



beacon
health options

Autism Spectrum Disorder Services

Review of State Plan Autism Services

July 8, 2016

Where We Started

- In July 2014, CMS issued a bulletin that requires States to cover various Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) services for Medicaid beneficiaries under age 21.
- The CT Behavioral Health Partnership (CTBHP) is a partnership among:
 - Department of Social Services (DSS),
 - Department of Children and Families (DCF),
 - Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)
 - Beacon Health Options, the Administrative Service Organization (ASO)
- In addition, we've worked closely with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) on the implementation of this mandate to be ready for January 1, 2015.

Connecticut Plan to cover ASD Services

- Two main components:
 1. Coverage of behavioral treatment services (Medicaid State Plan services performed by providers) such as Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA)
 - Available to Medicaid-eligible children and youth under the age of 21
 - May not duplicate services through the school (but may supplement those services to the extent medically necessary)
 - Includes evaluation, assessment, and development of plan of care
 2. Peer Specialist and Care Coordinator services (Medicaid administrative services performed by the ASO)
 - Available to individuals of any age with ASD and their families
 - May be utilized to guide families through the process of accessing Autism services and other community services such as therapeutic recreation, social skills groups or other referrals

Beacon Health Options ASD Services Team

- The Beacon Health Options ASD Team consists of:
 - One Program Director
 - 3 Care Managers
 - 3 Peer Specialists
 - 4 Care Coordinators
 - One Customer Service staff member
- Phone system offers direct access to a Beacon Health Options ASD team member.
- Dedicated fax securely sends information and documents directly to the team.

CHILDREN, YOUTH UNDER THE AGE OF 21 & FAMILIES

Who Is Eligible?

For behavioral treatment services-

- Individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Diagnosis
 - Pervasive Developmental Disorder, Not Otherwise Specified (NOS)
 - Asperger's Syndrome
 - Autism
- Members should be in the care of a Physician (PCP) /Pediatrician who supports the ASD diagnosis and coordinates services to address other health conditions, including co-occurring medical and behavioral conditions
- Medicaid (HUSKY A, C, and D) members under the age of 21 with an ASD diagnosis are eligible for ASD evaluation, behavior assessment and treatment services
- HUSKY B members are not eligible at this time

Who Is Eligible?

For Peer Specialist or Care Coordinator services-

- Individuals of any age with an ASD diagnosis.

These services:

- guide families through the process of accessing Autism services
- provide information about other community services such as therapeutic recreation, social skills groups, or other referrals
- assist members in navigating the system

AUTISM SERVICES

What Is Covered?

- Behavioral Treatment Services:



