
## Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**Executive Office of Health and Human Services**

## Autism Commission January 12, 2016

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

* The Autism Omnibus Legislation was signed into law in August 2014.
* The legislation required DDS to develop and implement revised eligibility process and criteria for an expanded population of people with Autism and Prader-Willi but with no Intellectual Disability and for those with Smith Magenis Syndrome.
* The review process for eligibility began in November 2014.
* Revised regulations were required. Draft regulations were submitted to EOHHS in November, 2014. Regulatory hearings were held on February 4 and 5. Revised regulation is currently in regulatory review process.
* **Additional Staff:**
	+ Area Offices (23 locations)

 Autism Service Coordinator added to each office

* + Regional Offices (4 locations)

 Specialist added to Intake and Eligibility Teams

 Program Coordinator

 Contract Specialist

* + Central Office

 Legal Counsel

 Psychologist

* **Internal Controls**:
	+ A Data Management System was developed that tracks eligible individuals on a monthly basis, as well as individuals served and individuals in planning
	+ A Fiscal Monitoring System was put in place to monitor the $12.6 million appropriation in the dedicated Adult Autism account.
* **Autism Implementation Working Group established to ensure the highest level of attention to this initiative:**
	+ Gather feedback from the field regarding the services for the newly eligible ASD individuals
	+ Review clinical needs
	+ Monitor expenditures and services being delivered
	+ Identify service needs that are unique to this population
	+ Pinpoint risk factors
	+ Identify training opportunities
	+ Members:

 Deputy Commissioner - Chair

 Assistant Commissioner for Policy and Planning

 Assistant Commissioner for Operations

 Risk Manager

 Director of Family Support/Employment Services

 Four Regional Directors

 Data Analysts

* Meets Monthly

From November 2014 to present:

Ages 18-21 Age 22 and

older

TOTAL

Newly Eligible w/ Autism 253 212 465

Newly Eligible w/ Prader-Willi 3 1 4

TOTAL Newly Eligible 256 213 469

## Ages 18-21:

* + While the eligibility for adult services occurs at age 22, there are circumstances where individuals aged 18-21 may be receiving services such as employment and/or day services and Family Support Services.
	+ Of the 256, 52 of these individuals are enrolled in a combination of 112 services
	+ The majority of individuals between 18-21 have not yet requested services. Many are still in school.

**Age 22 and older:**

* + Of those 213 individuals, 102 individuals are receiving a total of 245 DDS services
	+ Of the total service enrollments, 19% of the services are self-directed while the remaining individuals are enrolled in traditional Purchase of Service
	+ There are 93 individuals with Autism age 22+ who DDS staff continue to work with and who have service enrollments pending at this time
	+ Engagement is ongoing. Our Autism Service Coordinators are working with each individual and their family to identify appropriate services which might not necessarily be traditional DDS services.
* Of the 469 people found eligible for Autism, 80% of the individuals are male; 20% are female.
* A number have mental health issues ranging from anxiety and depression to major psychiatric illness.
* They have an array of social and emotional issues.
* A number of these individuals have at least an average IQ, with some having a higher IQ.
* Some of the individuals have graduated from high school.
* Most of the individuals currently live at home.
* On average, individuals are receiving $14,886 of services.
* DDS provides:
	+ Service Coordination
	+ Variety of Employment Supports and Day Services
	+ Variety of Family Supports for Individuals Residing in the Family Home
	+ Variety of Individual Supports including in-home supports for individuals living on their own
	+ Variety of short term services related to the development of vocational, avocational interests and social skills
	+ Limited array of housing supports for individuals with severe challenges
	+ Exploring new service options based on needs

## To expand the knowledge base at DDS, DMH and the provider community, a variety of training opportunities has occurred:

* + - * A series of three trainings for the new autism service coordinators

staff from DMH and providers from ADDP were invited

Presenters were prominent external experts

Training paid for by the SEIU

* + - * Joint trainings with DMH regarding each agency’s eligibility determination and service delivery systems.
			* Meeting of providers that contract with both DMH and DDS to discuss this population’s challenges and multiple needs
			* Workgroup established by the Association of Developmental Disabilities Program (ADDP) in conjunction with DDS to examine current services, promote new supports and provide training opportunities
* DDS and DMH have entered into an Interagency Service Agreement (ISA) to collaborate in the development and funding of supports and services for individuals who are eligible for service in both systems
* DDS and DMH are learning the similarities and differences between the respective agencies through regular local, regional and central office networking
* Agencies commit to joint trainings, service design and implementation and mutual consultation
* DDS will purchase and support additional clinical resources from DMH including:
	+ Two psychiatric fellowships ( Mass General and UMass)
	+ Short term psychiatric consultation
	+ Forensic Risk Consultation
	+ Development of Joint Training Agenda
* DDS and DMH will develop an interagency plan to address the training needs of each agency’s:
	+ Leadership
	+ Administrative
	+ Professional staff
	+ Service providers
* Two days of training for DDS and DMH managers will occur in January 2016 presented by the Asperger/Autism Network (AANE)
* DMH through its Center of Excellence in Research (COE) will focus on the development of new evidenced based practices, clinical innovation to support design and implementation of treatment.
* First priority of the COE will be the development of a training scheduled for June 2016 on Autism Spectrum Disorders/Serious Persistent Mental Illness interface.
* Additional trainings and webinars are planned to enhance clinical knowledge
	+ **Children’s Autism Spectrum Disorder Waiver:**
		- The Children’s Autism Spectrum Disorder Waiver has been in operation since 2007. The waiver program is for children under the age of 9 with Autism Spectrum Disorders
		- Since January of 2015, 77 new children have been determined eligible for services
		- A total of 278 children have participated in the waiver program from January 1, 2015 to present
		- There are currently 244 children enrolled in the Autism Waiver Program
		- Services will expand in the current Federal Fiscal Year (10/1/15- 9/30/16) with the goal to reach 260 children

## Other Services Offered

* **DESE/DDS Program (**Department of Elementary and Secondary Education):
	+ This program is designed to provide in-home and community bases therapeutic supports to students ages 6 to 22 who demonstrate a need for services to prevent a more restrictive out of home residential placement
	+ 85% of the participants in the DESE program have autism and ID

## Intensive Flexible Family Supports (IFFS):

* + This program is designed to help families who are experiencing severe stress which could lead to the child being at risk of an out of home placement. This service is available to DDS eligible children and young adults
	+ 66% of the 591 participants (about 390) across the fiscal year have an autism diagnosis and ID