

The evolution of autism support systems for healthcare, education, and families – Case studies on insurance and ECHO

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Disclosures / Acknowledgments

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Financial:

Amy is Director of the Autism Insurance Resource Center, information about which will be presented in the training. Amy receives a salary for her work on behalf of the Autism Insurance Resource Center.

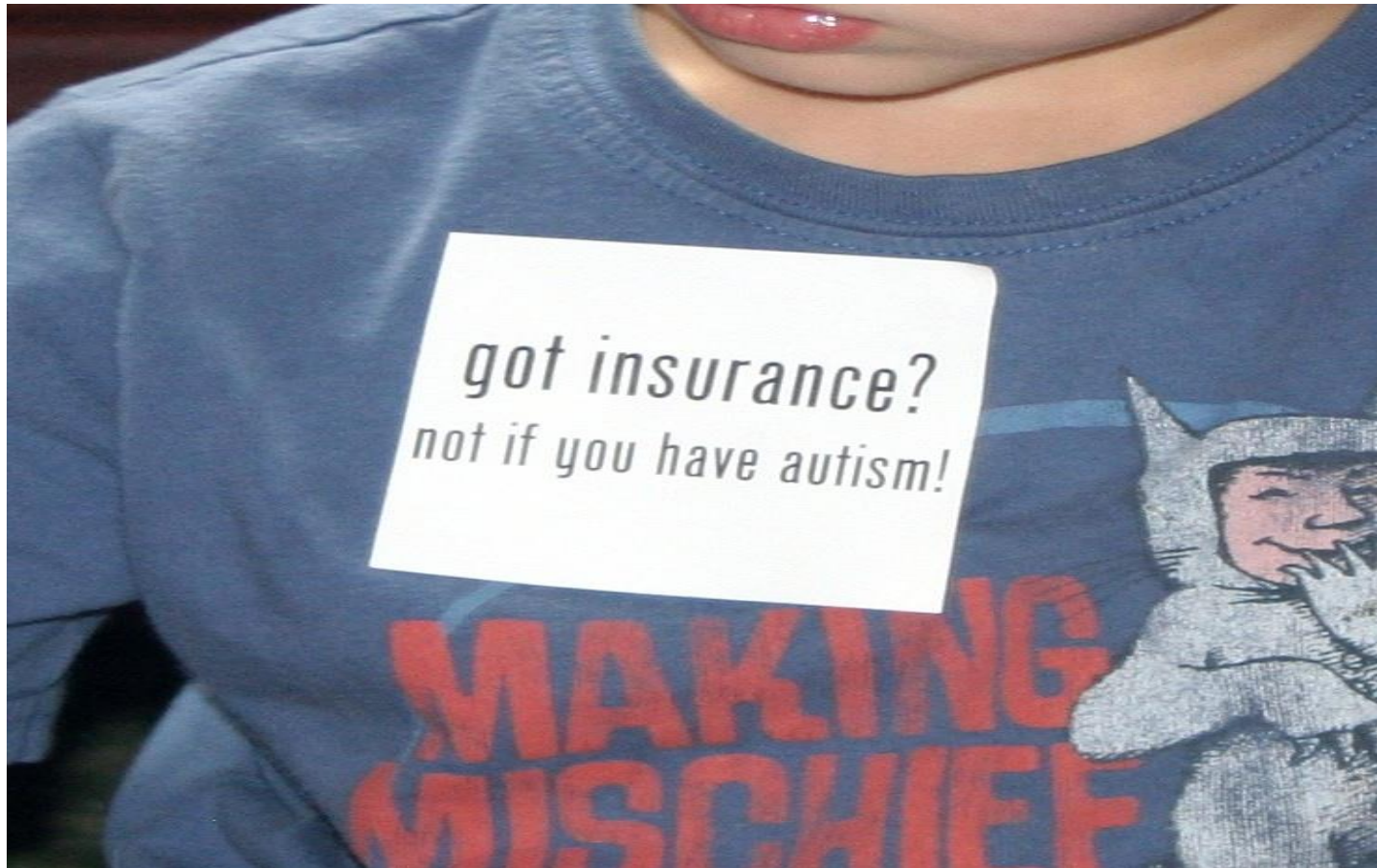
Non-Financial:

Amy is Chair of the Insurance Committee of Advocates for Autism in Massachusetts (AFAM) which played a key role in passing autism insurance legislation in Massachusetts. She also serves as a Commissioner on the State's Autism Commission.

Insurance Coverage for Autism

- ▶ Background
- ▶ Advocacy
 - Fearlessness
 - Facts
 - Persistence
- ▶ Implementation
- ▶ Impact

Background



Shriver LEND Fellowship 2005 Capstone Project

“Expanding Insurance Coverage of Applied Behavioral Analysis Treatment for Children with Autism”

Three Major Areas

- ▶ Corporate Advocacy
- ▶ Litigation
- ▶ Expansion of Medicaid and Early Intervention

Legislation was NOT a recommendation

Cover Page

Recommendations

Fearlessness, Facts, and Persistence

*“Leaders are visionaries with a poorly developed sense of fear and no concept of the odds against them”
– Dr. Robert Jarvik*



Facts – MA State Mandated Benefits Analysis Findings – 2010

- ▶ Autism treatments are medically necessary and have strong evidence to support efficacy.
- ▶ Cost impact is modest – a fraction of a percent on premiums. Approximately \$1.84 Per Member Per Month (PMPM)
- ▶ Executive Summary:
 - Annual medical care cost estimates should be considered in the context of potential societal savings outside the medical care system, including those realized in education, social security payments and workplace productivity.

