollment
- Meet Medical Assistance financial eligibility
- Meet Intermediate Care Facility level of care
- Intelligence (IQ) is not considered for eligibility

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What is a Waiver?

- A waiver means that the regular rules are "waived", that is, not applied.
- The "bias" is that individuals could get support services while institutionalized, but if they wanted to return to the community they could not get similar services.
- Section 1915 (c) of the Social Security Act was changed to allow states to ask for waivers of existing Medicaid regulation.
- The idea is that states can use the Medicaid money for community services that would have been used if the person went to an institution.
- Thus, **getting HCBS waiver services is tied to institutional eligibility.**

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Adult Autism Waiver

A systemic approach to...

- ❖ Developing effective outreach strategies
- ❖ Recruitment
- ❖ Post-Enrollment
 - > Training
 - > Utilization of resources
 - > Service Implementation
 - > Communication Networks: Internal and External
- ❖ QMS

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Adult Autism Waiver Services

■ Assistive Technology	■ Nutritional Consultation
■ Behavioral Specialist Services	■ Residential Habilitation
■ Community Inclusion	■ Respite
■ Community Transition Services	■ Supported Employment
■ Day Habilitation	■ Supports Coordination
■ Environmental Modifications	■ Temporary Crisis Services
■ Family Counseling	■ Therapies
■ Family Training	■ Counseling
■ Job Assessment & Finding	■ Occupational
	■ Speech & Language
	■ Transitional Work Services

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Behavioral Specialist Services

Most participants will benefit from this service

Goals:

- Increase adaptive behaviors
- Replace or modify challenging behaviors
- Promote greater community inclusion and participation
- Promote the use of positive behavior strategies across all services

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Behavioral Specialist Services

How the service works:

- BSS conducts Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA), which informs:
 - The initial Behavioral Support Plan
 - Set of interventions to be used by people in contact with the participant, both service providers and family/friends

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Behavioral Specialist Services

The Behavioral Specialist

- Qualifications
- Trains and consults with the participant
- Trains and consults with family, friends, other waiver providers
- Provides crisis intervention supports to the participant and/or caregivers during an episode
- Monitors and analyzes data collected by providers of services which use the Behavior Support Plan
- Revises the Plans as necessary

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Crisis Support Plan

■ FBA also informs:

- The Crisis Intervention Plan
 - Identifies how crisis intervention support will be available and delivered
 - Procedures/interventions that should be used to de-escalate the participant's challenging behaviors

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Community Inclusion

- Facilitates participant's:
 - social interaction, use of natural supports and typical community services and participation in education and volunteer activities
- May include supports to promote independence with:
 - Activities of daily living, communication, survival skills, cooking, shopping, money management

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Community Inclusion cont'd

- May include personal assistance with activities of daily living
- Provides:
 - On-site modeling of behavior, behavior support, intensive behavior episode intervention, training, cueing, and/or supervision
- Services may be delivered in the participant's home or at locations in the community
- Community Inclusion is intended to improve participant's capacity to perform activities independently

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Supports Coordination

Maximum caseload of 35, including other waivers

Assessments are completed:

- Annually
 - Scales of Independent Behavior-Revised
 - Assesses strengths and needs regarding independent living skills and adaptive behavior
 - Parent Stress Scale
 - For participants living with family members
- During ISP development and reviewed annually
 - Participant's desired goals
- For re-certification of eligibility
 - Collect information for annual Level of Care Assessment

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Supports Coordination

- Calls and chairs team meetings
- Keeps providers, participants, and families current on changes
- Monitors service implementation and continuity
- Coordinates services from other systems
- Bases participant services on desired goals

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Supports Coordination

Ensures that the Behavior Support Plan and the ISP are consistent

Has Contact

- At least monthly with participant, guardian or representative.
- In person at least quarterly, in different settings

Must maintain case records in **HCSIS**

May not provide any other services except Community Transition Services

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Other Features

- Job Assessment and Finding is a separate service, not included in Supported Employment.
- The following services may not be provided simultaneously:
 - Respite
 - Community Inclusion
 - Supported Employment
 - Day Habilitation
 - Transitional Work Services
- Total combined hours for Community Inclusion, Day Habilitation, Supported Employment and Transitional Work Services are limited to 50 hours in a calendar week.