**Prior authorizations (PA)
for all services are
accessed by phone.**

How We Communicated What Was Newly Available



5 Community Meetings

Parent Supports Groups

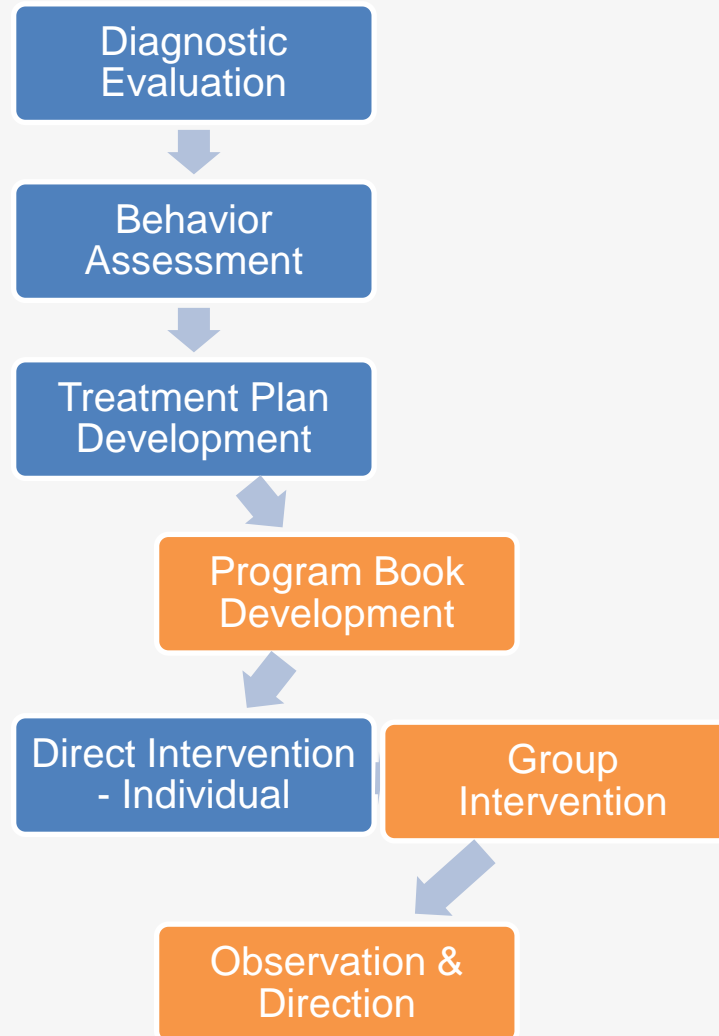
Special Education
PTAs

DCF & DDS
Regional Staff

Advisory & Oversight
Committees

New Autism Services

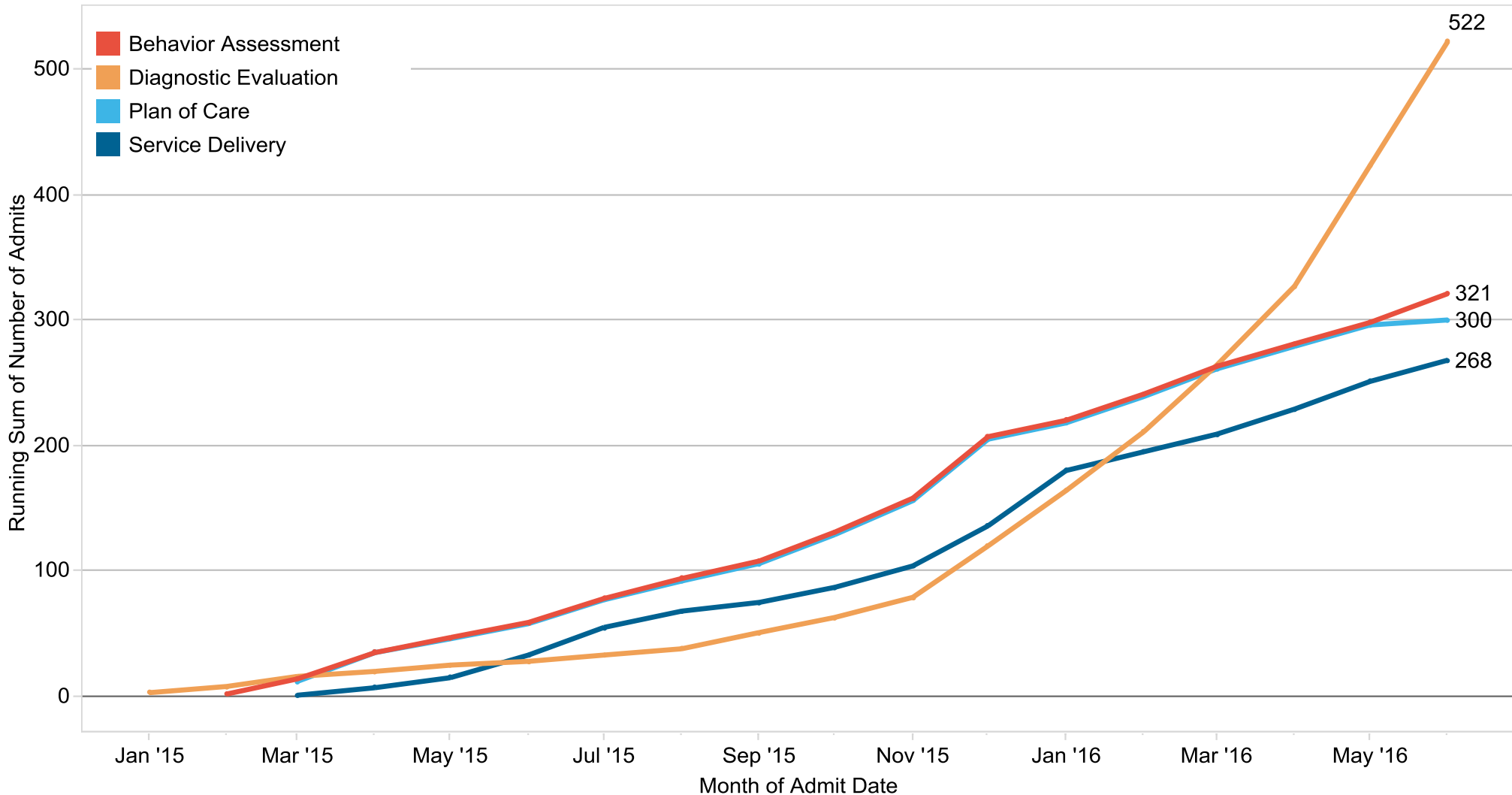
- Behavioral Treatment Services including:



Services highlighted in orange proposed to be added effective 7/1/16 or in the near future

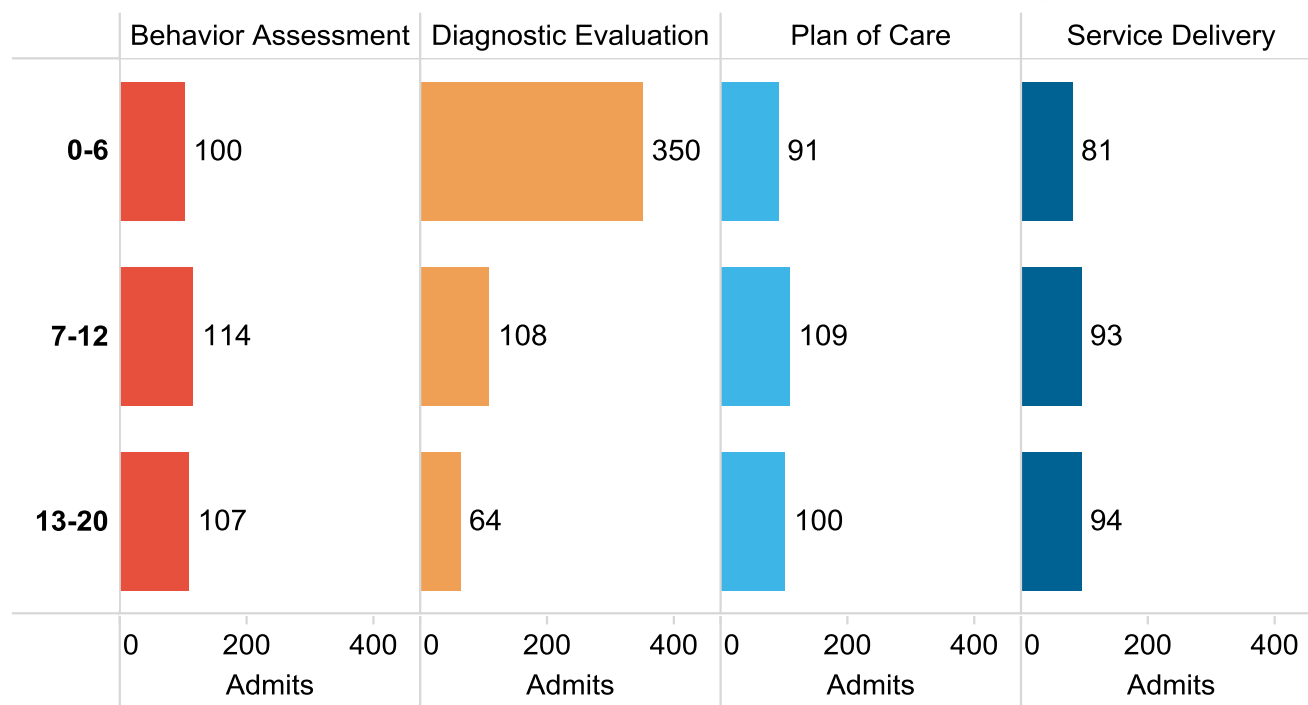
Autism Disorder Services Monthly Admits/Authorization Volume by Service Class

