

Alabama Interagency Autism Coordinating Council (AIACC)

Monday, October 7, 2013

Alabama Industrial Development Training Center

The AIACC met on Monday, October 7th, 2013 at the Alabama Industrial Development Training Center. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Cam Ward. Also in attendance were Co-Chair, Bama Folsom Hager and Council members: Karen Amos, Greg Carlson, Jerimie Goike, Joshua Heard, Doris Hill, Mitchell Lord, Sarah Ryan, Hanes Swingle, Todd Tomerlin, Kathy Welch and ex-officio member and State Autism Coordinator, Anna McConnell. The following proxies were in attendance as well: Toni Hopgood on behalf of Stephanie Azar, Sarah O'Kelley on behalf of Fred Biasini, Lisa Highfield on behalf of Thomas Bice, David Savage on behalf of Cary Boswell, Erin Wofford on behalf of Nancy Buckner, Courtney Tarver on behalf of Jim Reddoch, Dawn Ellis on behalf of Don Williamson, and Bama Hager also represented Melanie Jones.

Minutes from the July 8th, 2013 meeting were approved and adopted.

Chairperson Ward welcomed the new Council Members, Karen Amos, parent of a child on the Autism Spectrum and Joshua Heard, an adult on the Autism Spectrum.

Chairperson Ward gave a legislative update. He has pre-filed the BCBA Therapist Licensure Bill. The bill would use an existing board as a vehicle to help licensure BCBA Therapists. Secondly, the bill to provide for a designation, for those who choose it, on Alabama Driver's Licenses indicating that the licensee has an Autism Spectrum diagnosis, will be reintroduced. Finally, Chairperson Ward mentioned Project Lifesaver, which is a program of the Department of Public Safety that utilizes a tracking band to assist with individuals that might wander. It has been used primarily with the elderly, but the Project is being expanded to families with loved ones who may be on the Autism Spectrum.

Bama Folsom Hager shared that the Alabama Council on Developmental Disabilities has awarded the Autism Society a substantial grant that will allow them to communicate with every sheriff's department in the state to make sure there is protocol in place for adults or children with Autism who might wander. The Department of Public Safety is corroborating and has made this a priority as well. Ms. Hager states they are looking forward to partnering with them and sheriff's departments across the state.

Ms. Hager is pleased to announce that recently Southern Company (Alabama Power) became one of the first companies in the state to begin reimbursing for ABA services. Southern Company's underwriter for behavioral health is Value Options. Ms. Hager has heard from a representative with the provider Milestones Behavior Consulting in the Birmingham area that they have successfully billed and been paid through Value Options. This will serve as a great recruiting tool for the company when families are looking at employment options.

From the Department of Education, Lisa Highfield spoke about the new Autism Team. The team consists of three members and they are currently in the planning stages. They will be working on an Autism Initiative with goals that coincide with the goals of the agency. They are writing RFPs for diagnostic services, Autism training and technical assistance and transition initiatives. They hope to start services by November. Ms. Highfield may be contacted by email at lhighfield@alsde.edu.

Anna McConnell thanked everyone for coming and acknowledged the new members. She also shared the schedule for upcoming meetings in 2014, which are tentatively scheduled for January 13th, April 14th, July 14th, and October 6th or 20th. Upcoming conferences are listed on the agenda. The School of Public Health will be helping to update the Strategic Plan and Needs Assessment.

Associate Commissioner of the Division of Developmental Disabilities, Department of Mental Health, Courtney Tarver, gave an update from the department. Recently, the main focus has been on employment issues. Mr. Tarver, along with stakeholders, other staff and other agencies recently met with members of a national organization called the State Employment Leadership Network. The goal is to develop a state plan toward employment services. There should be a report available in late November.

Sarah O'Kelly on behalf of Fred Biasini gave an update from the Standards of Practice Committee. The committee plans to vote to finalize some, but not all, of the standards during their next meeting. They will be pulling a small group together to review them for consistency prior to bringing them before the council to consider.

Bama Folsom Hager reported on behalf of Melanie Jones for the Autism Society. They are continuing the "Autism Friendly" campaign. The subcommittee is looking at working with businesses all across Alabama so they can state they are autism friendly both to employees and

customers. This initiative has been successful in other states. It is being led by Tracy Robinson, Melanie Jones, and Angel Loewen, with the assistance of several others.

Sarah O'Kelley, on behalf of Melanie Jones, gave an update from the Special Projects Workgroup. Regional trainings have been presented with the goal to prepare small groups of people to deliver the Early Recognition/Early Referral message in their communities. These efforts have been met with a positive response. Materials are provided to attendees so that they can then do their own community based trainings.

