MEMO

TO: HealthChoices Contractors

FROM: Dennis Marion, OMHSAS Deputy Secretary

RE: Survey of Behavior Specialist Consultant Services for Children and

Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorders

The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services ("DHS") Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Bureau of Children's Services, together with the Office of Developmental Programs Bureau of Autism Services, is seeking information about access to Behavior Specialist Consultant - Autism Spectrum Disorder ("BSC-ASD") services. Included in this survey are questions related to the authorization and provision of BSC-ASD services, the qualifications of individuals providing services to children diagnosed with an ASD, and the ability of providers to hire new behavior specialists.

Data gathered from the survey (see below) and during follow-up communications with each of the Behavioral Health Managed Care Organizations will assist DHS in its ongoing monitoring of services to children and adolescents with ASD.

Please submit the requested information to Cristal Leeper at cleeper@pa.gov no later than Friday, September 11th. If you have questions regarding the survey please contact Cristal or me at (717) 787-6443.

Thank you.

Survey Questions:

For purposes of responding to this survey, and as defined in my memorandum to you dated March 18, 2015, Applied Behavior Analysis ("ABA") is the design, implementation, and evaluation of environmental modifications using behavioral stimuli and consequences to produce socially significant improvement in human behavior or to prevent loss of attained skill or function. ABA includes the use of direct observation, measurement, and functional analysis of the relations between environment and behavior. ABA is used to develop needed skills (behavioral, social, communicative, and adaptive functioning) through the use of reinforcement, prompting, task analysis, or other appropriate interventions in order for a child or adolescent to master each step necessary to achieve a targeted behavior.

- 1. How many of your members who are under the age of 21 and have a diagnosis of ASD are currently authorized to receive Behavior Specialist Consultant Autism Spectrum Disorder ("BSC-ASD") services?
- 2. Please provide the following information:

Number of members	Number of those	Number of those	Number of those members
who received a new	members who began	members who began	who did NOT begin
authorization for BSC-	receiving services within	receiving services	receiving services within
ASD services in April	30 days of the	between 31 and 60 days	60 days of the
2015	authorization	of the authorization	authorization

For each member who did NOT begin receiving BSC-ASD services within 60 days of the authorization, explain why. If the member requested ABA, please include this in your response.

3. For each provider agency in your network that provides BSC-ASD services, submit the following information about the individuals who deliver BSC-ASD services. Use either the below chart or a separate attachment:

Name of individual who delivers BSC-ASD services	Name and address of agency(ies)	License type (Behavior Specialist; Licensed Clinical Social Worker; Social Worker; Psychologist; Professional counselor; Family therapist)	Does the individual provide ABA? (yes or no)	Is the individual a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)? (yes or no)	Does the individual have a Master's Degree which includes a primary focus in ABA or behavioral interventions? (yes or no)	Does the individual have a graduate certificate in ABA? (yes or no)	Has the individu al received training related to ABA? (yes or no)*

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^{*} If yes, please describe the training on a separate sheet of paper.

- 4. For each provider in your network, is the provider seeking to hire more individuals to provide BSC-ASD services? If yes, is the provider having difficulty hiring individuals who are licensed as behavior specialists? If so, indicate if one or more of the licensure requirements listed below is the reason for the difficulty:
 - A master's or higher degree in school, clinical, developmental, or counseling psychology; special education; social work; speech therapy; occupational therapy; professional counseling; behavioral analysis; nursing; or another related field.
 - At least 1 year of experience involving functional behavior assessments of individuals under 21 year of age, including the development and implementation of behavioral supports or treatment plans.
 - At least 1000 hours of in-person clinical experience with individuals with behavioral challenges or at least 1000 hours of experience in a related field with individuals with ASD.
 - 90 hours of course work in evidence-based practices from an accredited college or university or training approved by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board or the Bureau of Autism Services.
- 5. a. How many providers have the capacity to serve additional members with ASD who require ABA?
 - b. How many providers have the capacity to serve additional members with ASD who require other BSC-ASD services?