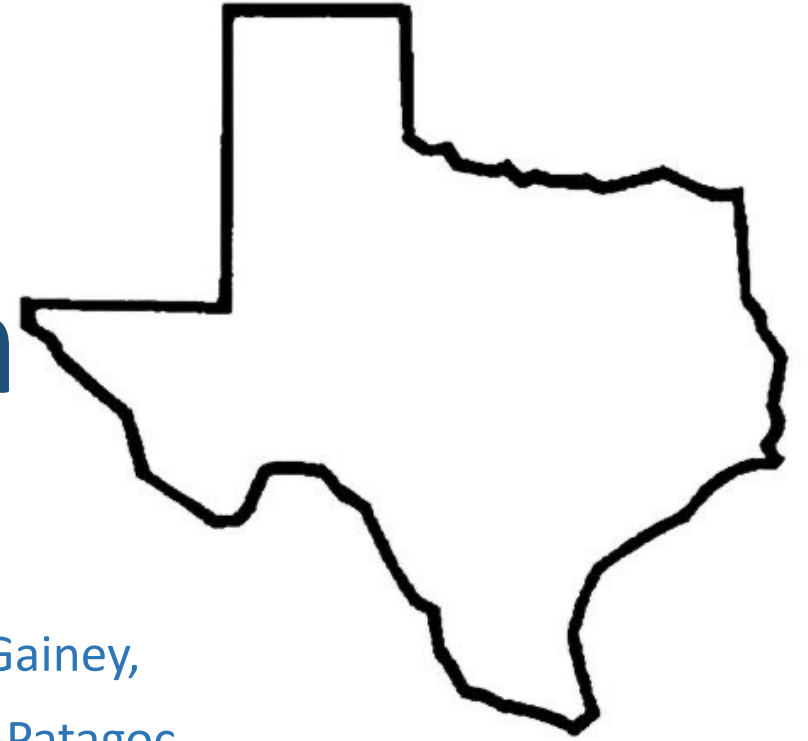


Understanding Texas Medicaid's New Autism Benefit



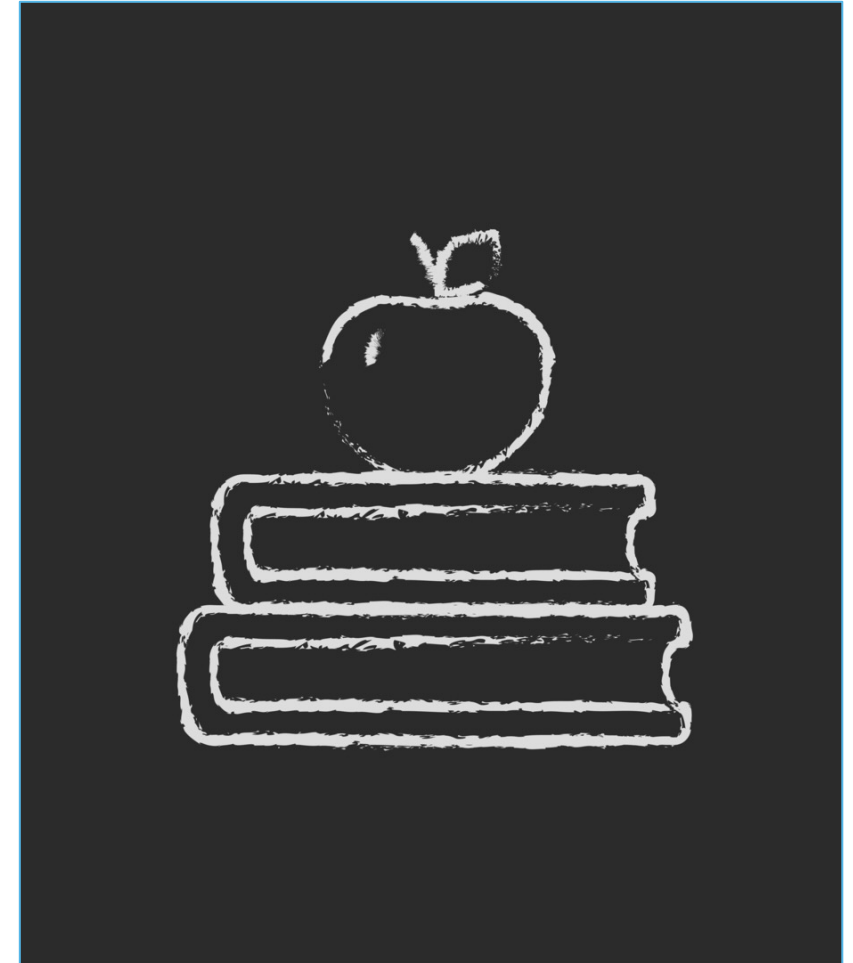
Judith Ursitti, Mariel Fernandez, Summer Gainey,
Jeffrey Dillen, Anna Sciarillo & Kate Johnson-Patagoc

Thursday, March 24, 2022

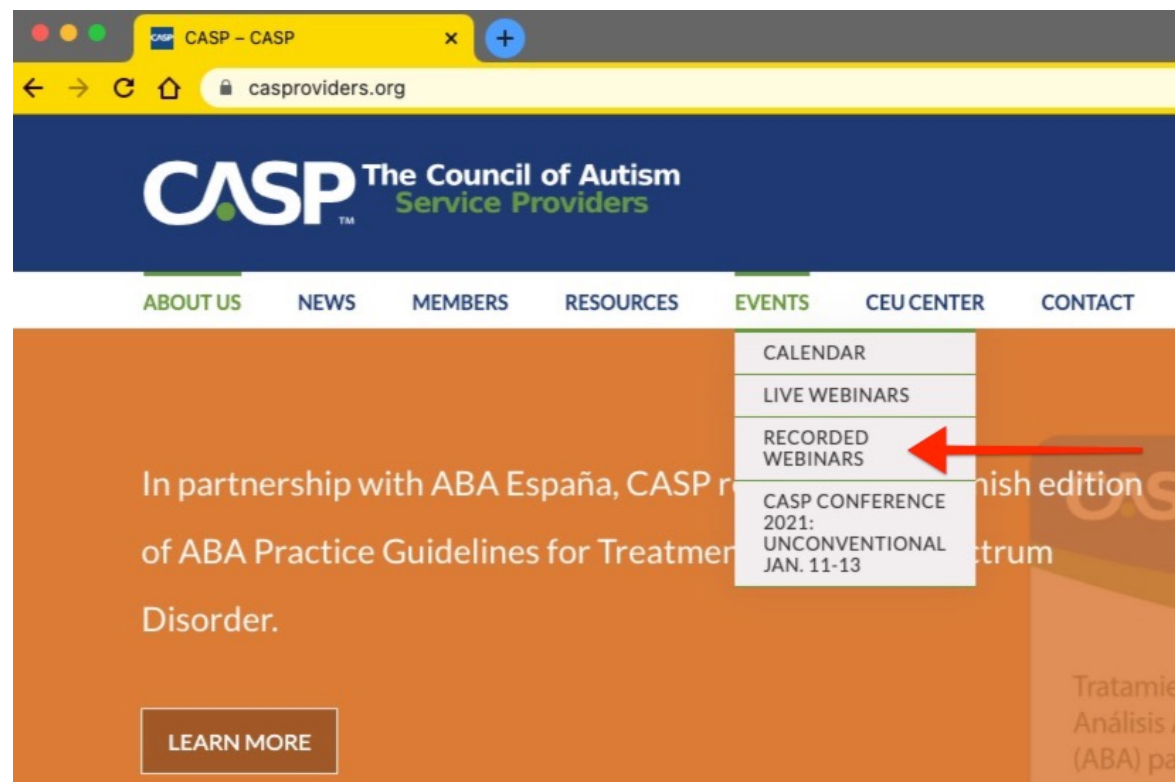
12:00-1:30 p.m.