In addition, as the Act Early State Ambassador, Anna arranged for a table at the Alabama Chapter meeting for the American Academy of Pediatrics. During that time, they were able to show Act Early materials and promote Act curriculum for ongoing training for medical professionals.

Also, in an effort to update the Strategic Plan, a committee is being formed. Anyone interested in assisting with the committee should let Bama or Anna know.

Member updates:

Erin Wofford (Alabama Department of Human Resources) discussed the modified curriculum developed by behavior analysts with the goal to provide better training. Erin may be reached by email at erin.wofford@dhhr.alabama.gov for more information.

Bama Hager (Autism Society of Alabama) announced the annual fundraiser Thursday in Birmingham at Legion Field. Several conferences have been going on or are in the works – one of which was in Cullman. The Cullman conference was put together by parents and provided an opportunity for one hundred twenty-five parents and teachers to come together. There was an amazing response. Ms. Hager would like to see this going on all over the state. Bama also announced that UAB's Special Education Program Graduate Students are presenting a conference October 22nd. State leaders, special educators and Autism experts will come together for this event in Gardendale.

Dr. Hanes Swingle (University of South Alabama) thanked Bama Folsom Hager, Bill Pearson and Joe Carter for coming to South Alabama. They are in the process of trying to replicate the Promise Home that is in Birmingham.

Kathy Welch (Easter Seals of Central Alabama) announced a Life Skills class starting next week and Project Search will be involved. Also they are directing a program where respite care is offered to military families in the Montgomery area. They are looking for providers of respite care. Anyone interested in that program should contact Easter Seals.

Jerimie Goike expressed his appreciation and congratulations to Karen Dahle for the progress of her program in regards to the Autism Conference set for October 22. Also Jerimie has published a photography book on the subject of aviation entitled "Dream of Flight". He welcomes any questions regarding his book.

Karen Amos said that she is a nurse and also a graduate student, whose thesis is on how nurse practitioners are assessing children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Currently they have no standardized methods.

Todd Tomerlin reports great feedback on the Project Lifesaver in his county. They recently had to use the program, and the child was found safe within 20 - 30 minutes. They are also working with 911 to create a database so first responders will have information that there is an individual with Autism involved.

Greg Carlson (Glenwood, Inc.) reported that Glenwood has now opened two new outpatient operations in Montgomery for assessments and in Huntsville for assessments and residential services for adults.

Sarah Ryan updates that the University of Alabama College Program has received two applications for this year. Applications continue to be accepted.

Joshua Heard, a new member to the Council is a sophomore student at Auburn University and serves with Lee County Autism Resource and Advocacy group.

Presentations were given by Greg Carlson, who represented the Funding and Finance Committee, and by Doris Hill, Margaret Flores, and Sacha Pence, who represented Auburn University.

Greg Carlson gave an update from the Funding and Finance Committee. Funding issues currently under discussion are various Medicaid monies available, various Insurance options, both public and private, and essential health benefits. Key points include the questions: How can Alabama fund Regional networks/centers and; How can autism services and coverage/reimbursement be expanded?

Doris Hill, introduced Margaret Flores and Sacha Pence from Auburn University. Margaret Flores of the Special Education, Rehabilitation and Counseling Department shared that for over twenty years they have had programs that serve students with developmental disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorder. They collaborate with several school districts near the University. Dr. Flores is currently directing a teacher preparation grant that emphasizes service delivery for students with ASD.

Doris Hill expounded that the Center for Disabilities Research and Service is part of special education. They work with parents and families statewide, pointing parents in the right direction for the services they need. Program research and evaluation looks at needs assessment, satisfaction surveys and works with school districts to prepare teachers each school year.

Sacha Pence is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Auburn University. The Applied Behavior Analyst program currently has twelve Masters and three PhD students enrolled. The students typically work 20 hours per week in the community providing services to individuals with developmental disabilities. They are currently working in collaboration with several partners including the Department of Human Resources, Learning Tree and several public school systems. They are also working on opening an applied care analysis clinic, which will provide outpatient behavior analytic services to families in the area. In addition, they are providing some services for communication training.

