



MASSACHUSETTS ADVOCATES *for* CHILDREN

Training Workshop for the Massachusetts Autism Omnibus Law

This workshop will address the major components of the new Autism Omnibus Law which significantly expands services and opportunities for children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families.

The workshop will focus on the six major components of the new autism law, emphasizing practical steps and strategies to help ensure that individuals with ASD and their families can effectively access new services and opportunities.

- **Mass Health coverage of medically necessary treatments for low-income children with ASD** who are under 21 years old – including ABA therapies as well as Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) devices, including tablets, such as iPads.
- **Expanded eligibility criteria for the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to include adults (22 and older)** with ASD, Prader-Willi, and Smith-Magenis syndrome.
- **Creation of tax-free saving accounts** (called “Achieving a Better Life Experience” or ABLE) to help families cover anticipated disability-related expenses for individuals with autism and other physical and developmental disabilities.
- **New Autism Endorsement for special education teachers** to gain in-depth knowledge about the complexities of educating students with ASD.
- **Requirement for the Department of Mental Health and Department of Developmental Services to develop and implement a plan** to provide services to individuals who have both a mental illness and developmental disabilities.
- **Establishment of the Autism Commission as a permanent entity.**

AUDIENCE AND TRAINING OBJECTIVES

This presentation is intended for parents and for professionals working with children on the autism spectrum who would like to have a better understanding of this new law and how it can benefit families.

PRESENTERS

One of the following MAC Autism Center staff will be available to lead the workshop:

Julia K. Landau, Esq.
Director

Catherine Mayes
Autism Project Advocate

Leslie Hughes
Autism Public Education Specialist

Johanne Pino
Project Coordinator

AUDIO-VISUAL NEEDS

PowerPoint Projector/screen/laptop

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