

Supports for Children on the Autism Spectrum & Experiences with the these Supports

“Navigating the Road of State Supports”

Presented by:

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With a Parent’s Perspective by:

Keely Simpson,

Mother of Shane & Participant in the Autism Waiver Program

Overview

State Agency Supports:

- DMR
 - Children's Family Support Services
 - Eligibility Process
 - Types of Supports
 - Autism Division Supports
 - Verification Process
 - Autism Center Supports
 - Autism Waiver Program
- DPH Programs
 - Community Care Program and Care Coordination Program
 - Catastrophic Illness Children's Fund

Public Benefits:

- SSI
- MassHealth Standard
- Commonwealth Program
- Kaleigh Mulligan

Other Agencies/Resources

- Home Modification Loan Program
- Federation for Children with Special Needs/Family Ties
- NE Index & MASS 211

Eligibility for DMR Children's Services & Verification for the Autism Division

Things to Know:

- Children with autism who come to eligibility are automatically assessed for both eligibility into DMR Children's Services and the Autism Division
- Children currently eligible for DMR Children's Services, but not verified for the Autism Division do not need to go through an additional eligibility process and are free to contact an Autism Center to obtain information and referral and related community based supports

Children's Eligibility for DMR Family Support Services

- Children under the age of five, global developmental delay standard
- Children over the age 5 but under the age of 18, developmental disability standard
- Adult Eligibility at age 18, must have mental retardation

Autism Division Diagnostic Verification Process

- Children under 18 with a diagnosis on the Autism Spectrum from a specialty clinician

For more information on eligibility please contact your local Autism Support Center or DMR Regional Eligibility Team (Regional DMR info is on www.mass.gov/dmr)

Services for DMR Eligible Children

- Each eligible child is assigned to Area Office Coordinator
- The Coordinator meets with the family to determine the resources available based on a prioritization of need
- **Types of Family Supports:**
 - General Family Support (family support provider agency)
 - Enhanced Family Support Services (to address more complex needs)
 - Intensive Family Support Services (time-limited)
- **Special Programs:**
 - Medically Fragile Family Partnership Program:
 - Focus on children with significant cognitive, physical, and health care needs who live at home with their families
 - Program provides wrap-around supports
 - ESE/DMR
 - Collaboration with the Department of elementary and secondary education
 - Provides increased levels of support to families whose children are at risk of residential school placement or are coming home from a residential school placement

Supports from the Autism Division

Seven State Funded Autism Support Centers

Information/ referral resources, support groups, parent trainings, family activities and social programs

- **Autism Alliance of Metrowest:** Serving: Metrowest Area
14 East Central St. Natick, MA 01760 # 508-652-9900; <http://www.autismalliance.org>
- **Autism Resource Center (HMEA):** Serving: Central, MA
71 Sterling Street, West Boylston, MA 01583 #508-835-4278; www.arccm.org
- **Community Resources for People with Autism (ACL):** Serving Western, MA
116 Pleasant St. Easthampton, MA 01027 #413-529-2428: Serving: Western, MA;
www.communityresourcesforautism.org
- **Community Autism Resources:** Serving: Southeastern, MA
2315 GAR Highway, Swansea, MA 02777 #508-379-0371; www.community-autism-resources.org
- **TILL and Boston Families for Autism:** Serving: Greater Boston
20 Eastbrook Rd. Dedham, MA 02026 #781-302-4600 x 4835; www.tillinc.org/index.htm
- **The Family Autism Center (SNCARC):** Serving: Norfolk County Area
789 Clapboardtree Street, Westwood, MA 02090 #781-762-4001, X. 310; www.sncarc.org/autism.htm
- **NSARC: The Autism Support Center:** Serving: Northeastern, MA
6 Southside Road, Danvers, MA 01923 #978-777-9135 x, 2301 or 2302; <http://www2.shore.net/~nsarc/>

Autism Division (continued)

Autism Waiver Program

- Federal Home and Community Based Services Waiver Program
- Medicaid Program—families need to have MH Standard to meet financial eligibility
- Child has to have a verified autism diagnosis and significant level of impairment related to the social, communication and behavioral deficits of autism
- Children need to be under the age of 9
- Main service of the Waiver Program is in-home services
- Supplemental Services include Family Training, Respite, Adaptive Aids and Home Mods
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- Current Capacity is 100 children

For more information please visit www.mass.gov/dmr under Autism Services

Department of Public Health Programs

- **Community Support Program**

- Toll-Free Line offers:

- Information, technical assistance and referrals for families of children with special healthcare needs

- Call 1-800-882-1435 between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM

- **Care Coordination Program**

- Help family coordinate services between medical, school and educational system

- Help family identify changing needs of the family

- Become a more effective advocate

- Identify community resources

- Connect with other families with similar challenges

- Plan for transition

- For more information call 1-800-882-1435

Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund (CICRF)