Representatives from Lee County Autism Resource & Advocacy were on hand to share about their non-profit group which was started in May to serve as a resource for parents and families in Lee County that don't know how to access the services they need. Speaking on behalf of the organization were Lennie Squiers, Maria Gutierrez and Allison Ware.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Next meeting: January 13, 2014

Recording Secretary

_____ 10/07/2013
C. S. Weldon

DRAFT

Alabama Interagency Autism Coordinating Council (AIACC)

(DATE of Next Meeting)

Alabama Institute for Training and Development

Minutes submitted and approved January 14, 2014

Chairman, Senator Cam Ward

DRAFT



Auburn University
Applied Behavior Analysis Program

Psychology Department

October, 2013

Applied Behavior Analysis Program (ABA)

- 12 Master's Students
 - Each work 20 hours per week
 - 240 hours per week
- 3 PhD Students



Collaborations with Community Partners

- Department of Human Resources
- Learning Tree, Inc.
 - Learning Tree in Tallassee
 - Little HAPIE Tree in Auburn
- Public School Systems
 - Auburn City Schools
 - Montgomery Public Schools
 - Tallapoosa County Schools
 - Tallassee City Schools



Department of Mental Health

- Instruct behavior-analytic parent training modules (series of 5 classes)
- Conduct in-home observations with feedback
- Provide additional observations and supports for referred cases
- Provide services to families with children with and without developmental disabilities



Learning Tree, Inc. in Tallassee

- Residential facility for children and adolescents with developmental disabilities
- Conduct behavioral assessment and treatment evaluations
- Develop individualized skill-acquisition curriculum and behavior-intervention plans
- Conduct staff training and staff observations
- Conduct communication training
- Conduct self-care and vocational skill training



Little HAPIE Tree

- Integrated preschool for children with developmental disabilities
- Conduct behavioral assessment and treatment evaluations
- Develop individualized skill-acquisition programming and behavior-intervention plans
- Implement discrete-trial instruction
- Conduct communication training
- Conduct and develop self-care training and toileting programs
- Conduct staff training and staff observations



Public Schools

- Provide services to children with and without disabilities
 - Functional Behavioral Assessments
 - Development of Behavior Intervention Plans
- Provide teacher and school personnel training
 - Individualized around a specific child
 - Systems-levels behavior-analytic techniques
- Practicum placement



ABA Clinic

- Provide behavior-analytic services to families and community
- Services for behavior reduction
 - Functional analysis
 - Development of function-based intervention
 - Train parents, families, and school personnel
- Services for communication training
- Services for skill acquisition



Auburn University

Communication Disorders
Psychology Department

Office of Accessibility

Special Education, Rehabilitation, and Counseling

Service

Center for Disability Research and

Special Education, Rehabilitation and Counseling (SERC)

- ESY Services for four school districts using evidence based practice (formerly grant supported) serving as a model site for teacher training and collaboration
- Collaborative Approach to Training Transition Specialists (CATTS) (grant funded)
- Development of graduate certificate program in instruction for students with developmental disabilities and autism spectrum disorders

Center for Disability Research and Service (CDRS)

- Outreach to parents and families state wide
- Program Research and Evaluation
 - Needs assessments
 - Consumer Satisfaction Surveys
- MOA with school districts for behavioral support and training and assistance to teachers to enhance student success in the LRE
- Assistive Technology Evaluations
- Triumph Collaboration (ACDD funded)

Research Collaborations

- iPad v. PECS for communication
- Using technology to address social skills
- Positive Behavior Supports at the staff level
- Application of evidence based practice in autism for adults
- Research in legal issues and international collaborations
- Math, Direct Instruction, computer-aided Instruction and students with disabilities

AU Speech and Hearing Clinic

- Provides diagnostic and treatment services for individuals on the spectrum in the clinic.
- ADOS (administration and research).
- Currently provides therapy services for a number of children and adolescents with Autism.
- Allison Plumb, PhD, SLP

Office of Accessibility

- Provides accommodations for classes and testing when students self identify
- Can provide coaching and tutoring for students with mild disabilities when requested

Other Important Groups with Ties to AU

- Alpha Xi Delta and Light it Up Blue
- Lee County Autism Resource & Advocacy Group
- Little HAPIE Tree at AEEC



