Notes from Autism Service Array Call

June 1, 2016

Overview

- There have been advocacy in the Autism community regarding concerns with the current systems that are in place not being able to meet the needs of the ASD population.
- When BAS looked at designing adult services they focused on five themes which was very helpful.
- Emphasis was placed on the importance of recognizing that ASD if very broad and diverse regarding the ages (0 -21), functioning levels and symptom presentation.

Point of Discussion Regarding Service Array

- Looking at ASD as a persistent condition when thinking about service array/delivery
- We are operating in an environment where there are many interventions utilized in the field and it is important to focus on evidence-based approaches
    - Feedback was given regarding payment of services and providing funding for such approaches.
- Ensure that documentation places an emphasis on developmental not just mental health
- Should the language of Act 62 be considered related to ABA?
- Collaboration/coordination of care
    - The importance of all parties involved with the child being involved in services and on the same page
    - Care management vs case management
- Transfer of skills/caregiver involvement
    - Could tie into the psychoeducation piece of service array
    - Concerns were raised that we cannot have children lose medically necessary services because of someone's perspective on how involved a family/caregiver needs to be.
    - Offer psychoeducation to families to carry over skills but if the family is limited in their ability to be involved in services we cannot preclude them from receiving services.
    - It's important to consider how interventions are going to work within the context of the family/caregiver unit.
    - Could caregiver education/coaching be included as a specific service?
- The importance of utilizing data-based decision making
    - This point also holds true for service provision outside of the ASD population
    - Someone brought up use of data/assessment in the development of goals , monitoring of interventions and treatment planning
    - Clinical assessment/evaluation should include case evaluation, monitoring and development of goals (feedback was similar to data based decisions making, but utilizing the assessment data to drive the development of the treatment planning process)
    - Use of data analysis to determine treatment outcomes (again holds true for non-ASD population)
- Interface of educational and behavioral health systems

- o Is there a way in regulations to craft language in a way to be more complimentary regarding coordination of care?
  - o Should we include language related to integration of ABA/behavioral health services in the school?
- There were concerns brought up regarding interventions and services being used interchangeably.
- Titration of services/discharge planning
  - o Once an individual meets their treatment goals, services begin to titrate or may no longer be deemed medically necessary.
  - o Stabilizing an individual vs skill maintenance.
  - o Some families want to hold on to services in case a crisis arises or there is a regression in previous skill attainment.
    - ▪ Would there be the possibility of keeping a crisis component that could be accessed once services had been titrated?
  - o Importance of a clinical discussion with caregivers/treatment team related to titration (i.e. need to pull back on TSS because child is becoming prompt dependent).
- Skill development
  - o Should be more broadly defined for this population (habilitation skills, social skills development, etc.)
  - o Can skill development include the natural environment and community based instruction?
- Importance of the oversight of service provision being by someone with experience with ASD
- Transition planning and additional factors/concerns that arise with age
  - o Depression, anxiety
    - ▪ Psychotherapy may be helpful with this population regarding such needs
- A concern was raised regarding the lack of inclusion of the ASD population in high Fidelity Wraparound
- At the end of the call it was brought up that it may be helpful to review the Autism Task Force Report.
  - o This can be found on ASERT's website