



AUTISM ALLIANCE OF MICHIGAN PRESENTS

MiNavigator

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MiNavigator Newsletter Issue 36

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www.AAoMI.org

Help. Hope. Answers. Today



FALL SPECIAL POLICY EDITION

FALL OPEN ENROLLMENT

Contributed by Chaunta Tsegaye, Insurance AAoM Insurance Specialist

Marketplace Open Enrollment

Beginning November 1, 2019 thru December 15, 2019, the Marketplace to purchase insurance through the Affordable Care Act will be open for enrollment. In the State of Michigan, the nine following service payors are contracted to provide Marketplace Insurance Coverage plans: **Blue Care Network (BCN), Blue Cross Blue Shield of MI, McLaren, Meridian, Molina, *Priority Health, Physicians Health Plan, Oscar and *Total Health Care** (*There is a possible upcoming merger according to a Modern Healthcare news post on August 28, 2019*). Individuals and families that do not sign up for the Marketplace during the open enrollment period will not be eligible again until the following open enrollment period in the Fall of 2020. There are some exemptions to the rule categorized as a Qualifying Life Event.

Employer Open Enrollment

The majority of employers begin open-enrollment between October- November. Members should check with employers to inquire about additional coverage options. The options might require an increased monthly premium, but offer a wider range of services. Members are reminded to review terms including co-pays, coinsurance, deductibles and out of pocket maximums, as these costs can add up for families impacted by disabilities. If you are unsure of whether the plan is fully funded or self-funded*, it is important to remember that self-funded plans are not regulated by state mandates and do not require the employer to offer services for the treatment of autism. Employers can provide more information regarding mental health benefits offered, if they are not quickly accessible. Many autism treatments fall under the Mental Health treatment coverage and thereby members who may not have focused on their mental health benefits may need to investigate for the first time.

**benefit summaries include those key terms.*





The Governor, the Legislature and Understanding How Budgets Come to Life in Michigan

Contributed by Melissa Roy - Principal, Roy Public Affairs & AAoM Consultant

News headlines and political pundit speculation abound on whether the State budget would be done by the September 30th deadline this year.

Governor Whitmer presented her budget recommendations on March 5th.

From that time, both the Michigan House of Representatives and the Michigan Senate developed their own budget recommendations. That is a total of three separate versions of the budget. How does it all come together?

The legislature must present a single budget recommendation to Governor Whitmer. To bring the House and Senate versions of the budget together, each chamber appoints members to serve on a conference committee to determine a final budget recommendation.

There are conference committees for each section of the budget (higher education, health and human services, roads, etc.). Each of the conference committees then complete their budgets and submitted those to the Governor for approval.

What happens next? The Governor has three options:

- 1.) approve all budgets as presented,
- 2.) veto all budgets or line-item veto (eliminate certain items in the budget)
- 3.) sign her own scaled down version of the legislature's budget.





Federal Policy News

Affordable Care Act Updates

In conjunction with the Repeal of the Affordable Care Act, a change will be implemented in 2020 with a federal requirement for families receive healthcare coverage to meet a 100% Federal Poverty Level. Uninsured persons will no longer receive an individual tax penalty for non-coverage. In the past, the maximum penalty was \$695 per year for not having coverage.

Autism CARES Act

On September 30, 2019 the President signed H.R. 1058 to reauthorize the Autism CARES Act. CARES stands for Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education, and Support. Originally funded in 2006 under President Bush and titled the 'Combating Autism Act,' the intent was to increase the federal government's response to the increasing numbers of children diagnosed with autism across the country. The current re-authorization of funding through fiscal year 2024, modifies existing programs to include adults and lifespan issues.

Michigan Policy News

BCBA Licensure

All Michigan Board Certified Behavioral Analysts (BCBAs) are required to be licensed by the State of Michigan by January 7, 2020. Insurers will require treating clinicians have their Michigan license in order to bill for services. The licensing application should be submitted before November to allow processing time and prevent delays or interruptions in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services.