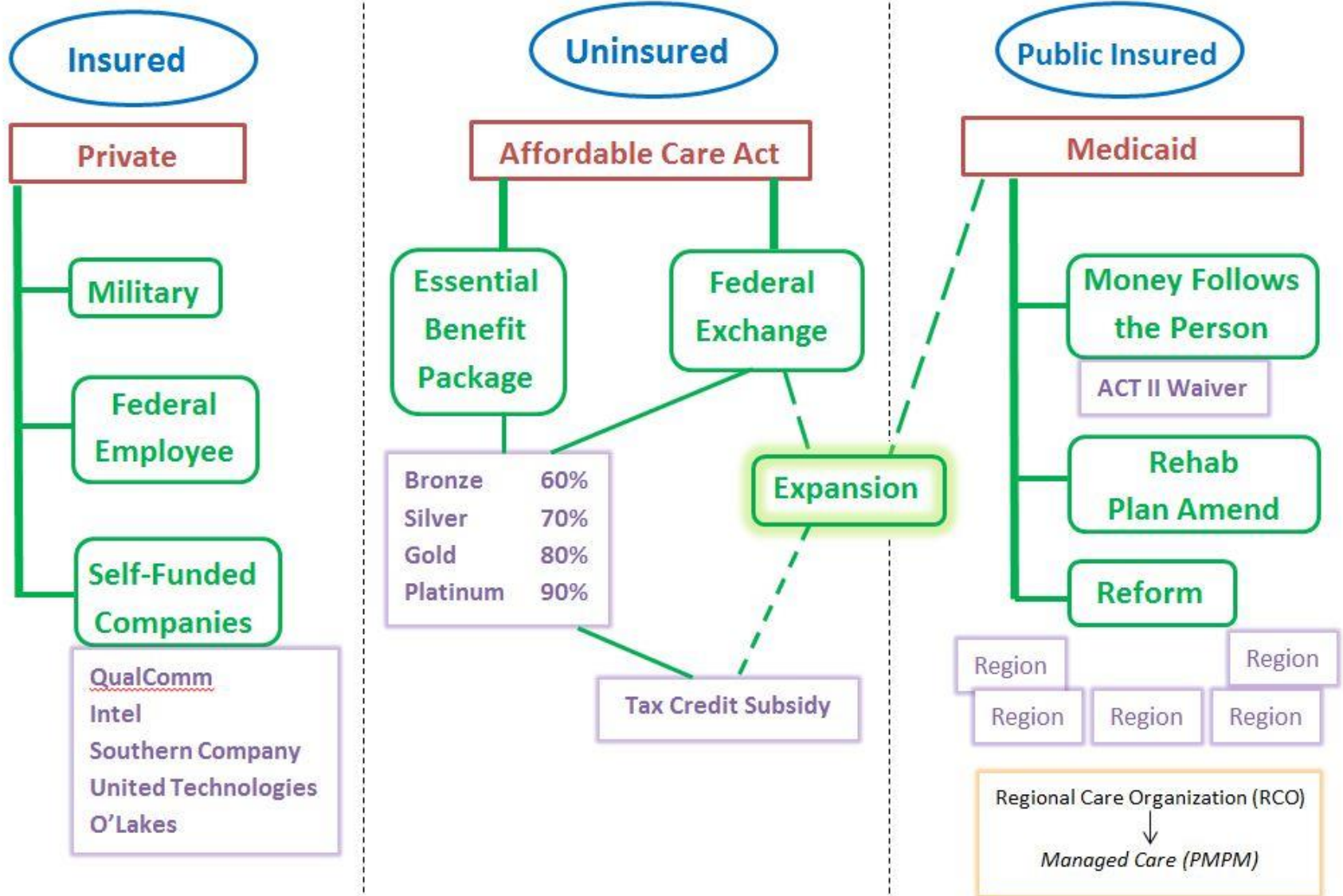
Funding and Finance Committee

October 7, 2013

The Charge

- The Funding and Finance Committee will be responsible for analyzing issues related to fiscal support of a system of care for ASD and make recommendations to the AIACC for funding strategies and requests.
- Approval from the Executive Committee is required for any financial recommendation that affects the budget request of State agencies.

Autism Services Funding Opportunities



Types of Medicaid

Healthcare, Waivers, Rehab Option, and Section 1115

Types of Medicaid

Healthcare Coverage

- “Medicaid is a state/federal program that pays for medical and long-term care services for low-income pregnant women, children, certain people on Medicare, individuals with disabilities and nursing home residents. These individuals must meet certain income and other requirements.”

(from AMA website)

Waivers

- 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Waivers
(http://medicaid.alabama.gov/documents/4.0_Programs/4.3_LTC_Services/4.3.1_HCBS_Waivers/4.3.1_HCBS_Waivers_Matrix_Revised_3-7-13.pdf)
- 107 Waiver Services - long description
(http://medicaid.alabama.gov/documents/6.0_Providers/6.7_Manuals/6.7.7_Provider_Manuals_2013/6.7.7.1_January_2013/6.7.7.1_Jan13_107.pdf)

Types of Medicaid

Rehabilitation Option

- Provides a way to bill Medicaid for services not provided through a waiver program for those who are Medicaid eligible.
- NAMI's definition: "Covered Medicaid Rehab Option services may include educational services, peer services, family education, social and recreational activities, and substance abuse services. Services covered under the Rehab Option must be designed to assist individuals with a serious and persistent."
- <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2005/rpt/2005-R-0687.htm>

Section 1115

- Alabama's proposal includes the development of Regional Care Organizations that would manage and coordinate care for the Medicaid population.
- Alabama's Concept Paper: http://medicaid.alabama.gov/documents/2.0_Newsroom/2.7_Topics_Issues/2.7.3_RCOs/2.7.3_1115_Submission_CMS_5-17-13.pdf
- mental illness to achieve their highest degree of independent functioning and recovery." (http://www.nami.org/Template.cfm?Section=issue_spotlights&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=24658).