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Training Requirements

SPeCTRUM Training Modules
All service providers having direct contact with participants (except Behavioral Specialist and Family Training providers) are required to complete this 9-module course

The modules are:

- 1 Autism Spectrum Disorders
- 2 Supporting the Client's Family
- 3 Using Positive Behavior Supports
- 4 Recognizing Communication Challenges
- 5 Using Assessments
- 6 Teaching Life Skills
- 7 Health Care for Adults with ASD
- 8 Transitioning to Work or Higher Education
- 9 Identifying Housing Options

This course is web based and also available on CD
BAS will keep records of individuals who have completed this training.

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Training Requirements

- Behavioral Specialist Services providers
 - Must complete training in conducting and using Functional Behavior Assessment and positive behavioral support, either provided by BAS or through a course approved by BAS
 - Must complete required training developed by BAS regarding Behavioral Specialist Services
- Supports Coordination providers
 - Must complete required training developed by BAS for Supports Coordination, including training on needs assessment and person-centered planning.

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Supports for Providers

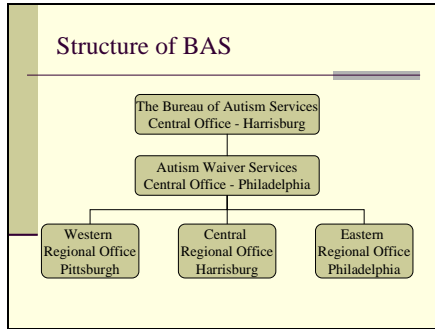
Technical Support:

- Provider Handbook
 - Instructions on billing through PROMISe
 - Service Definitions
 - Practice Guidelines
 - Applicable Bulletins
 - Quality Management Strategy
 - Provider Rights and Responsibilities
 - Incident Reporting Requirements
 - Cost Data Reporting Requirements
 - Contact Information

Clinical Support:

- Consultation with BAS clinical staff for guidance and recommendations are available by contacting your BAS Regional Office.

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- ### Roles of the Regional Offices
- 1st level of oversight regarding waiver services
 - Approve and authorize ISP's
 - Evaluate critical incident reports
 - Sample participant satisfaction
 - 1st level of interaction with Consumers and providers
 - Answer questions
 - Provide informational materials
 - Handle problems or concerns
 - Coordinate technical and clinical supports
 - Work with providers on remediation, if necessary

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- ### Roles of Central Office
- Verify qualifications of providers
 - Monitor Regional office functions
 - Generate quarterly reports on timeliness
 - Produce Annual Quality Assurance reports
 - Develops Waiver Policies
 - Revise the Quality Management strategy as needed

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Recruitment: Development of a provider network

- ❖ Targeted recruitment
- ❖ Start with who we know...informal networking
- ❖ Provider-Specific Outreach Materials
- ❖ Communication Strategies

- Providers at a Glance: Current Situation and Trends
- What else would be effective?

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Post-enrollment: Provider Resources

Resource Documents

- Supports Coordination Manual
- Behavioral Specialist Manual
- Provider Manual
- Practice Guidelines
- Best Practices guide

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Post-enrollment: Ongoing Provider Training

- ❖ **VTC**
 - ❖ <http://bastraining.tiul1.org>
- ❖ **Adobe Connect Pro**
 - Provider Follow-up Training
 - Supports Coordination Follow-up Training
 - Behavioral Specialist Service Follow-up Training
- ❖ **SPeCTRUM**
- ❖ **New trainings developed in response to waiver feedback**



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Post-enrollment Trends

- ❖ Supports Coordination
- ❖ Service Implementation
- ❖ Communication within provider agencies
- ❖ QMS findings