ABA Billing News

New CPT Codes were released on January 1, 2019 and should now appear on all correspondence from providers. Several payors did not accept the changes until June/July 2019, which might explain a delay in the information on correspondence from your provider.

Qualified Behavioral Health Professional

Michigan Medicaid has extended the allowance for graduate students completing applied behavior analysis (ABA) coursework to treat children in the Medicaid system. This policy was implemented to ensure that there was an adequate network of providers, and it will continue until 2025. QBHPs must be Board Certified Behavior Analysts within two years of completing their coursework. MSA Bulletin 19-21.

Proposed Rule Changes for LPCs

Keep an eye on proposed changes for Licensed Professional Counselors. The LPC statute from 1988 and scope of practice are currently being evaluated with Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. LPCs make up 25-30% of the Community Mental Health service providers.

Implementation of Medicaid Work Requirements

Healthy Michigan plan recipients ages 19-64 should look for correspondence from MDHHS regarding work requirements. There are currently three letters scheduled to be mailed between September and November. Members should take the time to read each letter carefully. Once letters are received, members should follow the instructions as prompted to sign-in to MiBridges and update exemption status. There are exemptions for disability, as well as other exemptions, that can be reported. Individuals already registered with an exemption stated in the letter should retain it (and all other correspondence) for their records.





OCTOBER AT A GLANCE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Special Needs Hayride and Potluck (Free Soil) Diversity Ambassador Program (Okemos)	2 Emergent Literacy for Students with Significant Disabilities (Lansing)	3 FREE 10 week workshop on living well with a disability (Troy)	4 Fowler Center Adult Weekend Respite Camps (Mayville)	5 Social Saturday (Port Huron)
6 Special Needs Sensory Friendly Jump (Brighton)	7	8 Self Determination Training (Sterling Heights) SF Halloween (Fort Gratiot)	9 Autism Connections (Ann Arbor) Spooktacular Pumpkin Painting Party (Troy)	10 Sensory Friendly Halloween (Chesterfield)	11 7th Annual Autism Conference (Kalamazoo)	12 2019 NAMI Walks Grand Rapids Fall Family Fun Day (St. Clair Shores)
13	14 VIP Jump at Launch Trampoline Park Lansing (Lansing)	15 Leading Sexuality Education Classes for people with I/DD (Gaylord) #TalkingAAC (East Lansing)	16 Grand Rounds --Roberto Lewis-Fernández, MD (Ann Arbor)	17 (ADI-R) Clinical Training (Ann Arbor) MI-AIMH 2019 Conference: Explorations in Development (Clinton Twp)	18 Super Inclusive Trick-or-Treat Party (Flint) IEP Series: IEP 101 (Hastings)	19 A2SO Sensory Friendly Saturday (Ypsilanti) FREE Autism Caregiver Bootcamp Series (Dearborn Heights)
20 Fowler Center Youth Weekend Respite Camps (Mayville)	21 2019 CMHA Fall Conference (Acme) Great Lakes Bay ABA Collaborative Network- Meet the Team (Saginaw)	22 Adult Mental Health First Aid (Kalamazoo) Absolutely Accessible UP (Marquette)	23 Annual Max L. Hutt Lecture-- Cary R. Savage, Ph.D. (Ann Arbor)	24 Friendly Forest - Special Needs Event (Davison)	25 2019 Navigating Autism Today Regional Conference (Lansing)	26 Livingston Arc Dance (Howell)
27 Camp Fish Tales Respite Weekend (Pinconning)	28 WRAP 5 Day Training (Troy)	29 Mental Health First Aid (Traverse City)	30 Mental Health First Aid (Traverse City)	31 		

** For more information on any of these events, please contact the MiNavigator line at 877-463-2266.

2019 NAVIGATING AUTISM TODAY REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Friday, October 25th, 2019 | 10:00AM-3:00PM | The MTG Space | 4039 Legacy Pkwy, Lansing, MI, 48911



Autism Alliance of Michigan
CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

Register for FREE at AAoMConference.org