Types of Insurance

Private, ERISA, Public, Non/Un-Insured, ALLKids

Types of Insurance

Private

- For employers who are subject to state regulations (not federal), the “[2012 Ala. Act, Act 298](#) requires a health benefit plan to offer coverage for the screening, diagnosis, and treatment of autism spectrum disorders for an insured child who is nine years of age or under in policies and contracts issued or delivered to employers with at least 51 employees for at least 50 percent of its working days during the preceding calendar year. Treatment is defined as treatment that is prescribed by the child’s treating physician or psychologist in accordance with a treatment plan and may include behavioral health treatment (including applied behavior analysis), pharmacy care, psychiatric care, psychological care, and therapeutic care. The coverage required may not be subject to dollar limits, deductibles, or coinsurance provisions that are less favorable to an insured than the limits or deductibles that apply to illness generally under the health insurance plan, except for coverage for behavioral therapy which is subject to a \$36,000 maximum benefit per year.” (From National Conference of State Legislatures <http://www.ncsl.org/issues-research/health/autism-and-insurance-coverage-state-laws.aspx>)

Types of Insurance

ERISA

- Self-funded insurance plans that are subject to federal law rather than state law. ERISA employers are exempt from any state reforms related to insurance. Employers may choose to offer autism insurance coverage. Some examples of ERISA companies that offer autism insurance policies are: Home Depot, Intel, Microsoft, Wells Fargo.

Public

- Medicaid, Health Insurance Marketplace

Types of Insurance

Non/Un-Insured

- Will have access to insurance through the Health Exchange/marketplace

ALLKids

- Since ALLKids participants are limited to a specific network of providers, who is providing the diagnosis?
- Are they getting autism services paid for?
- What will ALLKids look like with new Healthcare reform changes?
- Description:
 - “ALL Kids is a low-cost, comprehensive healthcare coverage program for children under age 19. Benefits include regular check-ups and immunizations, sick child doctor visits, prescriptions, vision and dental care, hospitalization, mental health and substance abuse services, and much more. ALL Kids uses [Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama \(BCBSAL\)](http://www.adph.org/allkids/) to provide medical, and mental health and substance abuse services through their preferred provider network (PPO).” (From <http://www.adph.org/allkids/>)

Essential Health Benefits

- Essential health benefits must include items and services within at least the following 10 categories:
 - ambulatory patient services
 - emergency services
 - hospitalization
 - maternity and newborn care
 - **mental health and substance use disorder services, including behavioral health treatment**
 - prescription drugs
 - **rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices**
 - laboratory services
 - preventive and wellness services and chronic disease management
 - pediatric services, including oral and vision care

Other Resources

- **Alabama Autism Needs Assessment:*
http://autism.alabama.gov/Documents/Autism_Needs_Assessment_Full_Report.pdf
- *Alabama Autism Task Force Final Report:*
http://autism.alabama.gov/Documents/Autism_Task_Force_Final_Report.pdf
- *AMCHP Issue Brief: The Affordable Care Act and Children and Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Other Developmental Disabilities:* http://www.amchp.org/Policy-Advocacy/health-reform/resources/Documents/ACA_AutismFactSheet_5-3-12.pdf

*The *Alabama Autism Needs Assessment* and the *AIACC Strategic Plan* will be updated in partnership with UAB's School of Public Health and the Alabama Autism Surveillance Project. The Funding and Finance Committee can propose issues that need to be further investigated as part of this update.

Abbreviations

- ADMH – Alabama Department of Mental Health
- ADPH – Alabama Department of Public Health
- ADRS – Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services
- ALSDE – Alabama State Department of Education
- AMA – Alabama Medicaid Agency
- EPSDT – Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment
- ERISA – Employee Retirement Income Security Act
- ID – Intellectual Disability
- LEA – Local Education Agency
- LEND - **L**eadership **E**ducation in **N**eurodevelopmental and Related **D**isabilities
- PCN – Patient Care Network
- RCO – Regional Care Organization
- UCEDD - University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities