Sub-Committee for Healthcare Agenda

Friday, December 8, 2023

8:30AM-9:30AM

Via Zoom  
https://zoom.us/j/95862890843?pwd=YVBuWC8rYStiUWlEMi9zeHlMeUhsZz09

Meeting ID: 958 6289 0843

Passcode: 296888

1. Introduction by Co-Chairs Mi-Haita James and Amy Weinstock
2. Current Priorities (see below)
3. Other Business.

Healthcare Subcommittee Priorities

1. Autism Treatment Access and Coverage

* Expand access to diagnostic resources for families.
* Work with Early Intervention programs to ensure that children receive diagnostic evaluations for ASD prior to graduating from EI.
* Expand ASD diagnostic training for general pediatricians to increase capacity and reduce waitlists
* Coordinate efforts with Autism clinics to ensure that patients with more complex needs and profiles can be evaluated sooner.
* Explore the feasibility of statutory changes to recognize ASD diagnoses by a wider range of professionals beyond the physicians and psychologists currently mandated.

1. The Healthcare Subcommittee recommends that MassHealth extend coverage of medically necessary treatments for persons over the age of 21 who are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder by a licensed physician or a licensed psychologist, said coverage shall include but not limited to, applied behavior analysis supervised by a licensed applied behavior analyst.
2. Expand Training of Healthcare Professionals

* The Healthcare Subcommittee will continue to explore the expansion of training on autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and appropriate strategies for assisting individuals with ASD focusing on considerations of culture, race, linguistics, gender identity and socio-economic status.
  + Mental Health Mobile Crisis/Emergency Service providers
  + Community Behavioral Health Center staff
  + Helpline/Hotline personnel
  + Emergency room personnel and residents
  + Hospital personnel and residents