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Next Steps

- Continued provider outreach, training, monitoring, development of new strategies
- Needs Assessment/Survey
 - Determine strengths and gaps in services and supports, regional and state-wide
 - Survey families and service providers
 - Results will also guide the future of the ASERT Centers activities

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**BAS Clinical Team's
Role with Waiver**

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**Overview of Roles
within Waiver**

- 3-points of Contact with Supports Coordinators (SC)
- Review Functional Eligibility (LOC)
- Needs Based Trainings
 - LOC Follow up Training
 - SC Supervisor Training
 - Provider Follow Up Training
 - Behavior Specialist Training
- Collaboration on Incident Management
- Development of and Updating Processes and Resources

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**First Point of Contact
*SIB-R Summary Report Review***

- Provide general feedback to SC based upon results of SIB-R to develop *assessment-driven and needs-based* ISPs
 - Social Interaction/Communication
 - Personal Living Skills
 - Community Living Skills
 - Behavioral Skills

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**Second Point of Contact
*ISP Review***

- 19-page checklist
- Review all areas within the ISP for quality completion
 - Checks for correlation with needs identified within SIB-R
- Correspond with RO to determine if plan is approved, approved with revisions, or rejected
- Email Clinical and Regional Office Checklists
- Monitor ISP for revisions and updates

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Third Point of Collaboration
SC Follow-Up Trainings

- 10+ conducted, approx. 30 SCs have participated using Adobe Pro-connect
- Scheduled sessions to provide updates, technical assistance, and problem solving
 - Review ISP Process - HCSIS
 - ISP Approval Process - Assessment
 - FAQs - Services
 - SC Roles and Responsibilities
 - Correspondence and Oversight with BAS

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Ongoing Collaboration
Provider Support Mailbox

- General questions and concerns are emailed from SCs and providers regarding:
 - Developing the ISP
 - Implementing the ISP according to Practice Guidelines
 - Completing required assessment documents
 - SC and BSS manual
 - Specific participant related issues
 - Technical Assistance

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Functional Eligibility (LOC)

- Review every rejected LOC decision
 - Corresponds with LOC assessor for additional follow-up questions
 - Writes summary report
- Review every 5th approved LOC for quality monitoring
- Attend any appeals hearings
- Conduct some LOCs

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LOC Follow-up Training

- 2 sessions, 6 out of 7 assessors attended
- Conducted via Adobe Pro-connect
- Topics Included:
 - Overview of LOC Process
 - Establishing Rapport with Applicant and Family
 - Gathering Information from Applicant and interested others as appropriate
 - How to sift through discrepancies of reported information
 - Clinical review of LOCs
 - Appeal process and the LOC assessment

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SC Supervisor Training

- 2 sessions-don't know how many participants yet
- Conducted via Adobe Pro-connect
- Similar topics to Supports Coordination Training with a specific focus on the Supervisor's role in all processes

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Provider Follow Up Training

- 3 sessions, over 60 participants
- Conducted via Adobe Pro-connect
- Topics Included:
 - Roles and Responsibilities
 - HCSIS
 - Instructional Planning

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Behavior Specialist Training

- To be conducted via Adobe Pro-connect
- Topics Included:
 - Roles and responsibilities
 - Review of FBA
 - Developing and submitting BSP/CIP
 - Collaboration efforts
 - HCSIS

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Incident Management

- 1st step- Review First Section Submission
 - Review required within 24-hours
 - Will set up weekend rotation with Regional Offices to monitor for new incidents
- 2nd step- Review Final Section of Incident Review
 - Who reviews final section will be determined by type of Incident
 - Regional Office Review
 - Joint Review (Clinical and RO)

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Additional Support

- Hands-on technical assistance with critical cases as needed
 - Conduct FBA
 - Recommend Behavioral Support Strategies
 - Crisis intervention needs
 - Ongoing Support to SC and Providers

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Contact Us

FOR MORE DETAILS ON OUR PROGRAMS OR INITIATIVES:

- > Visit our General Website: www.autisminpa.org
- > Visit our Training Website: <http://bastraining.tiul1.org>
- > Email us: DPW-AutismOffice@state.pa.us