This presentation is intended to be for general educational purposes only. This presentation is not intended to be consultation nor a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Always seek the advice of your physician or other qualified health provider with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition. Please refer to your MCO for any specifics regarding their ABA policy or referral process.



CASP Recorded Webinars



Housekeeping

Please submit your questions and monitor for responses in the **Q&A box**

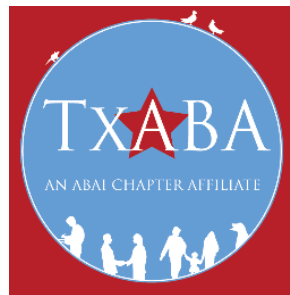
Please limit use of the **chat box** for comments



Special Guest



Ryan D. Van Ramshorst, M.D.
Chief Medical Director,
Medicaid and CHIP
Texas HHSC



Presenters



Anna Sciarillo
MA, BCBA, LBA
TxABA PPG



Kate Johnson-Patagoc
MS, BCBA, LBA
TXABA & TXABA PPG



Judith Ursitti
CPA
CASP



Jeff Dillen
MS, BCBA, LBA
TxABA & TXABA PPG



Mariel Fernandez
MS, BCBA, LBA
TXABA PPG



Summer Gainey
PhD, BCBA-D, LBA
TxABA



The **Council of Autism Service Providers** supports our members by cultivating, sharing, and advocating for provider best practices in autism services.

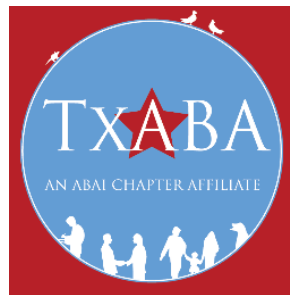
The Council of Autism Service Providers is a non-profit association of for-profit and not-for-profit agencies serving individuals with autism spectrum disorders. Our member agencies care for more than 50,000 children and adults with autism across the United States and have collective revenues approaching 1 billion dollars. CASP represents the autism provider community to the nation at large including government, payers, and the general public. We serve as a force for change, providing information and education and promoting standards that enhance quality.



TxABA & TxABA PPG

- TxABA is a 501c3 nonprofit organization
- The founders of the organization originally met to form TxABA on July 21, 1985 and held the first TxABA conference February 7-8, 1986.
- More information about TxABA's current strategic plan, activities, leadership, committees, special interest groups, and efforts are available on their website
- TxABA is proud to be an Affiliated Chapter of the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) and an Affiliate Association of the Association of Professional Behavior Analysts (APBA)

- The mission of the TxABA Public Policy Group (PPG) is to review and act on legislative activity and other issues impacting behavior analysts and consumers in Texas.
- Established in 2015 out the previously established TxABA Public Policy SIG



What is Applied Behavior Analysis

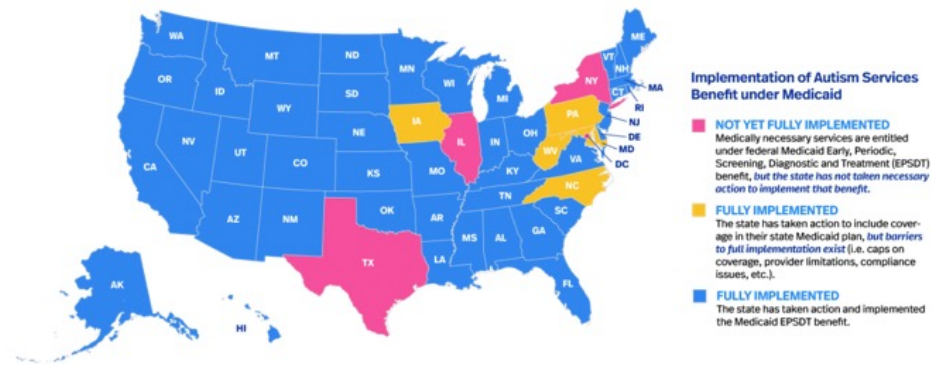
Q My physician is recommending a therapy called Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). What does ABA look like for people with autism?

- ABA is often prescribed for people with autism when medically necessary services are necessary and can be provided in schools, homes, clinics, and community settings. **ABA is based on the science of behavior. It is individualized based on the autistic person's strengths and the challenges they experience.**
- ABA providers are called **Behavior Analysts**. (In Texas, they are called Licensed Behavior Analysts.) Like other medical and behavioral health providers, Behavior Analysts rely upon strategies and procedures from peer-reviewed research. They continually evaluate and customize treatment options based on the needs of the autistic person. Behavior Analysts request and integrate information from the person with autism and their caregivers and coordinate care with other professionals who serve the autistic person.
- The oldest and largest national certification board in ABA is the Behavior Analyst Certification Board® (BACB®). BACB Certification can help health plans, and subscribers identify qualified ABA providers.



Brief History of the ABA Medicaid Benefit

Medicaid EPSDT Coverage of Autism Services



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-26-12
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



CMCS Informational Bulletin

DATE: July 7, 2014

FROM: Cindy Mann, Director
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services