Cumulative Monthly Admits/Authorizations to Autism Spectrum Disorder Services

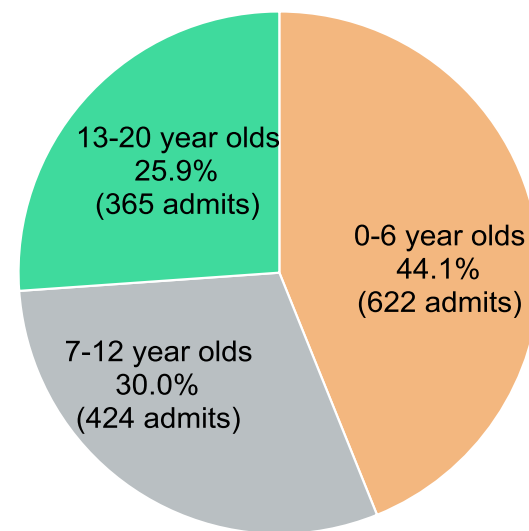


Autism Disorder Services Admits/Authorization Volume by Age

Total Admits/Authorizations by ASD Service Type and Age Group



Total Admits/Authorizations Obtained for Each Age Group (All Service Classes)



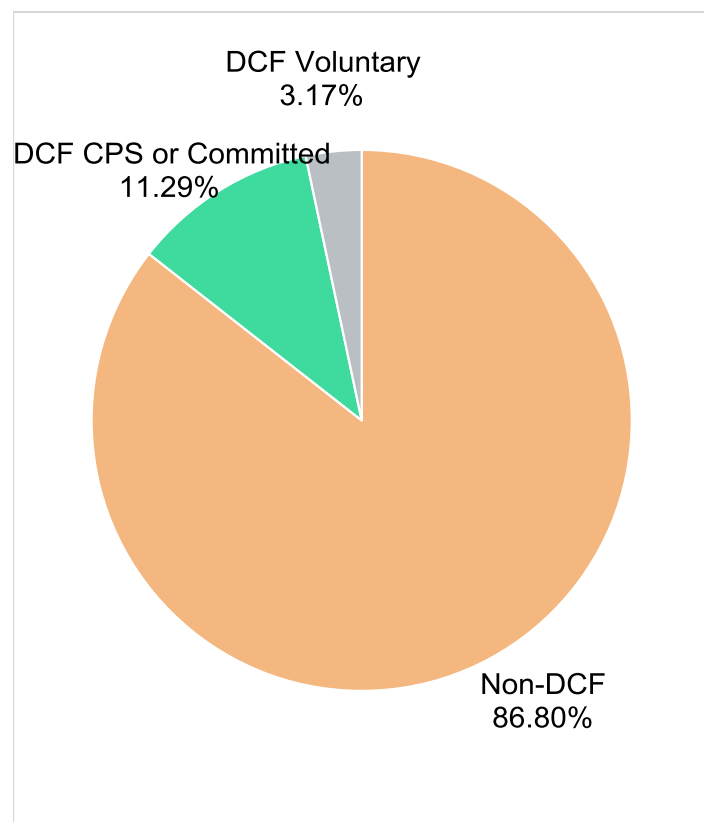
429 youth
were ages 0-6 at
admission.

205 youth
were ages 7-12 at
admission.