Persistence

July 27, 2010: House passes UNANIMOUSLY
July 29, 2010: Senate passes UNANIMOUSLY



Delivered to the Governor's Desk, July 29 at 4:42PM
54 hours and 18 minutes before the end of the session!

August 3, 2010 – Fenway Park



Bill Signing





Then the Work REALLY Started



BlueCross BlueShield
Member Name: ROBERT J. ROBERTSON
Member ID: 000170049702-01
Group Number: 1000000000
Group Name: PERS. SERVICES GROUP, LLC
PCP Name: PERS. SERVICES GROUP, LLC
PCP Telephone: 770-850-1100
Benefits Effective as of: 01/01/2005
Co-Pays: 25 OV, 100 ER, 35 SP OV
Coinsurance: 100%IN, 60%OUT
Customer Service: 1-800-441-2273
BlueChoice On-Call: 1-888-724-BLUE
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Office visit
Emergency room visit
Special office visit
BlueDirectPOS



The Autism Insurance Resource Center

UMass Medical School, E.K. Shriver Center
www.massairc.org

- ▶ A Resource for Consumers, Providers, Employers, and Educators on Issues Related to Medical Insurance for Autism Treatment
 - Information and technical assistance by phone/e-mail on issues related to Insurance Coverage for Autism-Related Treatments and Services
 - Access to documents including Legislation, FAQ's, Agency Bulletins, etc.
 - Support for Employers and Individuals covered by Self-Funded (ERISA) Plans
 - Webinars on Insurance Laws and Related Topics
 - Focus Groups and Trainings

Impact

“Please know that what you and the legion of others that have championed this cause with you have crafted, lobbied for and ultimately passed, is truly an epic achievement. The treatment now available under this legislation is an integral reason my son continues to have the opportunity to live at home, stay in his community and remain in his school. . . . I don't know how much more 'real' or meaningful it gets when it comes to the wellbeing of a child and family in chronic crisis”



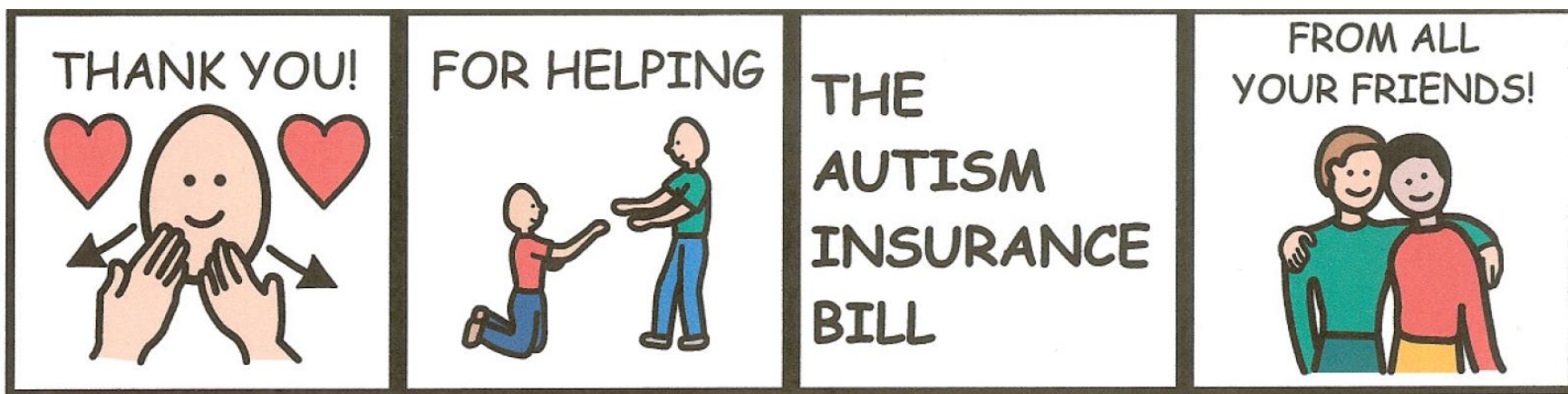
The Autism Insurance Resource Center

UMass Medical School, E.K. Shriver Center

“My Child was diagnosed with autism yesterday. The clinic gave me a huge packet of information. The resource specialist told me the first call I should make was to your Resource Center to figure out my coverage.”

Acknowledgments

- ▶ MA Developmental Disabilities Council
- ▶ Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation
- ▶ Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism
- ▶ MA Department of Developmental Services (DDS), Department of Public Health (DPH), Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)
- ▶ UMassMedical School



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