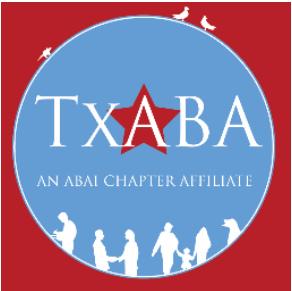
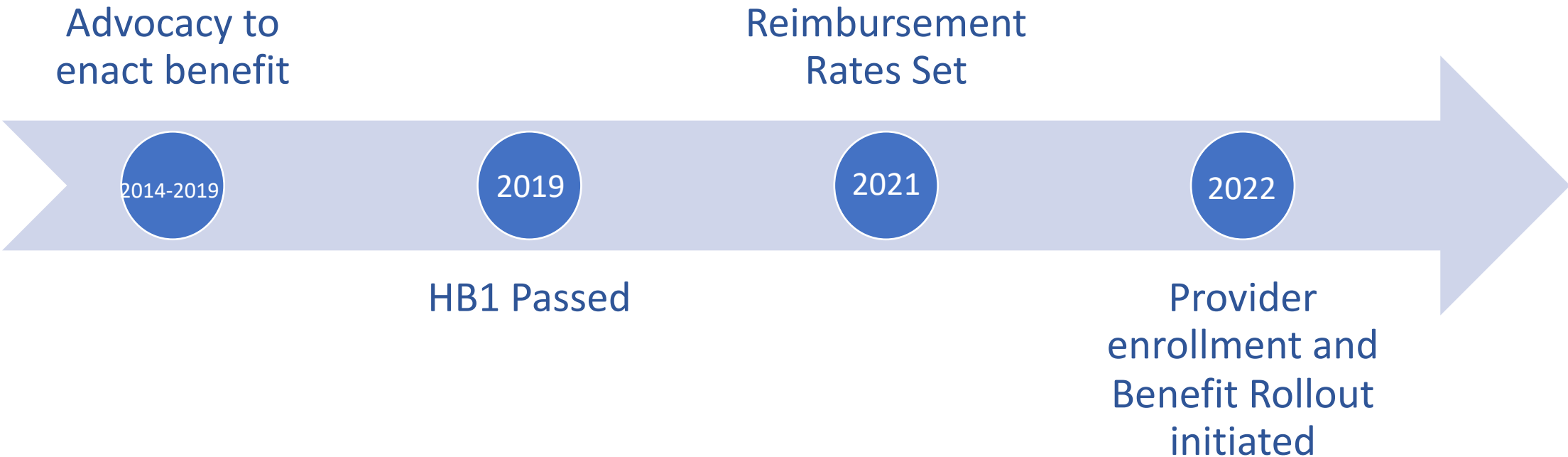
SUBJECT: Clarification of Medicaid Coverage of Services to Children with Autism

32

Intensive Behavioral Intervention. Contingent on the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) adding intensive behavioral intervention (IBI) as a Medicaid benefit for persons under age 20* with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder, HHSC may expend funds appropriated above in Strategy A.1.5, Children, to reimburse for provision of IBI services.

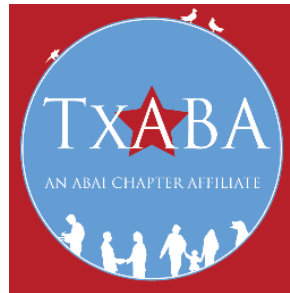


Timeline

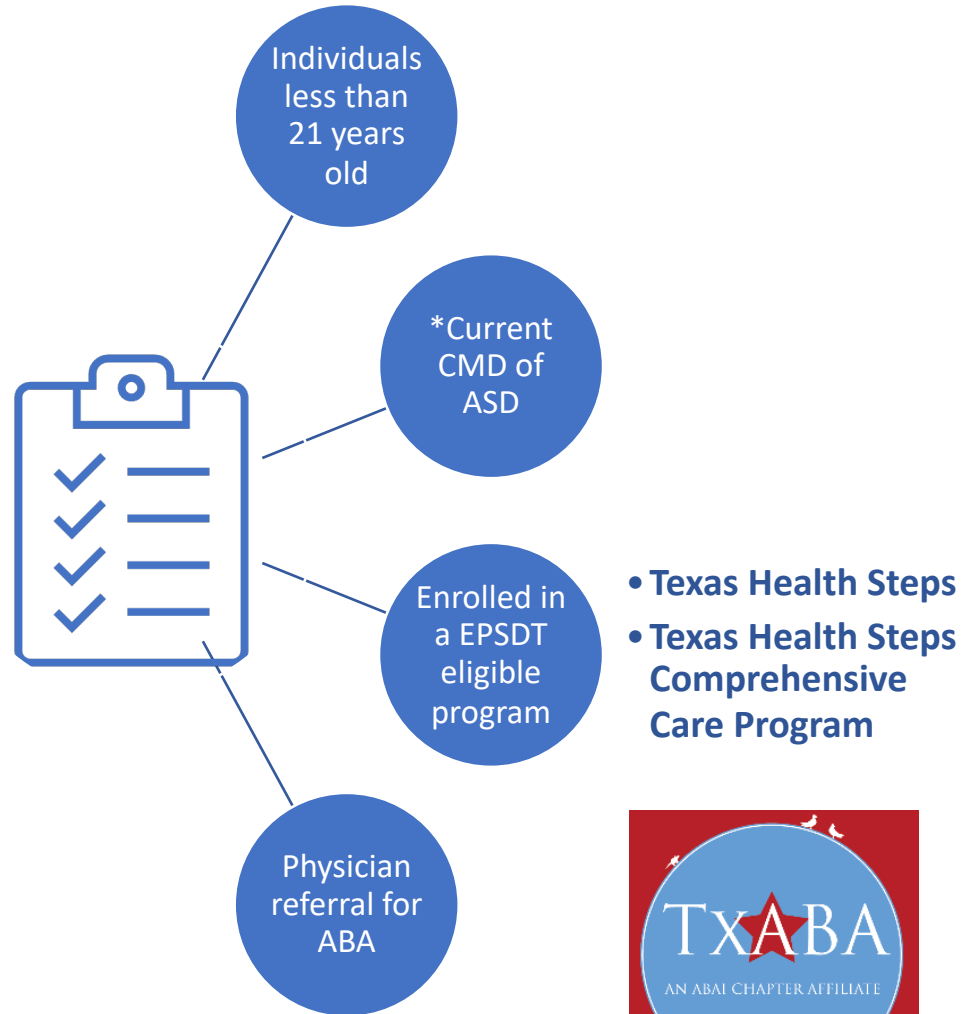


HHSC Children's Autism Program (CAP)

- Started in 2007 as a comprehensive and focused program
- Currently, short term- focused program for children without commercial insurance coverage
- Ages 3-15
- 720 maximum lifetime hours
- Different from the new Medicaid benefit
- Consider Medicaid as a more comprehensive alternative



Who Qualifies for the new benefit?

