

## Medicaid & Exchange Advisory Board: ABA Update

### **State Plan Amendment (SPA)**

- DVHA is working to submit a SPA that will allow Vermont Medicaid federal authority for provider reimbursement for ABA therapy for children diagnosed with ASD outside of the current designated agency network.
  - SPA submission to CMS targeted for March 2015 with an effective date of July 2015 to coincide with expected BCBA licensure effective dates. Public notice to be issued in February.
  - SPA will include provider types of BCBA, BCaBA and BT

### **ABA Coverage guidelines**

- DVHA continues to work towards establishing a Medicaid benefit for ABA.
- Comprehensive coverage guidelines for the ABA benefit consider the recommendations set forth by MEAB and will include:
  - Evidenced based and consistent with nationally recognized best practices;
  - Allows for the training and on-going supports for parents, families, and caregivers;
  - The scope of service will be tied to medical necessity and will meet the individual needs of the child;
  - The benefit is consistent with the Mental Health Parity; and
  - The provision of ABA by Medicaid approved providers is consistent to ABA covered by private carriers.
- Clinical guidelines to be established this winter.

### **Licensure**

- OPR is concluding their Sunrise Review study and will make a recommendation to the legislature for the current legislative session.
- DVHA continues to support licensure of the profession of behavior analysts.
  - DVHA sent OPR a memo in October 2014 indicating support for the need of licensure.
  - DVHA attended the OPR hearing for Behavior Analysts in November 2014 and spoke in favor of licensure.

### **Provider Network Expansion**

- DVHA is currently working towards provider network expansion through the following:
  - Outreach to private providers in Vermont and educational institutions to work collaboratively towards network expansion.
  - Outreach to providers in neighboring states for capacity to expand practices to Vermont.

### **Data Collection**

- To continue improving the care for children diagnosed with ASD needing services, surveys were distributed with the interim guidance that was provided to the DAs with the requirement that they are submitted by January 15, 2015.
  - DVHA is currently collecting and analyzing the data.