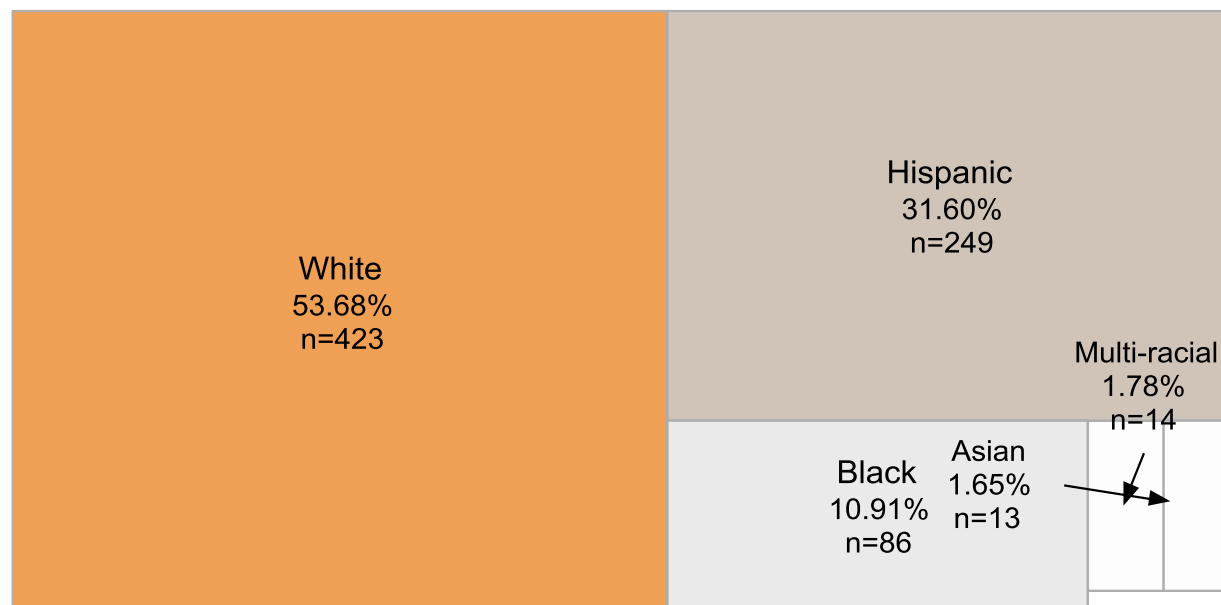
160 youth
were ages 13-20 at
admission.

Autism Disorder Service Admits/Authorization Volume by Race & DCF Status

Percent Unique Youth Authorized for Services by DCF Status**



Total Unique Youth Authorized for ASD Services by Race/Ethnicity



Total Unique Youth Authorized for Services by DCF Status and Region**

	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Total Youth
DCF Voluntary		3	6	5	6	5	89
DCF CPS or Committed	1	5	17	33	14	19	25
Non-DCF	47	96	98	151	139	155	684
Total Youth	48	104	115	187	159	177	788

PROVIDERS

Autism Disorder Services Provider Enrollment

67

individual providers have enrolled in Medicaid to provide ASD services.

42

unique practices (individuals or groups) have enrolled in Medicaid to provide ASD services.

