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ASK E-Newsletter | July 2014



2014 Trainings

My Child Has Special Needs: Now What?

July 15th - Bloomington
July 23rd - Terre Haute
Aug. 26th - Ft. Wayne

It's Not WHAT You Say . . . It's HOW You Say It: Effective Communication

July 15th - Bloomington

Public Health Insurance: What You Don't Know Can Cost You

July 15th - Kokomo
July 19th - Merrillville
July 22nd - Richmond
Aug. 12th - New Albany

Roadmap to Special Education: Laws and Process

Aug. 13th - New Albany
Aug. 14th - Indianapolis
Aug. 20th - Terre Haute

Caregiver Support Services: Applications Now Being Accepted Open

Information From: Julie Reynolds, Director, BDDS

The Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services (DDRS) Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services (BDDS) would like to announce that Caregiver Support Services funds will be available for the fiscal year 2015 beginning July 1, 2014. **The Caregiver Support Services is 100 percent state funded and is available on a first-come, first-served basis.** Applications received during fiscal year 2014 for Caregiver Support Services do not carry over to fiscal year 2015. An application must be completed for each fiscal year's Caregiver Support Services funds.

Applications may be made online, by mail or in-person. Click [here](#) apply online. To apply by mail or in-person, please call or visit your local BDDS District Office and request an application. A frequently asked question document is also available on the BDDS webpage.

As long as the Caregiver Support Services funds are available, services may be approved and available when

- 1) an individual meets the state definition of intellectual and developmental disabilities eligibility **and**
- 2) the primary caregiver selects a provider.

Caregiver Support Services will not be available to the primary caregiver if the individual is receiving or begins to receive other services from the BDDS or programs such as (but not limited to) Vocational Rehabilitation Services, First Steps, CHOICE, Division of Aging waiver, etc.

To view the calendar or register for a training, visit our website at www.aboutspecialkids.org.



Preparing for the New Year

Summer is flying by and before you know it, children will be back in school. For a family of a child with special needs, the beginning of the year is a critical time for planning the transition back into the school year.

Starting to prepare early can help with a smooth transition to the new year. Here are a few tips:

Review the previous year's Individualized Education Plan for any possible changes. What has worked and what hasn't? Are there any new strengths or weaknesses that need to be addressed?

Find trainings in your area to increase your knowledge of special education regulations, rights as a parent, and advocacy techniques. About Special Kids holds trainings throughout the state. See the listing above or visit our website for a calendar of trainings.

Contact the school to introduce yourself. Discuss any concerns and offer suggestions on what works with your child. Make sure to include all personnel that may have contact with your child such as teachers, principals, therapists, or nurses.

The initial budgets will be approved in the amount of \$500 for each eligible individual regardless of the number of eligible individuals residing in the residence. Upon exhaustion of funding, subsequent budgets may be requested by the Caregiver Support Services provider and will be reviewed on a case by case basis. Any new budget is dependent upon available funds.

Parents of Children with Autism Receiving Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Therapy Services

From: Your Indiana Family Advocacy Organizations - About Special Kids (ASK), The Autism Society of Indiana (ASI), The Arc of Indiana, Covering Kids and Families (CKF), Family Voices, The Indiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (INAAP), and The Indiana Resource Center for Autism (IRCA)

Re: ABA Therapy Coverage, Medicaid and the "1634 Transition" (Also called "The June 1st Changes")

Because of a transition at the state level, some parents have heard conflicting information regarding the type of Medicaid their child must have after **June 1, 2014**, if the child also has Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

We want to provide parents with accurate information and provide a way to contact The Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning (OMPP) and the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) to clarify any of their questions. Much of this confusion is based upon the "1634 Transition" that Indiana began on June 1, 2014.

What is the 1634 Transition? Simply put, in the past, the State of Indiana used different eligibility criteria for disability determination than the Social Security Administration, which is a federal entity. In July 2012, the state started accepting Social Security Administration (SSA) determinations of disability. As of June 1st, the "1634 Transition" means that the State of Indiana must now cover all SSI recipients automatically without meeting other criteria other than receiving SSI, and must abide by the eligibility determination by the Social Security Administration, whether approval or denial of disability eligibility.

For more information please visit: www.in.gov/fssa/files/1634_Stakeholder_Presentation_FINAL.pdf or www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/4861.htm

For example, several families report that their child has been moved from MDWise under Hoosier Health Wise (HHW) a managed Medicaid program, which covers ABA, to what is being called "MASI", which does not cover ABA. MASI is a different category; it is SSI-related Medicaid coverage.

If this happens, you have the option to switch to MASI, or remain on Hoosier Health Wise (HHW) if still eligible. If the child is under MDWise, to keep ABA service coverage, contact your local DFR

Taking just a little time during the summer to prepare can help make a great start to the new school year.

Upcoming Webinar: Medicaid Disability

Please join us for an overview of Medicaid Disability. This webinar will discuss eligibility, services covered, and recent changes to the program.

When: July 29, 2014
11:00 am – 12:00 pm EST

To participate in the webinar:

1. Go to <http://www.ustream.com>
2. Search "ASK Medicaid Disability"
3. Click on the ASK Webinar.

Did you miss our last webinar? You can also view all archived webinars on our website.



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and tell them you would like for your child to remain on MD Wise with HHW. If your contact at your local DFR tells you that you must accept MASI, we recommend that you give them the information below from Matthew Cesnik, the Eligibility Director for OMPP.

Individuals that receive SSI will be enrolled into the new category, MASI. However, individuals **may opt into another category** for which they may qualify, **such as a children's Medicaid category under Hoosier Healthwise. An individual cannot opt into CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) if eligible for a Medicaid category.**

Protections were put into place in the State's eligibility system for children receiving ABA services so the children would remain on the Hoosier Healthwise Medicaid category for the month of June in order to allow time for the family to contact DFR. If the families believe that coverage was switched in June, DFR should contact OMPP Eligibility Director.

We hope that having this reference to give to DFR will make the process of switching your child back to a Medicaid category that covers ABA a little easier for you, if you choose to switch from MASI. Please share this information with your ABA provider and ask them to check on your status with Medicaid more frequently as they file claims for their services to be sure that your child remains in a Medicaid category that covers ABA.

Parents may contact any of the advocacy organizations listed below for assistance with these types of coverage issues. We will contact OMPP Eligibility on your behalf so that they can assist you and work with DFR leadership on your particular situation.

About Special Kids (ASK)

PH: 317-257-8683
Toll Free: 1-800-964-4746
www.abousspecialkids.org

The Autism Society of Indiana (ASI)

Toll Free: 1-800-609-8449
www.autismsocietyofindiana.org

The Arc of Indiana

PH: 317-977-2375
Toll Free: 1-800-382-9100
www.arcind.org

Covering Kids and Families (CKF)

PH: 1-574-968-1645
www.ckfindiana.org

Family Voices

PH: 317-944-8982
www.fvindiana.org

The Indiana Resource Center for Autism (IRCA)

PH: 812-855-6508
Toll Free: 1-800-825-4733
www.iidc.indiana.edu

The Indiana Chapter of The American Academy of Pediatrics
PH: 317-586-0732
www.inaap.org

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