



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Center for Autism and Related Disorders to Host Free Massachusetts Autism Insurance Workshops for Parents

The workshops will educate parents on the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) and the most effective ways to access coverage for autism treatment.

PLYMOUTH and WOBURN, Mass. (Nov. 21, 2014) - Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) will present two free workshops titled “Massachusetts Insurance Funding for Autism Workshops” to help parents of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) navigate their way through the insurance coverage process. Parents will learn what services must be covered under Massachusetts law and the most effective ways to access coverage. The first workshop will take place on Thursday, Dec. 4 from 6-8:00 p.m. at 331 Montvale Ave., 5th Floor in Woburn and the second on Friday, Dec. 5 from 6-8:00 p.m. at 118 Long Pond Road, Suite 205 in Plymouth. To RSVP, email S.Price@centerforautism.com or call 818.345.2345 extension 1014. Refreshments and light snacks will be provided.

For the last two years, the Massachusetts Autism Insurance Law (H 4935) has required that most health plans cover treatment for children with ASD and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) exchange plans also cover applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy for individuals with ASD. The newest development is the requirement for Medicaid plans to start covering these therapies as well. The two-hour workshops will teach parents: what insurance companies will and will not cover, types of plans and rules regarding coverage, effective strategies to maximize benefits, how to understand the complexities of different insurance carriers, which plans will have to comply with H 4935 and ACA, and what to know during open enrollment.

“It is important for parents to know what autism services are mandated by Massachusetts law and how to access funding for those services,” said CARD director of contracts, Bryce Miler. “The workshops will give parents the knowledge necessary to advocate for their children.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), estimates that one in every 68 children in America is diagnosed with ASD, with one in 42 boys and one in 189 girls diagnosed. This is more than a 30 percent increase since the 2008 report. As the prevalence of ASD has increased, services for children with ASD have not always kept pace with demand. As a result, families affected by ASD may encounter challenges when trying to access quality treatment. The increase in autism diagnoses and the lack of resources available to families in many communities leave parents struggling to access the services that are crucial to their child's development.

About Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD)

CARD treats individuals of all ages who are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) at its 29 treatment centers around the globe. CARD was founded in 1990 by leading autism expert and clinical psychologist Doreen Granpeesheh, PhD, BCBA-D. CARD treats individuals with ASD using the principles of applied behavior analysis (ABA), which is empirically proven to be the most effective method for treating individuals with ASD and recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the US Surgeon General. CARD employs a dedicated team of nearly 2,000 individuals across the nation and internationally. For more information, visit www.centerforautism.com or call (855) 345-2273.

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