
Autism Study Public Forum

State of South Dakota
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Overview of Public Forum Agenda

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- Overview of Public Forum Agenda and Process
- Background on House Bill 1257 and Senate Bill 108
- Scope of Services for the Study and Time Frame
- Opportunities for Updates and Public Input
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Introductions

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Overview of Public Forum Process

- This forum will be audio taped in order to help summarize common themes and to assist with the final study only.
- Everyone should sign in. If you have not, please take this time to do so.
- If you have indicated you would like to speak, we will divide the time equally among those who have indicated so.

Background on House Bill 1257

- During the 2014 legislative session, House Bill 1257 was introduced by the House Health and Human Services committee.
- House Bill 1257 - An Act to clarify certain autism spectrum disorders insurance coverage.
 - Health benefit plans to include coverage for screening, diagnosis, and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) not subject to limits on number of visits.
 - Coverage not subject to dollar limits, deductibles or coinsurance provisions that are less favorable to those that apply to other medical and surgical benefits under the policy.
- House Bill 1257- Defeated 5-2
- The legislative hearing can be found at:
http://legis.sd.gov/Legislative_Session/Bills/Bill.aspx?Session=2014&Bill=1257.

Background on Senate Bill 108

- Senate Bill 108 was amended to a study
- Senate Bill 108 – An Act to require a study of services and insurance coverage for the treatment of autism spectrum disorder for children.
- Senate Bill 108 requires Final Study to be presented to the Governor and legislature by November 15, 2014
- Signed by Governor March 31, 2014
- Audio coverage of Senate Bill 108 can be found at:
http://legis.sd.gov/Legislative_Session/Bills/Bill.aspx?Session=2014&Bill=108.

Scope of Services for the Study

The study will include:

1-Accepted **treatment protocols and outcomes**

2-**Availability of and certification requirements for ASD providers,** including intensive behavioral interventions such as ABA

3-The **cost of requiring insurance plans to cover** screening, diagnosis, and treatment of ASD in children including current autism care services and insurance coverage available in SD

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- The **estimated number** of children with ASD in South Dakota with supporting documentation of cost calculation;
 - The overall **cost per insured for coverage of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)** including per member per month claims cost of individual, small group and large group markets;
 - The **overall cost per insured for coverage of non-ABA ASD treatment**, including the per member per month claims cost for individual, small group and large group markets;
 - The **cost-effectiveness of ASD treatment and insurance coverage in surrounding states**, including any annual limit on coverage;
 - The **current costs incurred to the state related to autism**, including treatment and associated educational costs
 - The long and short term **cost of maintaining the status quo**.

4-Impacts and implications of national health policy

- Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and
- Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equality Act on mandatory insurance coverage of intensive behavioral interventions (e.g., ABA) or annual dollar limit

Study Processes

- Conduct literature review:
 - Treatment efficacy – focus on most recent, primarily government-funded research reviews of peer reviewed articles
 - Long-term costs and savings of early and intensive interventions
 - Evaluations of neighboring state/s ASD insurance coverage mandates
- Research and analyze implications of national health policy on coverage, i.e., Affordable Care Act and Mental Health Parity
- Develop/administer provider surveys and conduct follow-up interviews.
 - If you are a provider who did not receive a survey and would like to, please let us know

Study Processes Continued

- Collect data to estimate current cost to the State
- Collect data from commercial insurers
- Collect data on current services provided to children with ASD, as well as an estimate of the cost if there were a mandate to cover optimal and medically necessary services
- Conduct forums to obtain public input

Opportunities for Updates and Public Input

- Updates
 - Website for Autism Study
<http://dlr.sd.gov/autism/default.aspx>
- Public Input
 - Public Forums
 - State E-Mail Address
autismstudy@state.sd.us

Open Comment Period

- The session is not designed for debate or dialogue, it is an open comment period for public input.
- Speakers will come to the microphone. Each individual will have equal time based on number of those wishing to speak.
- Public comments will be audio-taped; themes will be identified and included in the final study only.