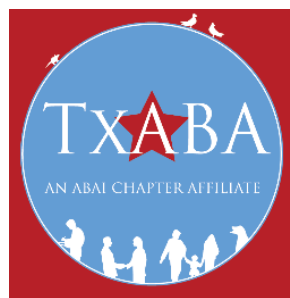


***Diagnosis must be within three years**



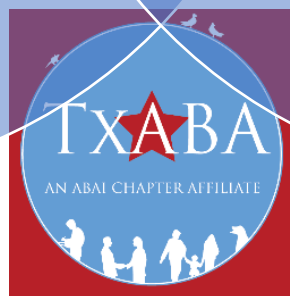
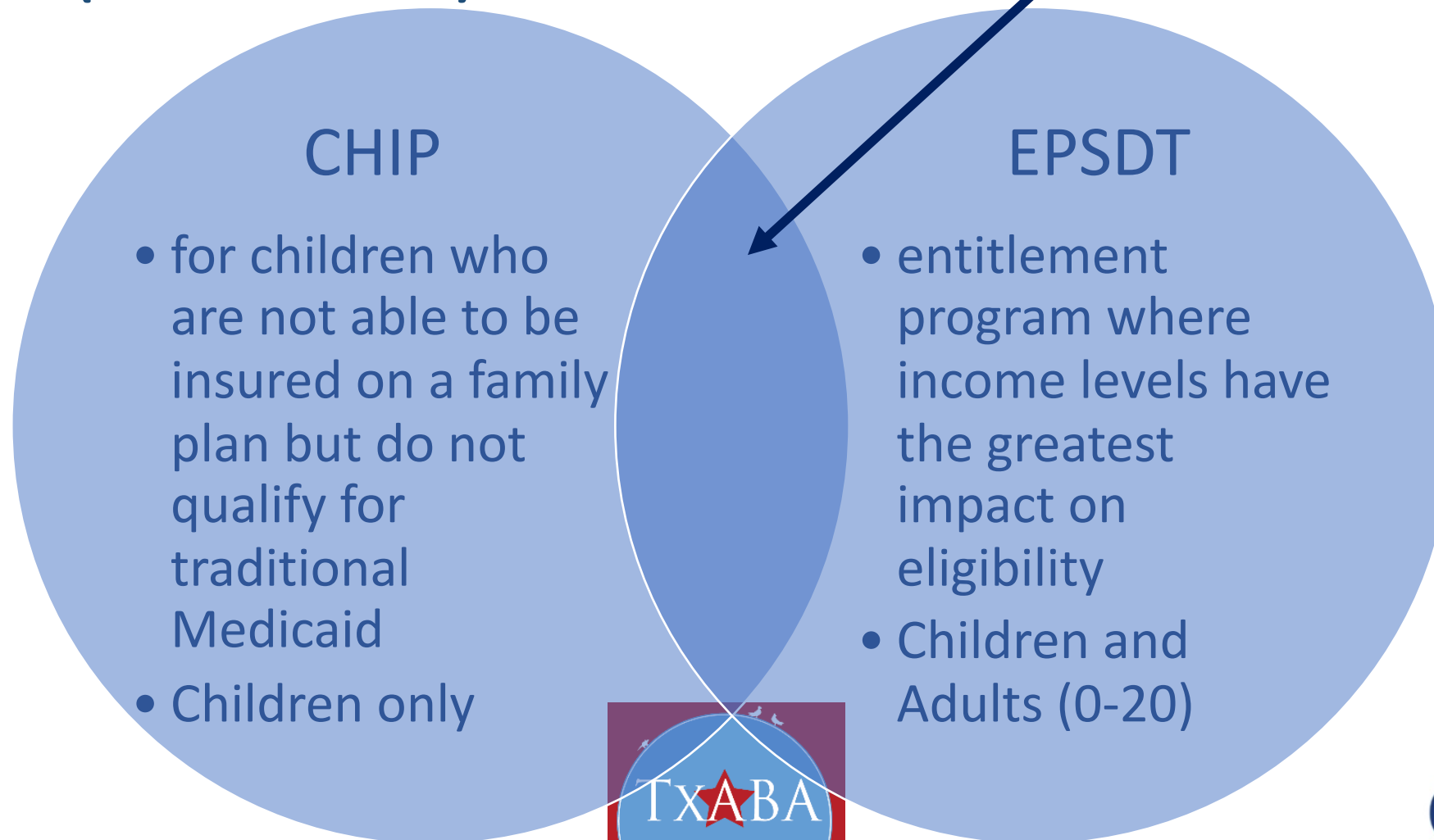
What is EPSDT/ Texas Health Steps?

- Comprehensive and preventative health care services for children under age 21
- Enrolled in Medicaid
 - **Early:** assessing and identify problems early
 - **Periodic:** checking health at periodic, age-appropriate intervals
 - **Screening:** physical, mental, developmental, dental, hearing, vision and other tests to detect potential concerns
 - **Diagnostic:** diagnostic follow up when risk is identified
 - **Treatment:** control, reduce or correct any health problems found



EPSDT (Medicaid) VS CHIP

Both service children; Both likely cover routine checkups and prescriptions



Referral Requirements:

Demographics

- Age of child
- Date diagnosis

History

- Comorbid conditions
- Physical disabilities
- Trauma

Diagnosis

- Within the last three years
- Re-confirmatory within last three year
- Severity level per DSM criterion (1-3)

Referral

- Signed and dated referral from prescribing provider
- PCP, diagnostician (e.g., psychologist), APRN or PA



Important Eligibility Information:

Educational eligibility (FIE-Full and Individual Evaluation) **will not** suffice as a Comprehensive Diagnostic Evaluation (CDE).

A CDE older than three years, without an update, will not allow a child to qualify

A CDE without an accompanying level 1-3 will not allow a child to qualify

A referral is required from the PCP or diagnosing professional to qualify for an assessment.

The referring physician must agree with the overall recommended number of hours for ongoing services.



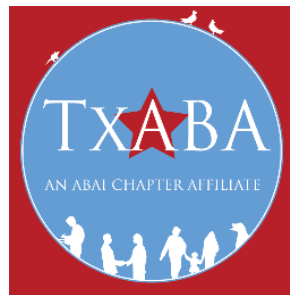
Authorizations

- Initial authorization of **90 days**
 - 90-day extension of initial authorization
 - Requires treatment note regarding progress
- 180-day recertifications
 - Medical necessity documentation & progress summary
 - Attendance log with calculation of % ***planned sessions*** for both **patient & caregiver**
- Each authorization a requires signed & dated referral from prescribing provider

