Pathway to Progress

Overcoming Barriers to Access & Reducing Health Disparities by Maximizing Health & Disability Benefits

SEATTLE CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL - AUTISM 200 SERIES
JANUARY 17, 2019
Whaaat is WAAA?

Find out how we're helping children and adults with ASD to thrive and succeed in life.

Learn more >
What We Do...

Our mission is to ensure that all children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD’s) & other developmental disabilities (DD’s) have every opportunity to thrive and become productive members of society. We do this by helping families access ASD & DD health insurance benefits, effective services in schools, and supportive community-based services, regardless of their personal financial situation.
How We Do It...

Our organization works diligently to bridge the gap between the many health and education policies that exist to serve children and adults with ASD and other DD’s, and the educators, politicians, and medical providers who want to support these policies but don’t always succeed in doing it.

Wil Kerner, Age 16
How WAAA Supports Families

• Providing pro bono Civil Legal Aid and Family Navigation
• Offering low cost or no-cost community services
• Lobbying for legislation that directly supports and improves the health, safety, and education
Individuals & families helped in 2018!

9531
Interactions with families through phone, email, letter, and in person

715
Families and providers attended Legal Education training workshops

3020
Families we helped navigate insurance & education services

344
families and youth attended social and support groups

“You must be the change you wish to see in the world.”
2018 State of Autism at a Glance

- CPT Codes for Adaptive Behavior Services
- Employment and Community Inclusion Services for People with Developmental Disabilities
- Seclusion and Restraints of Students in Public Schools
- Continued Barriers in Access to Care
What Are We Advocating For? On The Horizon...

- Training for Primary Care Providers
- Hybrid BCBA Training program
- BCBAs as ESAs
- Community Health Workers as CBTs
- Homecare workers trained in ASD/DDs
- Statewide ABA Intake Form
- In-School ABA

“A Purple Star”
by Forrest Sargent
What Are We Advocating For? On The Horizon...

**Training for Primary Care Providers**

The primary care provider is often a family’s first and only resource and already provides tremendous support for families. Offering training for these providers, would be a great step in improving access to Neurodevelopment and Behavior Therapies for children and adults with ASD and other developmental disabilities.

“Monte Carlo” by Stephen Wiltshire
Hybrid BCBA Training program
Most people with autism have psychiatric symptoms that are separate from autism itself. About 70 percent "may have" another mental disorder and 40 percent "may have two or more" such disorders

a. A hybrid program allows graduates to be dually licensed as behavior analysts as well as mental health professionals
b. Improved knowledge and capacity of healthcare providers to serve more individuals who have co-occurring mental illness.
What Are We Advocating For? On The Horizon...

BCBAs as ESAs

Educational Staff Associates (ESAs) work within schools to serve as school psychologists, counselors, speech and language pathologists, and more. Certifying BCBAs as ESAs would give public schools the ability to hire BCBAs as certificated employees to provide services within schools.
What Are We Advocating For? On The Horizon...

Community Health Workers as CBTs

Certified Behavioral Technicians (CBTs) are paraprofessionals who implement a behavior analysis treatment plan under the close, ongoing supervision of a licensed behavior analyst or a licensed assistant behavior analyst.

“The Great World Parrots” by Gregory Blackstock
Homecare workers trained in ASD/DDs

Homecare workers are trained to help older adults and people with physical disabilities but they do not receive training or support to provide services to patients with ASD/DDs.

Soren Fielland
non-verbal, legally blind
12-year-old with autism
What Are We Advocating For? On The Horizon...

Statewide Universal Intake Form
Each time a patient receives services from a new provider, they or their families must complete a comprehensive and lengthy intake form. We believe this puts undue burden on patients and their families.
What Are We Advocating For? On The Horizon...

In-School ABA
Medically necessary ABA is covered by and billable to private Health benefits and Medicaid. Regrettably, providers are seldom allowed to access students during school hours.
What Are We Advocating For? On The Horizon...

**Telehealth Expansion**

Train more providers to provide telehealth services to patients across the state, bridging geography limitations and increasing the access to providers.
How to Reach Us

Phone: 425.894.7231
For families to receive services: Line 1 for intake
Info@WashingtonAutismAdvocacy.org
www.washingtonautismadvocacy.org