

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO SUPPORT A STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF CARE FOR IOWA CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

- 1. Applied Behavior Analysis:** Ensure that all early intervention programs for children with ASD have the expertise to provide intensive ABA intervention for those children who need it. Provide training and clinical consultation to ensure that ABA services are available statewide regardless of geographic location.
- 2. Intensive Early Intervention:** Provide intensive early intervention to build critical skills through community-based daily programming (in schools or other settings) using evidence-based ABA methods combined with developmentally appropriate activities and structured teaching and visual supports.
- 3. Social Skills Training:** All children with ASD should be provided with evidence-based social skills interventions that include peer-mediated inclusion activities and are available through schools and/or community providers.
- 4. Coordinated Partnerships:** Establish a coordinated system of regional autism partners (including Child Health Specialty Clinics, Area Education Agencies, community service providers, and cross-county coalitions for MHDS services), with support for training, technical assistance, and quality monitoring from the University of Iowa Children's Hospital Autism Center.
- 5. Blended Funding:** For funding of services, adopt a 'money follows the person' concept for early intensive behavioral interventions for ASD. This would provide options for families through blending of funding components from the educational system and the health care system.
- 6. Waiver Eligibility:** Individuals with ASD should be eligible for HCBS Waiver services through a broader Developmental Disabilities waiver that includes intellectual disabilities, autism, and other serious developmental disabilities.
- 7. Care Coordination:** Implement a care coordination model based on 'health homes' that are linked to a statewide network (e.g., CHSC).
- 8. Autism Insurance Reform:** Expand current Iowa law to apply to all insurance policies and ensure coverage for applied behavior analysis (ABA) and social skills interventions.
- 9. Telehealth Coverage:** Expand coverage by primary Iowa insurers (including Wellmark and Medicaid) to include behavioral telehealth services when provided by psychologists and behavior analysts.
- 10. Crisis Prevention:** Implement a crisis prevention strategy with leadership from state agencies and facilities (including the DHS I-PART program and the University of Iowa).
- 11. Transition to Adult Services:** Expand services to support the transition to adulthood and the provision of services to adults with autism spectrum disorders.

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