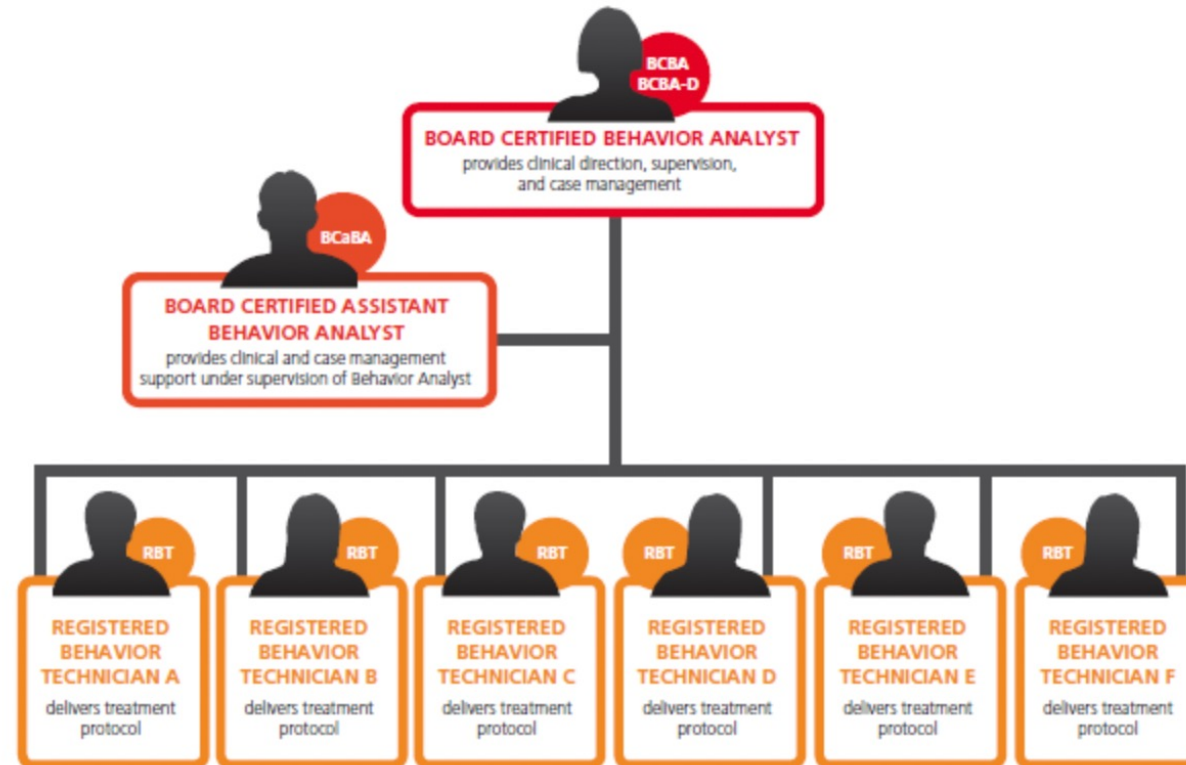


Attendance Requirements

- Parent/Caregiver attendance *is required* for least **85%** of planned sessions for ***both direct 1:1 ABA and family guidance sessions***
- Continued authorization for services will take attendance into consideration
 - Additional documentation, including an attendance log, will be required from LBA to substantiate need for continued ABA services at approved level
 - Documentation may be sent to physician for review and to determine medical necessity



Who provides the service?

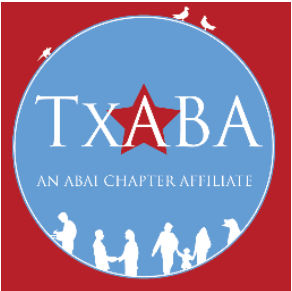
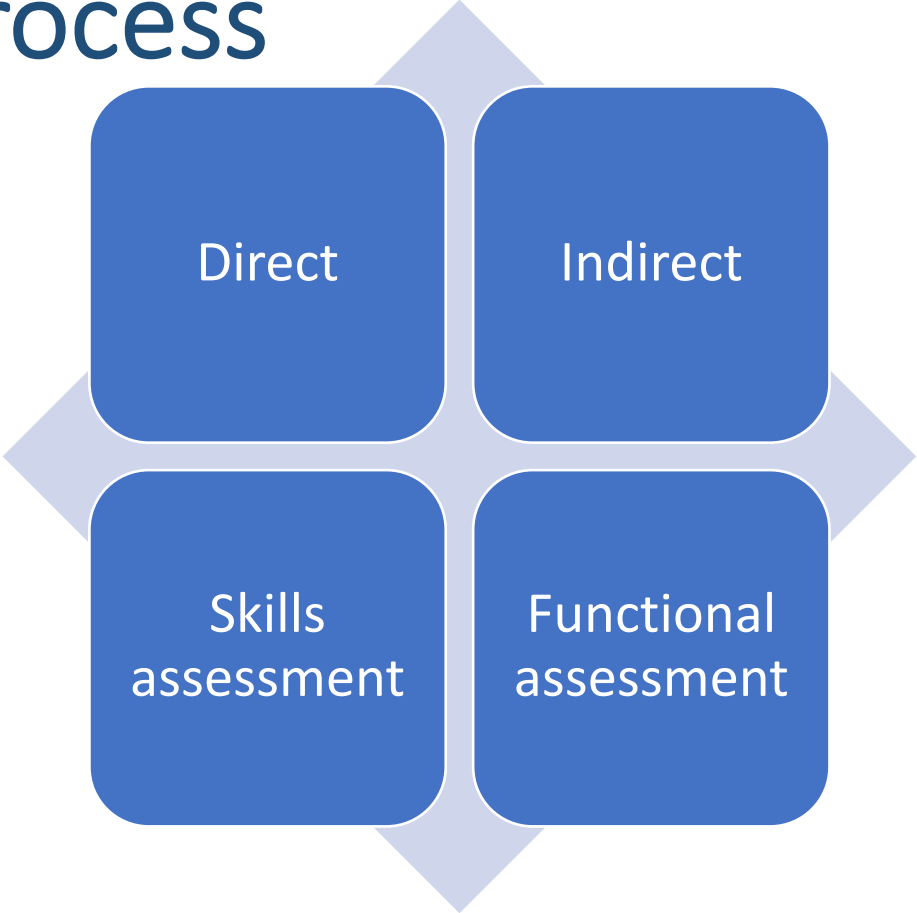


BT Provider Requirements

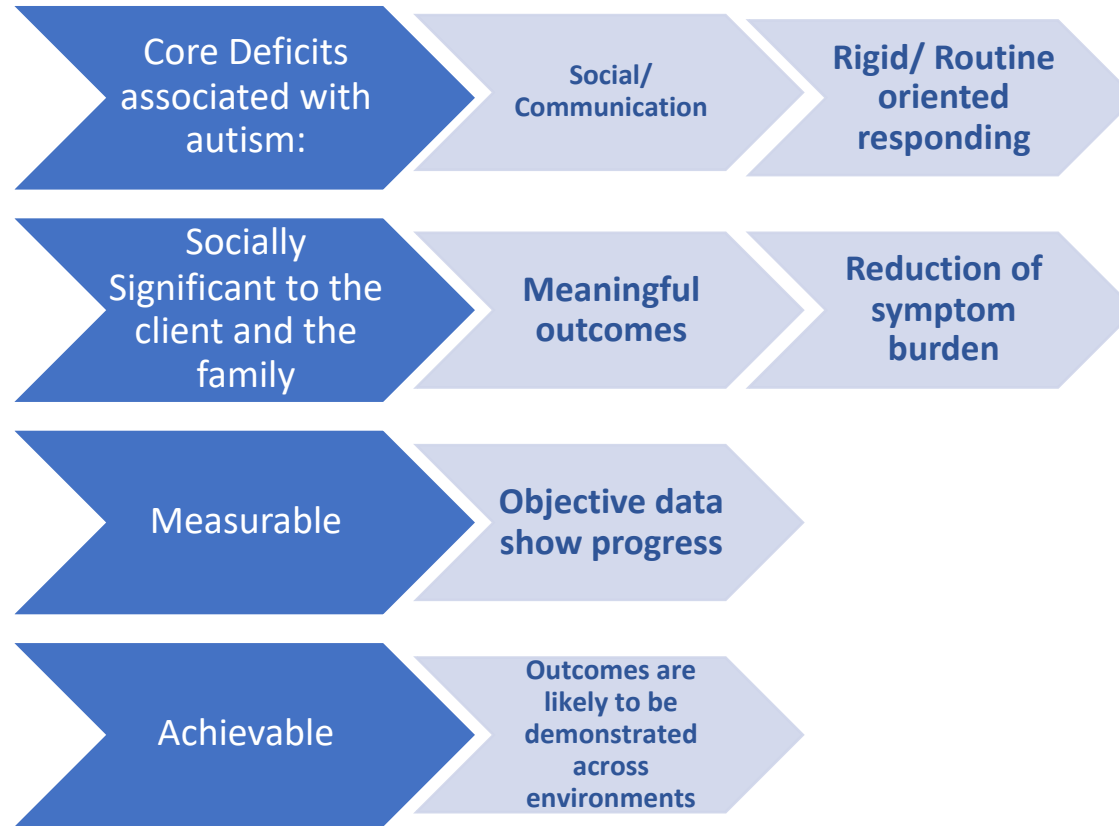
- Behavior technicians must have one of the following certifications:
 - Registered Behavior Technician (RBT®)
 - Board Certified Autism Technician (BCAT)
 - Applied Behavior Analysis Technician (ABAT®)



