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Illinois Autism Insurance Coalition
www.ILASD.com

Illinois Autism Insurance Coalition
Business Model
and
Member Benefits

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WHO WE ARE

The Illinois Autism Insurance Coalition brings together the collective strength of like-minded practitioner organizations to improve the landscape of private and public reimbursable insurance services for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), such as Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) treatment, to those served in the state of Illinois.

The Coalition originated in November 2018 through webinars with ABA practitioner organizations and our founding partners Candice Gizewski, Behavioral Perspective, Stephanie Gorbald, GBC Autism Services ABA, Brigid McCormick, Precision ABA, and Marla Root, Root Consulting, LLC. This led to the first formal Coalition meeting in December 2018, when it was evident there was a passion and excitement to collaborate on moving services forward for both consumers and the community of behavioral analysis practitioners in Illinois.

OUR PARTNERS

The Coalition has grown to over thirty-five ABA organizations from around the state and is supported through a pooled funding structure among our partners. The complete list of partners is featured on the Coalition website (www.ILASD.com).

OUR PURPOSE

➤ ENSURE ACCESS TO PRESCRIBED TREATMENTS

- for individuals with ASD and other developmental and mental disorders in accessing ABA, counseling, day treatment, speech therapy, and other treatment modalities and services by promoting the generally accepted standards of care and federal and state mental health parity laws.

➤ COLLECT DATA

- regarding the successes and challenges of accessing prescribed treatments and services from individuals of all ages. Data will be utilized in our advocacy efforts.

➤ BE A RESOURCE

- for navigating health insurance, public systems, and patient protections to consumers, employers, insurance carriers, providers, government, advocates, and educators.

➤ IMPACT PUBLIC POLICY

- decisions in state regulations, laws, and funding that support building parity and service capacity to meet the need within the state.

➤ PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL TRAINING

- to parents and stakeholders about accessing ABA and other treatments through private and public systems through our website, speeches, and webinars.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- Pool resources and leverage contacts and relationships to further the purpose and initiatives of the coalition, such as creating sustainable, accessible treatment and funding mechanisms. Our Coalition has developed a very collaborative relationship with the Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) which is extremely important with the continued rollout of delivery options for rendering services under the state's Medicaid program.
- Collaborate and build statewide initiatives through the Coalition's developed Policy Priorities Plan while also leveraging Coalition resources and support to help further each member's mission.
- Communicate and share with other ABA practitioners, executives, and billing staff and support building through our online database and communication tools shared among Coalition members. We offer monthly touchpoints for Medicaid, Authorizers and Billers, and related services.
- Access to informational speakers at Coalition events such as current procedural terminology (CPT) coding, denials and appeals, mental health parity law, corporate practice of medicine, and upcoming organizational structure in the state with the behavior analyst licensure.
- Reduce staff time and expenses in educating your consumers on navigating insurance by utilizing the educational materials and webinars available on the Coalition's website.
- Connect consumers and professionals to your organization's expertise and services through the Coalition's exhibit at state conferences for early childhood, social work, mental health, foster care, children's services, and developmental disabilities.
- Receive referrals from families and case managers directly from the Coalition's website and ongoing updates on legislative and administrative rule changes impacting services.

CURRENT INITIATIVES

One of the Coalition's priorities is working with advocacy groups to ensure access to Medicaid coverage for ABA or applied behavior analysis treatment services. Recently, the Coalition teamed up with Autism Speaks, the Autism Society, and the Illinois Association for Behavior Analysis to advocate for access to care in Medicaid. The Coalition meets monthly with HFS/Illinois Medicaid to work on challenges families and providers face.

Our second priority is engaging providers in a cost survey to gather the direct and indirect costs of delivering ABA in Ohio. In 2023, the Coalition successfully advocated and increased ABA reimbursement rates. Now, in 2025, the cost survey will provide cost data for delivering ABA in Illinois that we can again share with HFS/Medicaid and commercial insurers to advocate for sustainable and adequate reimbursement. Our website contains a complete listing of current Coalition policy initiatives, which is periodically updated to reflect newly added initiatives and the removal of completed ones.

CONCLUSION AND CALL TO ACTION

We believe the Coalition provides a compelling opportunity for ABA providers to join our organization and be a part of this thriving community. By becoming a member, you will gain access to our relationships, especially with HFS and IDFP, educational opportunities, agency navigation expertise, and resources that will support the individuals you serve and providers alike. Don't miss out on the opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals, tap into valuable industry insights, and unlock opportunities to collaborate with others experiencing the challenges of securing critical autism services and traversing the associated insurance landscape.