

ODP's Efforts to Support Children with ASD/ID

ISAC Meeting
October 16, 2019



Introduction

- With changes to ID/A waivers, eligibility extended to children under 8 (*Individuals with a developmental disability with a high probability of resulting in an intellectual disability or autism are eligible from age 0 through 8*)
- A focus on children supports our commitment to integrating the LifeCourse Framework in all we do.



What is the **AUTISM INSURANCE ACT?**

In Pennsylvania, your child's autism-related services may be covered by private health insurance, Medical Assistance (MA) or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) under **Pennsylvania's Autism Insurance Act (ACT 62)**. ACT 62 is a statewide insurance mandate specific to services provided to children and adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).



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ACT 62

- Visit www.PAutismInsurance.org for Act 62 information and contact information for DHS and the PID.
- If you receive a denial from your private health insurance company, find information on how to appeal an insurance denial for the assessment or treatment of ASD and sample appeal letters at www.PAutismInsurance.org

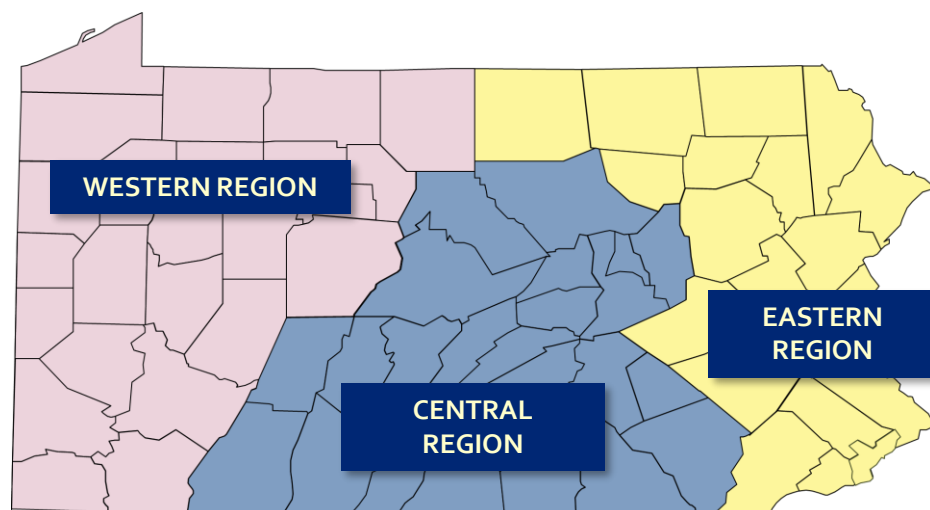


ASERT Resources for Families with Children



Autism Services, Education, Resources & Training Collaborative (ASERT)

- ASERT is a statewide initiative funded by the Bureau of Autism Services.
- ASERT is a unique public and private partnership between BAS and PA universities, hospitals/medical centers.
- It is a key component of BAS strategy for supporting individuals with autism and their families throughout Pennsylvania.



RESOURCE COLLECTIONS



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES



EARLY CHILDHOOD COLLECTION
paautism.org/resource/early-childhood/

...AND MANY MORE

Newly Diagnosed Ages 0-5 Ages 5-11 Ages 11-21 Ages 18-26 Older Adults Lifespan



TRANSITION TOOLKIT COLLECTION
paautism.org/resource/transition-toolkit/



Early Childhood Screening & Diagnosis



EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING AND DIAGNOSIS Autism Spectrum Disorder



How is autism diagnosed?

Diagnosing autism can be difficult as there is no specific medical test to make the diagnosis. Instead, autism is diagnosed by looking at an individual's behavior and development to determine if they are developing on target. Developmental screenings are used from birth to age 24 months to identify potential delays and refer for a comprehensive diagnostic evaluation. After 24 months, children are simply referred for a comprehensive diagnostic evaluation

What do I do if I suspect my child has autism?

- Monitor your child's development and keep track of any developmental delays or concerns
- Contact your child's doctor to discuss your concerns and request an autism screening

paautism.org/resource/diagnosis-screening/

- Social stories can be a helpful tool for individuals to prepare for and understand different situations, such as going to the doctor
 - ◆ ASERT has developed a collection of Social Stories on the topics of Justice System, Foster Care, Library and Health Care
 - ◆ www.paautism.org/socialstories



- **Connect with ASERT**
 - ◆ **Phone: 1-877-231-4244**
 - ◆ **Email: info@PAautism.org (English) or ASERTespanol@PAautism.org (Español)**
 - ◆ **Website: www.PAautism.org**

- ODP/ASERT Justice System Lead - Kate Hooven
 - ◆ Will conduct statewide training on issues specific to the juvenile justice system
- ODP is developing a strategic approach to training across the justice system
- ODP participates on the Mental Health Justice Advisory Committee, a cross systems workgroup, that looks at the challenge of youth interacting with the justice system
- ODP will be training the Trial Court Judges on ASD/ID at their annual training conference. This forum will allow us to reach over 200 judges.
- <https://paautism.org/resource/justice/>



- ODP is part of a cross-system effort to support the Family First initiative
- Family First Prevention Services Act has become law.
 - ◆ The biggest change to the structure of federal child welfare finance since the establishment of the Title IV-E entitlement in 1980.
- **Focus is on prevention**
 - ◆ States will now be able to use funds derived from Title IV-E of the Social Security Act – the entitlement that pays for child welfare – for “time-limited” services aimed at preventing the use of foster care in maltreatment cases.
 - ◆ Currently, IV-E is only allowable for spending on foster care placements and for assistance to adoptive families.

Training Efforts and Capacity Building to Support Children with AS/DID

- ◆ Building statewide capacity and competency in the professionals who assist and support Pennsylvanians with ASD across the lifespan, through consultation and technical assistance
- ◆ ODP/BSASP/ASERT virtual and face-to-face trainings
- ◆ Engagement with and technical assistance to counties
- ◆ Cross program office collaboration
- ◆ FBA (Functional Behavior Assessment) Training – Development of Online Training



Online Resources

MyODP Training & Resource Center

www.MyODP.org

ASERT Resource Center

www.PAautism.org

DHS Website

www.autisminpa.org