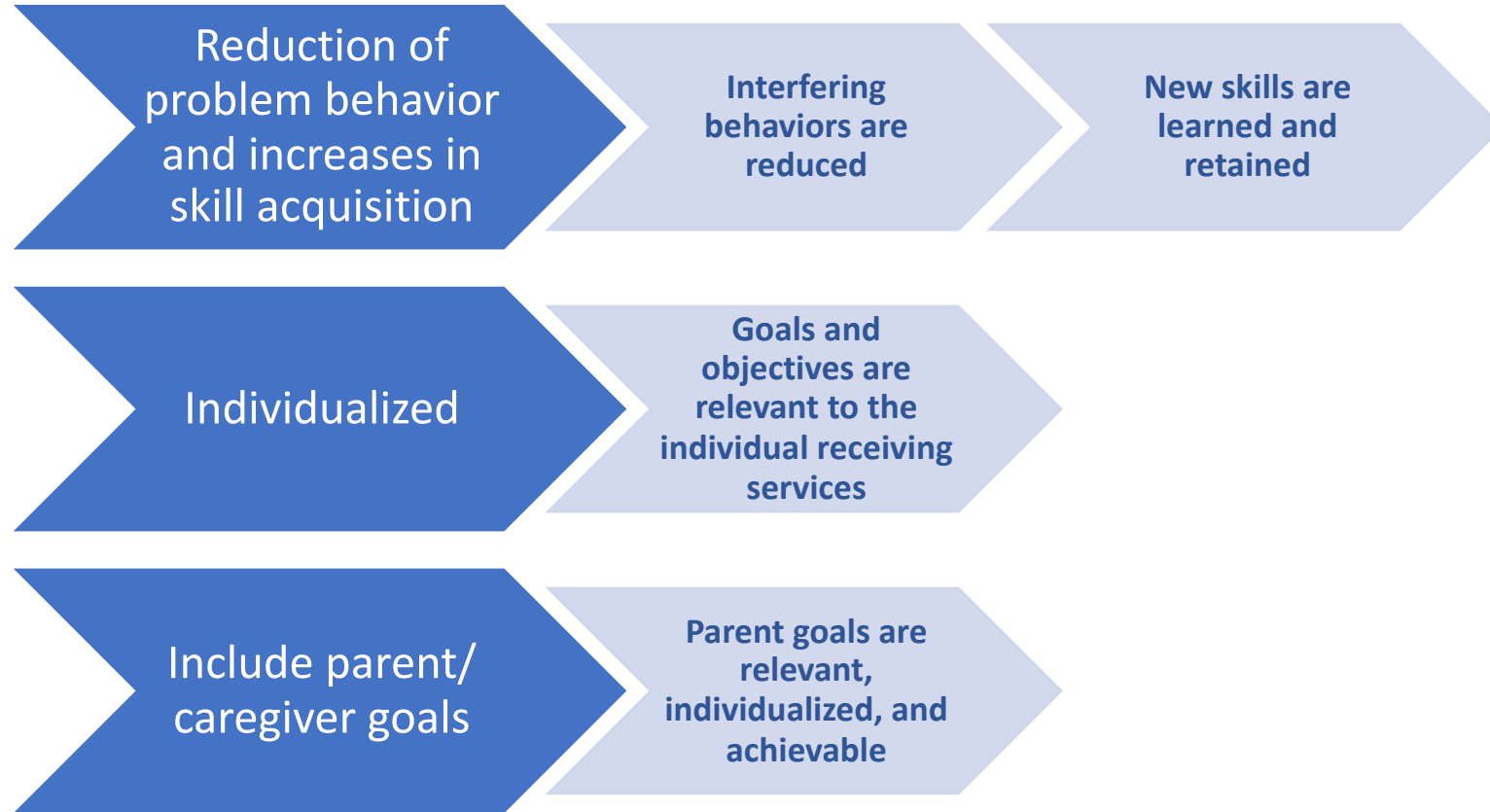
Assessment Process



Program Development

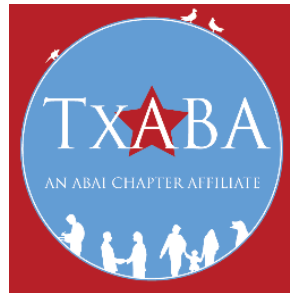


Program development continued



Who Provides What Service?

- LBA:
 - Assessment (97151)
 - 1:1 or Group Treatment (97153, 97154)
 - Direction (97155)
 - Family Guidance (97156)
- LaBA
 - 1:1 or Group Treatment (97153, 97154)
 - Direction (97155)
 - Family Guidance (97156)
- BT
 - 1:1 or Group Treatment (97153, 97154)



Intensity of Services:

High Frequency IBI

- 20+ hours/ week
- Age six or younger
- Autism level 2 or 3
- Goals related to severe challenging behavior
- Within first two years of ABA

Moderate Frequency IBI

- 6-20 hours/week
- Age 12 or younger
- Level 2 or 3
- Severe challenging behavior
- Within first four years of ABA

Targeted/ Focused Frequency

- 5 or fewer hours per week/ 20 or fewer hours per month
- Age 20 or younger
- Level 1,2,3
- Focused intervention
- Absence of severe challenging behavior

Maintenance/ Consult

- 2-4 hours per week
- Ages 1-20
- Level 1,2,3
- Focused intervention
- Documented risk of regression after completion of more intense ABA



Provider Enrollment

- 1) Complete TMHP application and submit via PEMS system (1-12 hours)
- 2) Complete site visit with TMHP (2-4 weeks post application submission)
*** center/ clinic/ office-based providers only
- 3) Application approved or denied (up to six weeks total)
- 4) Contract and Credential with MCOs (contracting up to 3 months and credentialing up to 3 months, 180 days total)
 - Contracting as an agency can occur concurrently with TMHP process
 - Credentialing cannot occur until contracting and THMP process is complete

All steps must be completed before providing services (up to six month process)



Important Provider Info

- You must complete the entire enrollment, contracting and credentialing process before you serve Medicaid clients.
- A site visit will be required if you are providing services in an office, clinic or center
- Medicaid will not back-date authorizations for service
- You must obtain a referral and obtain prior authorization before providing any service
- You must collaborate with the referring physician, and they must agree to your clinical recommendations (hours of service)



TEXAS Managed Care Service Areas (Effective January 2022)

STAR Health (statewide) - Superior
Dental (statewide) - DentaQuest, MCNA, UnitedHealth Care Dental

