



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
DEPARTMENT FOR MEDICAID SERVICES**

Steven L. Beshear
Governor

275 East Main Street, 6W-A
P: (502) 564-4321
F: (502) 564-0509
Frankfort, KY 40621
www.chfs.ky.gov

Audrey Tayse Haynes
Secretary

Lawrence Kissner
Commissioner

September 25, 2014

To: Community Mental Health Centers (30) Provider Letter # A-98

Re: **Michelle P Waiver Waiting List Service Options**

Dear Community Mental Health (CMHC) Provider:

With an increase in Michelle P Waiver (MPW) Members on a waiting list, the Department for Medicaid Services (DMS) would like to remind CMHCs of the service options that are still available to these members. Effective January 1, 2014 many services were added to the Kentucky Medicaid State Plan through authority provided in the Affordable Care Act. Many of the services were previously unavailable to the general Medicaid population.

While on the Michelle P waiver waiting list, the Department for Medicaid Services (DMS) wants to let you know about other services you may wish to explore. In addition to **Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)**, **Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment Services (EPSDT)** for children under the age of 21, and **Supports for Community Living (SCL)** for members over the age of 18, the following paragraphs provide information regarding services that are now available for individuals who may not qualify for Medicaid.

Kentucky House Bill 159, passed in 2010, requires health insurance to cover services for children with autism spectrum disorders up to the following amounts: \$1,000 per month for children ages 1-21 covered by individual and small group insurance plans; large group plans cover \$50,000 annually up to age seven and \$1,000 per month from ages 7-21. Covered services include medical, pharmacy, habilitative or rehabilitative, psychiatric, psychological, therapeutic, and applied behavior analysis (ABA) care.

With the passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) came a new program: the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan—to make health coverage available to people with pre-existing conditions. It provides a health coverage option for people who have been without health coverage for at least 6 months and have a pre-existing condition or have been denied coverage because of their condition. As of 2014, the law prohibits insurance companies from refusing to sell coverage or renew policies because of a pre-existing condition such as autism.

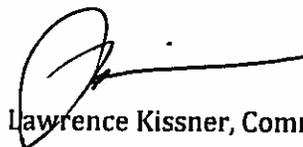
Health insurance plans are now required to allow parents to keep their children under age 26 without job-based coverage on their family coverage. Young adults with autism/ASD can experience longer continuity of care through their parents' plans.



House Bill 5 was passed to ensure private insurance companies provide parity in their coverage of behavioral and medical services. If individuals have trouble accessing these services through their insurance company, they should be encouraged to call the Department of insurance at 502-564-6034.

For help with enrolling clients in private insurance or a Medicaid Managed Care Organization, visit <https://kyenroll.ky.gov/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lawrence Kissner', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Lawrence Kissner, Commissioner

LK/LH/lc