- Helps families with the excessive financial burdens associated with the care of children with special needs
- Provides financial assistance for families that are not covered by an insurer or state/federal assistance or any other financial source
- Eligibility
 - Expenses for the medical condition must be more than 10% of family's gross income up to \$100K and 15% for those above \$100K
- CICRF is the payor of last resort

For more information call 800-882-1435 or visit
www.mass.gov/cicrf

Public Benefits:

- **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)**
 - A federal program of the Social Security Administration
 - Provides monthly cash benefit and automatic MassHealth coverage for those with low to moderate income and low resources
 - Eligibility requires that child have a medically proven physical or mental condition that results in marked and severe functional limitations
 - In an instance where a child is hospitalized for more than a month or is living in a residential facility then parent income may not be counted

For more information on SSI please contact **800-772-1213**

Public Benefits: MassHealth/Medicaid

- Health coverage program for people with disabilities and others
- SSI recipients are automatically eligible for MassHealth coverage
- Provides a variety of supports through E.P.S.D.T.
 - Early and Periodic, Screening Diagnosis and Treatment
 - These are preventative care and treatment services
 - MassHealth Standard and MassHealth Commonwealth Members are eligible
 - Screenings for potential medical, dental, behavioral health and related issues
 - Also cover additional OT, PT and Speech Services when medically necessary
 - Also cover certain types of assistive devices and adaptive equipment
 - **Call 800-841-2900 for an eligibility booklet and more information**

Public Benefits:

MassHealth Commonwealth

- A health insurance plan for MA residents with disabilities that is a part of MassHealth
- Qualifications:
 - Family income/resources is too high for MassHealth Standard
 - Child lives in MA
 - Child is under 18
 - Child is disabled
 - Do not qualify for SSI
- For people who already have private insurance
 - Can cover services that private insurance does not pay
 - Co-payments or deductibles under your private insurance

Call 1-888-665-9993 for more information

Public Benefits: MassHealth Standard/CommonHealth Premium Assistance (MSCPA)

- Helps families maintain their private health insurance
 - For individuals and families with MH Standard, CommonHealth or Kaileigh Mulligan benefits
 - MSCPA helps pay the premium of employer health insurance when cost effective

For more information call 1-800-862-4840

Public Benefits

Kaileigh Mulligan Program

- A special Medicaid program
 - Enables severely disabled children living at home to qualify for Medicaid/MassHealth Standard despite parental income
 - Provides families with all the benefits of MH Standard including all EPSDT services—which includes coverage for items like diapers and adaptive aids

For more information, or an application, call Customer Service at
MassHealth (Medicaid) at: **(800) 841-2900**

Other Useful Agencies:

Federation for Children with Special Needs

- Center for parents and parent organizations to work together on behalf of children with special needs and their families
 - Provides training, supports and other resources

Contact

- Main Office: Boston
At 800-331-0688 or via email www.fcsn.org
- Western MA Representative
413-323-0681
- Central MA Representative
508-798-0531

**FCSN has great publications available for
download on their website**

Other Useful Agencies:

Family TIES of Massachusetts

A parent-led organization that strives to meet the information and support needs of families of children with all special needs

- Family TIES Directory

Filled with many pieces of useful information and resources

- Download your copy from

- <http://massfamilyties.org/info/directory.php>

- Or call 800-905-TIES to get a copy mailed to you

Other Useful Programs:

Home Modification Loan Program

- Provides loans to make access modification to allow people with a disability to remain in their homes
- Based on income guidelines between \$1,000 to \$25,000 may be borrowed in either a deferred payment program (DPL) or an amortized loan
 - Homeowner's eligible for 0% DPL do not repay loan until the property is sold or title transferred
 - 3% DPL must be paid in 5 to 15 years, depending on the amount of the loan and the monthly payment schedule

For more information contact 617-204-3724 or

www.mass.gov/mrc/hmlp

Resource Directories:

- **NE Index**

A free information and referral service for people with disabilities

Provides:

- Resource database, Consultant Registry, Physician Registry and Dental Registry

Go to www.disabilityinfo.org or call 800-642-0249

- **Mass 211**

A new United Way sponsored statewide information and referral system

Provides:

- Information to individuals and families to find appropriate community-based organizations or governmental agencies

Call 877-211-MASS for more information

**Some thought from my
co-presenters who have
“been there”**

Carole & Keely

The background of the slide is a solid, warm brown color. Overlaid on this background are several large, stylized leaf patterns in a slightly lighter shade of brown. The leaves are arranged in a way that they appear to be scattered across the page, with some overlapping. The overall aesthetic is autumnal and textured.

Questions?

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