

Behavioral Therapies Evaluation

Department of Healthcare Policy and Finance

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COLORADO
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Policy & Financing

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Behavioral Therapies Evaluation

Report Overview

Report Mandated by Statute

- Number of eligible children receiving services
- Average mean and median age
- Length of time for services
- Cost of services
- Program outcomes
 - Parent reports of satisfaction and effectiveness of services
 - Reviews of Prior Authorization Records

Behavioral Therapies Evaluation

Methods

- Descriptive analysis of 2017 Medicaid claims
- Review of authorizations
 - Prior Authorization Requests (PAR)
- PAR Record reviews
 - Sample of 150 Records
 - Included children from whom at least one six-month follow-up request was available
- Parent Surveys
 - Combination of online and telephone surveys
 - 64 total surveys: 20 English language telephone (40%), 39 email (20%), 5 Spanish language telephone (33%)

Children Eligible for Services

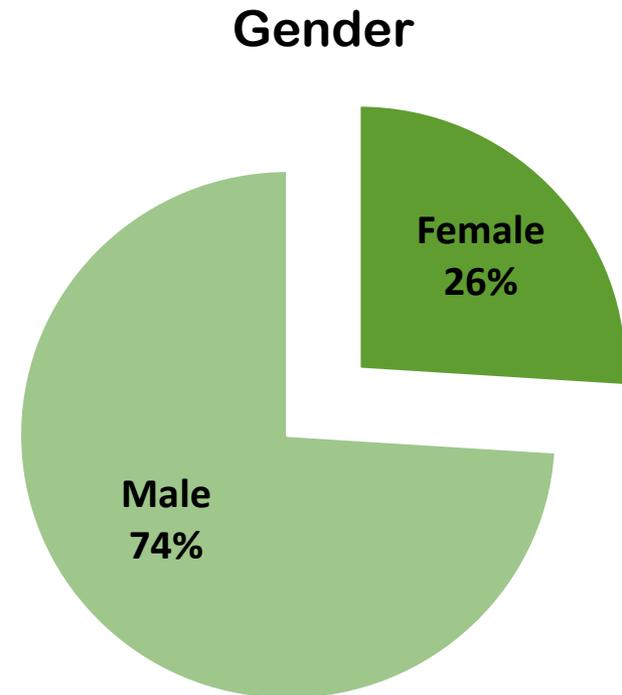
Based on Prior Authorization Requests (PAR) n=1,683

| Distribution of Diagnoses | Number of Children | Percent of Children Eligible |
|--|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Number of Diagnoses | | |
| Single Diagnosis | 1,010 | 60% |
| Multiple Diagnoses | 673 | 40% |
| Diagnoses of Eligible Children | | |
| Total exceeds number of children eligible due to multiple diagnoses per child. Percentages total to more than 100% due to some children being counted multiple times. | | |
| Autistic Disorders (incl. Asperger's) | 1,285 | 56% |
| Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities | 293 | 13% |
| Congenital or Other Neuro-Developmental Disorders | 171 | 7% |
| Other Behavior Health Diagnoses | 280 | 12% |
| Other Physical Health Diagnoses | 269 | 12% |

Children Eligible for Services

Child Characteristics, based on PAR n=1,683

| Child Characteristics | Number | Percent |
|---|-----------|---------|
| Total Number of Children Receiving Services | 529 | |
| Number of Children Eligible for Services | 1,683 | |
| Age | | |
| 0 to 5 years | 656 | 39% |
| 6 to 11 years | 690 | 41% |
| 12 to 20 years | 337 | 20% |
| Mean and Median Age | | |
| Mean Age | 7.7 years | |
| Median Age | 7 years | |



Cost of Services

Total Number of Children Receiving an Service in 2017 (n=529)

| Description of Costs and Claims | Number |
|---|----------|
| Total Number of Children (Members) with Any Claim | 529 |
| Total Number of Claims | 1,421 |
| Cost Ranges and Averages | |
| Lowest member cost | \$35.21 |
| Highest member cost | \$62,904 |
| Mean cost per member (all costs for period) | \$4,144 |
| Median cost per member (all costs for period) | \$973 |

The lag time in billing and the increase in authorizations are factors but do not fully explain the discrepancy between authorizations and claims.