TARRANT
STAR - Aetna, Amerigroup, Cook Children's
STAR+PLUS - Amerigroup, Molina
STAR Kids - Aetna, Cook Children's
CHIP - Aetna, Amerigroup, Cook Children's

DALLAS

STAR - Amerigroup, Molina, Parkland
STAR+PLUS - Molina, Superior
STAR Kids - Aetna, Amerigroup
CHIP - Amerigroup, Molina, Parkland

LUBBOCK

STAR - Amerigroup, FirstCare, Superior
STAR+PLUS - Amerigroup, Superior
STAR Kids - Amerigroup, Superior
CHIP - FirstCare, Superior

MRSA WEST

STAR - Amerigroup, FirstCare, Superior
STAR+PLUS - Amerigroup, Superior
STAR Kids - Amerigroup, Superior
CHIP - Molina, Superior

MRSA NORTHEAST

STAR - Amerigroup, Superior
STAR+PLUS - Molina, United
STAR Kids - Texas Children's, United
CHIP - Molina, Superior

EL PASO

STAR - El Paso First, Molina, Superior
STAR+PLUS - Amerigroup, Molina
STAR Kids - Amerigroup, Superior
CHIP - El Paso First, Superior

MRSA CENTRAL

STAR - Amerigroup, RightCare-Scott and White, Superior
STAR+PLUS - Superior, United
STAR Kids - Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, United
CHIP - Molina, Superior

JEFFERSON

STAR - Amerigroup, Community Health Choice, Molina, Texas Children's, United
STAR+PLUS - Amerigroup, Molina, United
STAR Kids - Texas Children's, United
CHIP - Amerigroup, Community Health Choice, Molina, Texas Children's, United

TRAVIS

STAR - Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, Dell Children's, Superior
STAR+PLUS - Amerigroup, United
STAR Kids - Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, Superior
CHIP - Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, Dell Children's, Superior

HARRIS

STAR - Amerigroup, Community Health Choice, Molina, Texas Children's, United
STAR+PLUS - Amerigroup, Molina, United
STAR Kids - Amerigroup, Texas Children's, United
CHIP - Amerigroup, Community Health Choice, Molina, Texas Children's, United

BEXAR

STAR - Aetna, Amerigroup, Community First, Superior
STAR+PLUS - Amerigroup, Molina, Superior
STAR Kids - Community First, Superior
CHIP - Aetna, Amerigroup, Community First, Superior

NUECES

STAR - Driscoll, Superior, United
STAR+PLUS - Superior, United
STAR Kids - Driscoll, Superior
CHIP - Driscoll, Superior, United

HIDALGO

STAR - Driscoll, Molina, Superior, United
STAR+PLUS - Molina, Superior
STAR Kids - Driscoll, Superior, United
CHIP - Molina, Superior

MMP (6 counties below):

Bexar - Amerigroup, Molina, Superior
Dallas - Molina, Superior
El Paso - Amerigroup, Molina
Harris - Amerigroup, Molina, United
Hidalgo - Molina, Superior, Molina Medicare Medicaid STAR+PLUS Plan
Tarrant - Amerigroup

MRSA: Medicaid Rural Service Area
MMP: Medicare - Medicaid Plan

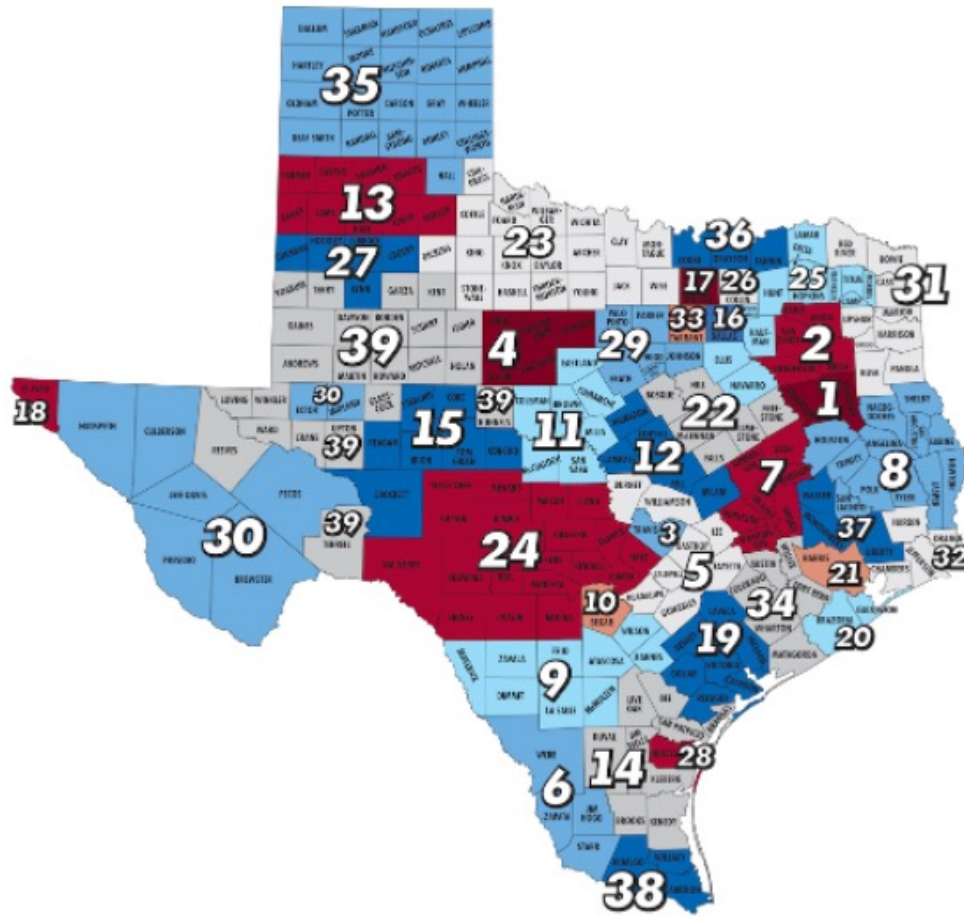


Map Prepared by: Texas Health and Human Services Commission,
Center for Analysis and Decision Support, MRL
December 2, 2021

Medicaid Resources

- HHSC- 1 (800) 458-9858
- MCO (contact info on your MCO card)
- Ombudsman for Behavioral Health- 1(800) 252-8154
- Disability Rights Texas- [Disability Rights Texas - Disability Rights Texas \(disabilityrightstx.org\)](http://disabilityrightstx.org)
- LIDDA- <https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/contact/la.cfm>
 - Complete list and catchment area on next slide
- TMHP PEMS- <https://www.tmhp.com/topics/provider-enrollment/pems/start-application>





1. ACCESS
2. Andrews Center
3. Integral Care
4. Betty Hardwick Center
5. Bluebonnet Trails Community Services
6. Border Region Behavioral Health Center
7. MHMR Authority of Brazos Valley
8. Burke
9. Camino Real Community Services
10. The Center for Health Care Services
11. Center for Life Resources
12. Central Counties Services
13. Central Plains Center
14. Coastal Plains Community Center
15. MHMR Services for the Concho Valley
16. Metrocare Services
17. Denton County MHMR Center
18. Emergence Health Network
19. Gulf Bend Center
20. Gulf Coast Center
21. The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD
22. Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network
23. Helen Farabee Centers
24. Hill Country Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities Centers
25. Lakes Regional Community Center
26. LifePath Systems
27. StarCare Specialty Health System
28. Nueces Center for Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities
29. Pecan Valley Centers for Behavioral & Developmental HealthCare
30. PermianCare
31. Community Healthcare
32. Spindletop Center
33. MHMR Tarrant
34. Texana Center
35. Texas Panhandle Centers
36. Texoma Community Centers
37. Tri-County Behavioral Healthcare
38. Tropical Texas Behavioral Health
39. West Texas Centers

The 39 Community Centers of Texas manage and provide community-based services across all 254 Texas counties, touching the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, serious mental illness and substance use disorders.

To find more information about a Community Center, click through its name in the list on the right-hand side. [Click here for a PDF map of Center Service Areas.](#)

Insurance Support

- Jason Farrell

[About Us – Farrell Financial \(farrell-financial.com\)](http://farrell-financial.com)

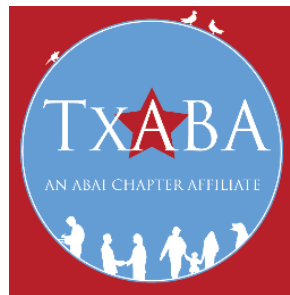
- Justin Boulet

[Individual & Family | hipben2 \(hipsonbenefits.com\)](http://hipsonbenefits.com)



Grants and Other Resources

- Variety the Children's Charity of Texas- <https://www.varietytexas.org/>
- United Health Care Children's Foundation-<https://www.uhccf.org/>
- Masonic Children and Family Services of Texas-
https://masonicchildrenfamilyservicesoftexas.formstack.com/forms/medical_therapy
- Imagine A Way- Central Texas- <https://www.imagineaway.org/?>
- National Autism Association – – www.nationalautismassociation.org.
- The People Project – <https://www.thepeopleprojecttx.org/huck-helps>



Grants and Other Resources

- The Foundation for Autism Care, Education, and Services (FACES) <https://facesautism.org/scholarships>
- Hope For Three – provide financial assistance to families in Fort Bend County, TX <https://www.hopeforthree.org/programs/family-assistance/>
- C.A.R.E. Foundation (California Autism Resource & Evaluation Foundation). www.careautismfoundation.com/family-funds/
- First Hand – www.firsthandfoundation.org
- Modest Needs – www.modestneeds.org
- NSW Kids Program – The Seal Foundation - for Navy Seal families only – www.sealfamilyfoundation.org.



Diagnosing Providers Houston Area

- Texana Center
- The Harris Center
- Gulf Coast Center
- Tri County
- Prevail Behavioral Health & Wellness Center
- Andrew Brams Clinical Services
- CNS of Houston
- Houston Area Pediatric Neurology
- THINK Neurology
- Texas Children's Meyer Center for Developmental Pediatrics
- UT Physicians Pediatrics Center for Autism and Related Conditions
- The Blue Bird Center (Texas Children's affiliate)
- Texas Children's The Woodlands
- Hope Psychological Services



Diagnosing Providers Beaumont Area

- Greater Beaumont Pediatrics & Family Medicine
- Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas
- The ARC of Greater Beaumont
- Spindletop Center



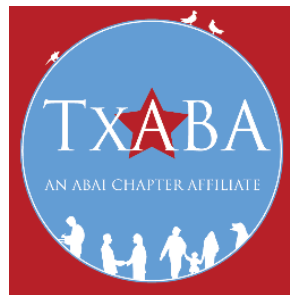
Diagnosing Providers Dallas Fort Worth

- Metro-Care Services
- Tarrant MHMR
- Lakes Regional
- Denton MHMR
- Pecan Valley Regional
- Lifepath Systems
- Cooks Children's Child Study Center
- Center for Autism and Developmental Disorders Children's Dallas/ UT Southwestern
- Warren Center
- Telos Project



Diagnosing Providers Tyler/ Longview

- Andrews Center
- Rowland Psychology Counseling & Assessment
- Cook Children's Pediatric Specialties Tyler
- Family Circle of Care
- UT Health North Campus Tyler
- CHRISTUS Mother Frances Hospital- Tyler
- St. Paul Children's Services



Diagnosing Providers Central Texas

Dell Children's Hospital (Austin Area)

Bluebonnet Trails (Austin Area)

Children's Neurology Consults of Austin

Baylor Scott and White (Austin)

Children's Hospital of San Antonio

Autism Community Network (San Antonio)

Monarch Behavioral Health (San Antonio)

Baylor Scott & White McLane Children's
Specialty clinic – Waco: 254-724-5437

Baylor Scott & White McLane Children's
Specialty clinic – Temple: 254-724-5437

Dell Children's Medical Center – Waco:
254-537-9130

Austin Psychological Practice / Austin /
Superior Health Plan only



Diagnosing Providers South Texas

Dr. Alonso Allegre
4150 Crosspoint Blvd.
Edinburg, TX 78539
956-296-1960

Dr. Ajero
316 Conquest Blvd.
Edinburg TX 78539
956-383-7779

Valley Psychological
Services – Dr. McCoy
5109 south McColl
Edinburg TX 78539
956-682-0385

Vannie Cook Children's Clinic
(Texas Children's Affiliate)



Diagnosing Providers West Texas

El Paso:

David Brooks, MD

Discovery Development Center

Texas Tech Physicians of El Paso

Rodolfo Fierro-Stevens Medical
Group

El Paso Child Guidance Center

Bluebonnet Child and Adolescent
Psychiatry

Dr. Elizabeth Richeson

Pediatric Group of Central El Paso

San Angelo:

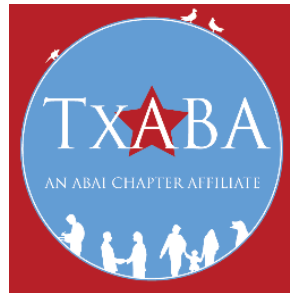
West Texas Counseling &
Guidance

Abilene:

Dr. Roger Russell at Turning Point
Counseling (Abilene)



Questions



Thank you!

- To the parents, providers, and advocates who tirelessly advocated for this benefit, attended hearings, provided oral or written testimony, visited with their legislators and didn't give up over the last decade; your time and your efforts helped change the world for the better.
- To those who contributed resources to this presentation, thank you for helping to make it a little easier for families to access meaningful care for their children.
- To all of you attending, thank you for helping us spread this information and ensure that this benefit continues to roll out smoothly.



Get Connected!

- TxABA Public Policy Group
 - <https://behavioranalysispu.wixsite.com/txabappg>
- Council for Autism Service Providers (CASP)
 - <https://casproviders.org>
- TXABA
 - <https://txaba.org/>



TxABA.PPG
CASProviders
TxABA.org



TxABAPubPolicy
CASProviders
Texasaba

