

# 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**