

ABA Medical Assistance Pennsylvania Initiative

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is the most effective treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorders. The law requires some private insurance plans and Medical Assistance (MA) in Pennsylvania to cover it. In March 2015, the Department of Human Services (DHS) confirmed that ABA should be a service offered to children covered by Medical Assistance. Unfortunately, there may be hundreds of families who cannot access ABA for multiple reasons. This is why the ABA Initiative in PA needs your help!

- If you have tried since March 2015 to get ABA for your child from MA without success, please contact Cristal Leeper at DHS (Department of Human Services) by email at ABA@pagov.
- If you have questions about how to apply for ABA from MA, please e-mail Rachel Mann at rmann@drmpa.org.
- Ms. Mann works for DRN (Disability Rights Network-PA).
- Please consider sharing your story on the following Facebook page, "[Struggling to Get Autism Services in PA](#)".

The Following are Examples of Stories that are Needed:

Parents:

- If you are told that ABA or some part of ABA is not a covered MA service.
- If you are told that your child is too mildly affected by ASD, so his/her need is better met elsewhere, or your child is not "severe" enough for ABA.
- If you are told that your child is 3 years of age or younger and is therefore unable to access ABA.
- If your child's ABA plan is or was not developed and supervised by a Master's level BCBA and/or an individual trained, licensed and experienced in providing ABA, your child may not be receiving true ABA!

Providers and Parents:

- If you are told that a submitted treatment plan was denied.
- If you are told that a treatment plan may not be submitted.
- If you are told that a program service description was rejected or changed because it includes:
 - ⇒ Activities of Daily Living (such as dressing or toilet training).
 - ⇒ Skill building goals or interventions (such as interventions for communication or social skills).
 - ⇒ Helping children to learn, keep, or improve skills and functional abilities that they may not be developing normally.
 - ⇒ ABA interventions that are not covered by behavioral health services.

In short, if you have **MA** and need **ABA**, then let the **DHS** know **ASAP** if you are having problems!

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