

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and
Human Services



Update: Services for Individuals with ASD and Mental Illness

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Agenda



- **Autism Omnibus Bill August 2014**
- **Agreement (ISA) between DDS/DMH December 2015**
- **Progress to date**
 - **Trainings**
 - **Fellowships**
 - **Risk Consultations**
 - **Dually Eligible**
 - **Service development**
 - **RFI and ARPA funding**



Autism Omnibus Bill – August 2014



- **Established a 35-member Commission on Autism within EHS and chaired by the Secretary**
- **Expands DDS mission to include those with intellectual disabilities as well as developmental disabilities**
- **Requires DMH and DDS to provide services to individuals with both MI and DD and who are eligible for services from both agencies**
 - **Protocols to determine which services shall be provided by which department**
 - **Ways to ensure that an individual who is eligible for services from both departments receives all services for which they are eligible**



DDS/DMH Interagency Service Agreement Finalized December 2015



- **Recognizes DDS as lead Agency for ASD**
- **Acknowledges both co-morbid mental illness with ASD and that some individuals are eligible for both DDS and DMH services**
- **Acknowledges the differences between DDS and DMH around service authorization/eligibility criteria and service resources available**
- **Establishes training to understand and work with these differences**



DDS/DMH ISA (continued)



- **Affirms the complexity and variety of ASD presentations and needs**
- **Requires collaboration across state agencies, the multiple funding agencies (state, managed care organizations, health plans, school systems), families, consumers, and community-based organizations to provide the range of services and supports needed by individuals and their families**



DDS/DMH ISA Content



- Agency structural collaboration
- DDS/DMH Autism Committee
- Eligibility and Service Authorization guidelines
- Plan for Training and Professional Consultation
- Risk Assessment Services
- Service Provision
- Service Design



Structural Collaboration



- **DDS Regional and DMH Area work groups**
 - Increase mutual understanding of Agency's structures, service array, delivery models and resources
 - Provide coordinated service delivery to individuals with ASD who meet service criteria for both agencies
- **DDS and DMH Central Office Leadership Autism Committee**
 - Provides policy and procedure development & oversight and monitoring of services needed by those who are dually eligible
 - Monthly meetings



Eligibility & Service Authorization Guidelines



- **Allows for Dual Eligibility**
- **Universal consent form developed by both agencies to use in order to share an individual's information between agencies**
- **Provides for a dispute resolution process**
- **Establishes determination of shared costs**
- **Piloted an expedited eligibility process for DDS (those hospitalized)**



Plan for Training



- Recognize the need to increase expertise about individuals with ASD and mental health issues
- DDS funding of ASD Fellowships through DMH Training Grant started July 2016
- Training of DDS and DMH Staff funded primarily by DDS with DMH collaboration (site, logistics)
- DMH's Research COEs to help train as well as guide the development of new services



Risk Assessment



- **DDS will purchase from DMH access to specialized risk assessment and treatment planning consultation**
 - **ASD and MIPSB**
 - **Dangerousness risk assessment**
- **DDS Central Risk Manager will provide access to its Risk Managers and Risk Management System to assist in this process**
- **Coordinated through Janet George and Kathy Sanders**



Service Provision



- **DDS and DMH are committed to provide the needed services for those dually eligible for both DDS and DMH together**
- **DDS Area Offices and DMH Site Offices agree to work together to access each other's resources in the most person-centered approach to service planning**
- **DMH/DDS Autism Committee will review individuals currently receiving services in only one Agency who may be better served by the other agency or both agencies together**



Service Design



- **DDS and DMH will explore how to best use the existing services for the needs of those with ASD**
- **DDS and DMH will jointly identify the need for new services and will consider funding demonstration/pilot projects to develop new service arrangements**
- **This new service design will be done through the DDS/DMH Autism Committee**



DDS/DMH RFI Recommendations (2019-20)



- **Develop an Intensive Wrap Around Case management program**
- **Explore developing an Integrated Employment program with Clinical Supports**
- **Consider whether the DDS rate structure supports a specialized Autism specific program**
- **Explore how best to develop a peer mentoring network**
- **Better coordination and transition activities to prepare both young adults with ASD and their families into adult agency life.**
- **Consider the Development of a Center of Autism Excellence**
- **Use of Telehealth options for service delivery**
- **Increase skilled therapists in CBT and Trauma informed care**
- **Improve ESP response to needs of medical and behavioral issues**
 - **July 2020: start of MCPAP for ASD in EDs**



DDS DMH Projects



- **Housing pilot in MetroBoston 2018**
- **Fellowship skill training efforts and consultations**
- **Project for individuals with ASD to engage and receive services in the community**
- **Ongoing collaboration at Region/Area level and Central Office**
- **ARPA funding projects**
 - **Specialized DDS/DMH housing for those with ASD**
 - **Plan for 5 housing units for each of the MA Areas**



Clinical Challenges



- **Co-occurring ASD and mental illness**
 - **Even mild mental illness may not be as impairing but in combination with ASD, functional impairment is amplified**
- **Risk behaviors and mitigation efforts**
 - **Engagement strategies – very individualized**
 - **Voluntary treatment health care system**
- **Independent functioning goals may require significant support**
- **Family/caregiver burden**



Discussion & Questions