Autism Commission Subcommittee on Adults

Updated Priorities for CY2021

12/04/2020

1. Continue to examine technological innovations to serve autistic adults receiving MassHealth and DDS services. Brainstorm pilots and activities, including discussions of stories from the community about uses of new technologies (here and in other states). Consider apps, use of robots, remote monitoring, and other technological advancements to enhance services, particularly in the context of work force crisis, the need to support aging caregivers in families, and development of independence. Review lessons from delivery of services during the pandemic should be discussed.
2. Discussion of how well the Individual Service Plan (ISP) process currently works for individuals served by DDS who are “autism only.” In particular, consider how some of the assessments, visioning statement and goal setting parts of the ISP process might require adjustment to better serve this population, and what appropriate time frames/cycles and levels of engagement of individuals and service coordinators might be. Discuss the results of the DDS North East Region pilot program for ISP process for this population (planned to end on 6/30/21) and approaches and experiences that other DDS regions are developing and testing.
3. Discuss status of DDS coaching services RFR, including updates about the selection of providers and suggested data collection efforts about what may be meaningful to measure. Revisit the discussion of what was learned from 2019 pilot for self-isolating autistic young adults living with their families.
4. Present what was learned from the DDS/DMH RFI concerning supports for autistic adults with mental health needs, including a discussion of case management needs and intensive wraparound services and other clinical support needs. Focus discussion on coping and resiliency strategies to prepare for social changes out of individual control (e.g., Pandemic). Review and discuss programmatic supports that can be put in place to maintain social-emotional learning whether virtual or in person. Include discussion of anxiety and depression issues exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic or other isolating societal events.
5. Revisit the Information Card Initiative developed by DDS for better communication with the healthcare delivery system especially when presenting to the ED or in crisis. There will be a presentation of follow-up information about the implementation and use of these cards/forms in hospital emergency departments, an initiative developed by this subcommittee in prior years. This will serve as reminder for using these Information Cards.