Insurance Mandate Update:

*What questions are being asked by parents?*

Amy Masek (WEAP)
- My child didn’t qualify for the waiver, can I get services now?
- My child is now in there teens or an adult, can they get services?
- Do I have to (how do I) move from waiver to insurance?
- WEAP working from the Emergency Rule to help parents and also referring to health care systems and insurance companies. Health care systems don’t seem to have many answers at this point. Still working with insurance providers.

Per Autism Work group
- OCI (Office of Commissioner of Insurance) plan to have a Q & A for parents ready in January.
- DHFS working on FAQ document now. (Contact Katie Sepnieski at katie.sepnieski@wisconsin.gov)
  No other known Q & A’s out there.

Crystal Cayemberg, as part of her LEND training, will be meeting with some key players (ABC for Health, ASW, etc) about insurance issues and will keep us updated on what she finds.

Jane Webb from MCFI raised the issue of a DPI memo that stated if child is receiving intensive therapy at home, they may not receive that therapy during school hours. This is a problem in the urban setting. Other blocks also present.

*How can MCFI/Urban areas work with DPI to remove blocks?*

Family Friendly Toolkit

Starting point—Is there a need for a “toolkit” that is easy to use and would be handed out in Wal-Mart/Target?

Concerns:
- Good use of time? (Lower percentage of total population)
- Autism specific?
- Pre/Post diagnosis?
- Target Audience?

Challenges:
- Parents very emotional over DX, not able to accept/hear help
- Current resources can be overwhelming
Urban challenges:
- Some non-readers
- Less educated
- Food and Shelter insecurity—no time or energy to focus on behaviors
- Lack of access to diagnosis and treatment
- Later diagnosis

Rural challenges:
- Long waits for evaluations
- Long waits for diagnosis
- Lack of access to treatment

Suggestions:
- Families respond best to person to person help. This is a strength of ASSEW and the Regional Center.
- Phone line in Milwaukee where a parent could leave a message and get a call back from a parent.
- Assessments done in the urban area once a month to try to lead to early intervention.
- Compile a list of pediatricians who will see children who had concerning results on an assessment or screen.
- Parents need to be aware of warning signs and if they see a sign clearly know what to do.
- Utilize the local ASW chapters in conjunction with the Regional Centers to reach out to smaller areas without chapters to educate and support. (Adopt an area for autism?)
- Connect with Parent to Parent for training of support parents in urban Milwaukee. MCFI has helper parents willing, just unsure how to form connection with new parents. In addition to diagnosis specific connection, is there a way to do a cultural match? Which is more important?
- Build advocates in the community. Cultural norms are a sit down, spend time and talk, not a phone call and website.
- Split into two smaller groups—Urban and Rural?

Next steps:
- Crystal will meet with ABC for Health and if there is anything to report, will let us know.
- October 30th Community Systems Practice Group meeting at WEAP in Brookfield at 9:00am. Focus will be on working with Urban Autism Summit Family Group to take some steps to making a difference in Milwaukee. Many practice group members are already working along these lines, and so we want to join them in their work.

Reminders:
- November 30 Community of Practice in Milwaukee
- Practice Groups are about shared work and so we first look for ways to join in the work a group member is already doing and help them.
- You are important and you are doing great things!