Program Outcomes

Patient Progress Based on PAR Record Reviews

| Goal Progress | Total | Mean per Client |
|---|-------|-----------------|
| Goals Reported | 2,088 | 14.0 |
| Goals with Progress | 1,549 | 10.4 |
| Percent of Goals with Progress Reported | 69.8% | |

Goal progress based on chart documentation

Goal progress based on reviewer ratings

| Goal Progress | Number of Clients | Percent |
|---|-------------------|---------|
| Significant Progress | 110 | 73.3% |
| Little Progress | 20 | 13.3% |
| Insufficient Documentation to Determine | 20 | 13.3% |

Program Outcomes

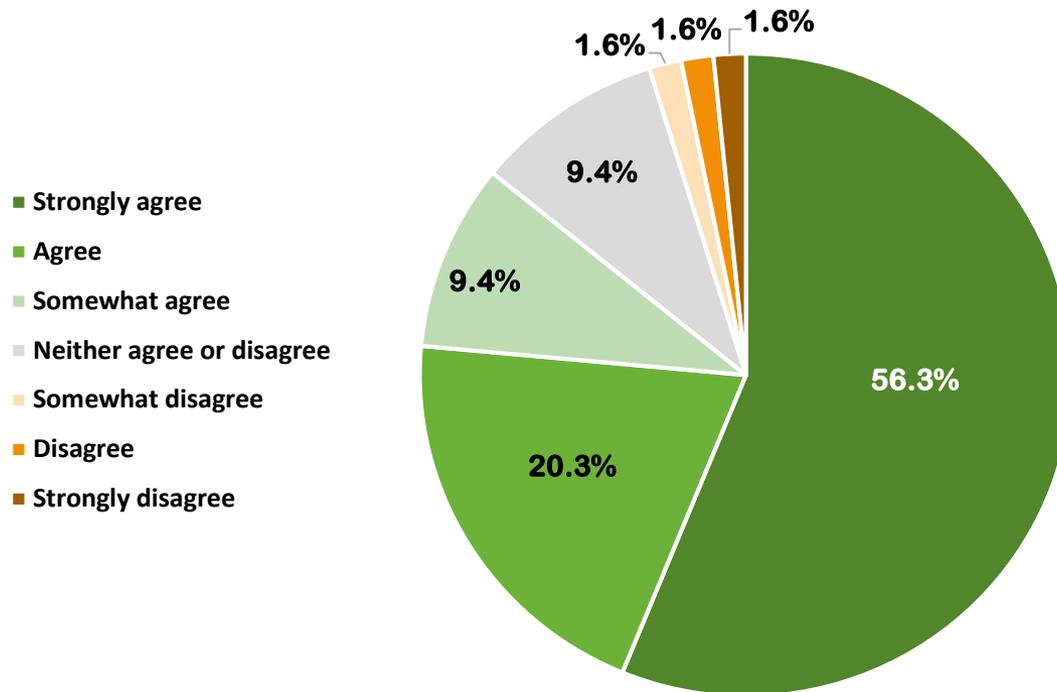
Parent Surveys

| Rating Scale | Number | Percent |
|--|-----------|---------|
| Total Interviews with Valid Response | 63 | |
| 1 – Does/did not meet expectations/ Very Unsatisfied | 2 | 3% |
| 2 – Somewhat meets expectations/Unsatisfied | 3 | 5% |
| 3 – Neither Satisfied or Unsatisfied | 5 | 8% |
| 4 – Met/meets expectations/Satisfied | 18 | 29% |
| 5 – Exceeds expectations/Very satisfied | 35 | 56% |

“Behavioral services improve my child's emotional health, behavioral efforts and accomplishments, and ensure her medications are effective and appropriate. These successes allow her to participate more fully in the community and allow her to function as a contributing member of the community. These services are utterly necessary and vital.”
--Parent, March 2018

Program Outcomes

Parent Surveys: Do you feel your child is benefitting from these services?



“Streamline the referral process to reduce unnecessary delays. Many children receive care from multiple providers, but there is a disconnect in treatment and a lack of communication between providers, which causes a significant discrepancy in treatment due to each provider creating their own treatment plan. Instead, I would suggest an initial meeting between all of a child's providers and their parents for the purpose of creating a singular treatment plan for that child.”
--Parent, March 2018

Behavioral Therapies Evaluation

Summary and Recommendations

- Program appears to be implemented as planned
 - Under EPSDT have expanded services to additional children
- Record review shows evidence of progress
 - Most records have documentation; quality varies
 - Recommendation to continue to work toward documentation of progress; possible use of Vineland
- Parents are generally satisfied with services
 - Report improvements in behavior
 - Have some suggestions for improvement around provider training and quality; improving access to services