

Autism PROVIDER Summit

Learn how to **navigate** the insurance world, set up infrastructure and billing systems and license your staff.



Dec. 2, 2011
Jefferson City



DIFP

Department of Insurance,
Financial Institutions &
Professional Registration

Agenda

**Welcome and
opening remarks**

DIFP Deputy Director and General
Counsel James R. McAdams
Facilitator/Emcee: Mayme Young

**Billing and navigating
the system**

Catherine Noel, Ronald Ashworth
and Mary Beth Bulte

Lessons learned:
About insurance
reimbursement for treatment;
and
From providers about
successes and challenges
with implementation

MU Thompson Center
providers

Panel: Dr. Janet Farmer, Jamie
Severtson, Monica Mann and
Brenda Leuenberger

**What insurance carriers look
for when treatment plans are
submitted**

Judy Bass (United),
Tiffany Hodges (Optum Health)
and Rebecca Nicastro (Anthem
Blue Cross Blue Shield)

How DIFP can help

Angela Nelson, Director of DIFP
Consumer Affairs Division

**Licensing and credentialing
behavior analysts**

Connie Clarkston, fiscal and
administrative manager for DIFP
Professional Registration Division

Closing remarks

Gov. Jay Nixon



Bios



**James R.
McAdams**

Mr. McAdams is deputy director and general counsel for the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration. He served the Missouri Attorney General's Office for 18 years, over four years as chief counsel of litigation. He also served as deputy Secretary of State for elections.

Session 1

Billing and navigating the system



**Catherine
Noel**

Ms. Noel is assistant director of managed care for the University of Missouri Physicians. Her 25 years in health care includes roles on both the provider and payor side. In her current position, she represents several entities in commercial and government payor contracting: MU School of Medicine – University Physicians, MU School of Health Professions and the MU Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders.



**Ronald B.
Ashworth**

Mr. Ashworth is board chair of Sisters of Mercy Health System in Chesterfield. He has been a board member since its inception in 1986. He has been a tireless advocate for advancing autism issues. Mr. Ashworth participated in the state's Blue Ribbon Panel on Autism, traveling statewide to attend panel meetings with the public, resulting in 36 recommendations to improve the lives of those impacted by autism. He also worked with autism professionals, lawmakers and the state Division of Developmental Disabilities to create the document that is the Missouri standard for autism screening, diagnosis and assessment.



Bios

Session 1 continued

Billing and navigating the system



**Mary Beth
Bulte**

Ms. Bulte is director of Mercy Behavioral Health & EAP at Mercy Health Care in St. Louis, where she has been employed since 1993. She has been involved in behavioral health and employee assistance since 1986. She has held multiple leadership positions and now oversees the mental health needs for all Mercy coworkers. She has an interest in the field of autism and has worked with Ron Ashworth and the leadership of Mercy Health to assist Mercy families impacted by autism.

Session 2

Implementing Missouri's autism health Insurance legislation: initial lessons learned



**Dr. Janet E.
Farmer**

Dr. Farmer is director of academic programs at the University of Missouri Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders. She is a professor of health psychology and child health. Dr. Farmer provided oversight to the implementation of health insurance billing by the Intervention Services Division at the center. Her clinical and research endeavors have focused on ways to improve quality of life for children and families affected by autism and other developmental concerns.

Bios

Session 2
continued

Implementing Missouri's autism health insurance legislation: Initial lessons learned



Dr. Jamie M. Severtson

Dr. Severtson, PhD, BCBA-D, LBA, is an assistant professor of health psychology and director of the Behavior Supports Clinic at the MU Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders. She provides outpatient behavioral intervention with a focus on training parents as implementers to reduce problem behavior and increase functional skills, such as toileting and communication. She is a board-certified behavior analyst and is developing a training sequence in behavior analysis for MU.



Monica Mann

Ms. Mann is the intake coordinator in the Intervention Services Division at the MU Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders. Her responsibilities include intake interviews with families and helping them to secure funding for ABA therapy. She also handles verification of insurance eligibility and pre-authorizations for families seeking ABA therapy.



Brenda Leuenberger

Ms. Leuenberger works for University Providers, which handles billing for the MU Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders. She is a contracting specialist with MU Health Care, specializing in behavioral health. Her roles include negotiating contract language and rates along with operationalizing new and existing contracts for MU's Health Care System.



Bios

Session 3

What insurance carriers look for when treatment plans are submitted



Judy Bass

Ms. Bass is the senior regulatory affairs analyst for UnitedHealthcare. She manages regulatory affairs for UnitedHealthcare's Missouri and Kansas fully-insured commercial group business. She provided invaluable insight as the Missouri Legislature created and passed the state's autism insurance mandate in 2010.



Tiffany Hodges

Ms. Hodges, Psy.D, BCBA-D, is the clinical program manager for the Autism Team at OptumHealth. She works at United Behavioral Health and manages the Enhanced Autism Team, which works with providers and families with children on the autism spectrum disorder. The team works with families and providers across the country, focusing on states with autism mandates.

Session 4

How DIFP can help



Angela Nelson

Ms. Nelson is director of DIFP's Consumer Affairs Division. She has served the insurance department since 2002. Ms. Nelson and her team of 35 are the face and voice of the department for the 20,000 consumers who call and the more than 7,000 who file written complaints each year.



Bios

Session 5

Licensing and credentialing behavior analysts



**Connie
Clarkston**

Ms. Clarkston is director of budget and legislation for DIFP's Division of Professional Registration, where she has worked since 1985. In 1999, she joined the director's office and focused on legislation and rules affecting 40 professional licensing boards, including the newly created behavior analyst board.

Closing remarks: Gov. Jay Nixon



Gov. Nixon led the push for Missouri's autism insurance law, which was passed as House Bill 1311 in 2010. The law requires that insurance companies provide coverage of up to \$40,000 a year, until age 18, for Applied Behavior Analysis, which clinical evidence has shown to be the most effective means of treating autism spectrum disorders. During the campaign to pass the legislation, the Governor worked closely with a statewide coalition of Missouri's autism centers, parents of children with autism spectrum disorder, health care providers, legislators and many others.



Resources

Summit
presentation
materials

[insurance.mo.gov/
autismsummit](https://insurance.mo.gov/autismsummit)



Insurance Consumer Hotline

800-726-7390