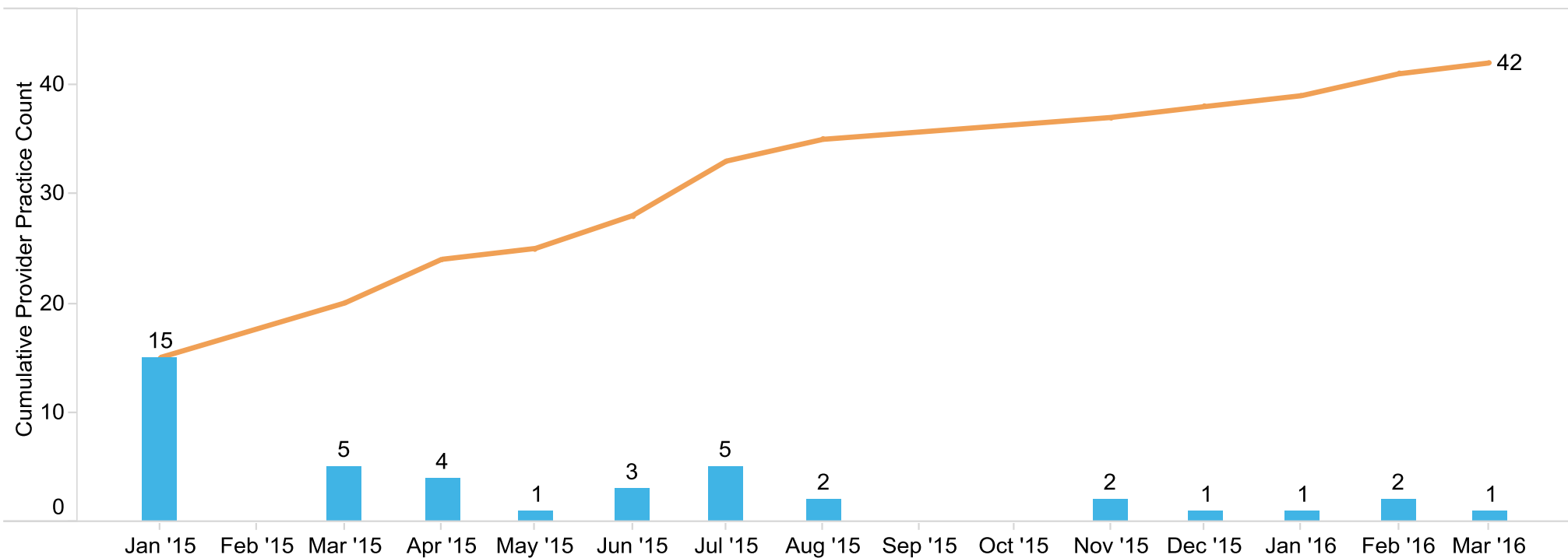
39

providers are able to provide ASD treatment services.

Cumulative ASD Practice Enrollment

Note: A practice may include multiple individual practitioners or be a single individual

--- Running Total Monthly Additions



Provider Network

- Beacon Health Options has also been working hard to develop and expand the provider network
- As this is a new Medicaid service, it is anticipated that the overall provider system will continue to grow:
 - Providers continue to join the Medicaid network.
 - Providers are enrolling to offer a continuum of services from the diagnostic assessment to direct intervention.
 - Beacon Health Options is identifying and reaching out to potential providers to develop the network and facilitate referrals.

Strategies to Increase ASD Network Adequacy

- Survey the Medicaid Provider Network
- Regularly check-in with the Autism Advisory Council
- Continue to reach out to Early Intervention/Birth to Three Providers
- Attend Regional Applied Behavioral Association (ABA) Conferences (Massachusetts-May 6th/New York Oct. 26th/27th)
- Review the DCF Autism Services Provider List
- Distribute job postings and opportunities through MA ABA, CT ABA and ASD Provider Networks
- Connect with University of St. Joseph's, Sacred Heart, Fairfield, UCONN, Quinnipiac and other schools to link Human Services undergrad/grad students with behavioral technician opportunities

Strategies to Increase ASD Network Adequacy

Monthly Provider Learning Collaborative Meetings

- Transition & Discharge planning
- Reduction of direct service hours over time
- Crisis planning & parent training goals
- Managing caseloads & waitlists
- Critical features of a Plan of Care & documentation
- Billing Procedures for CT BHP ASD Providers
- Completing a Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) in 8 - 10 hours
- Parent Training, Family Engagement & Buy-in to a Treatment Plan
- Authorization & Review Process
- BCBA Observation & Direction Overview

ASD STAFF

Peer Specialists & Care Coordinators

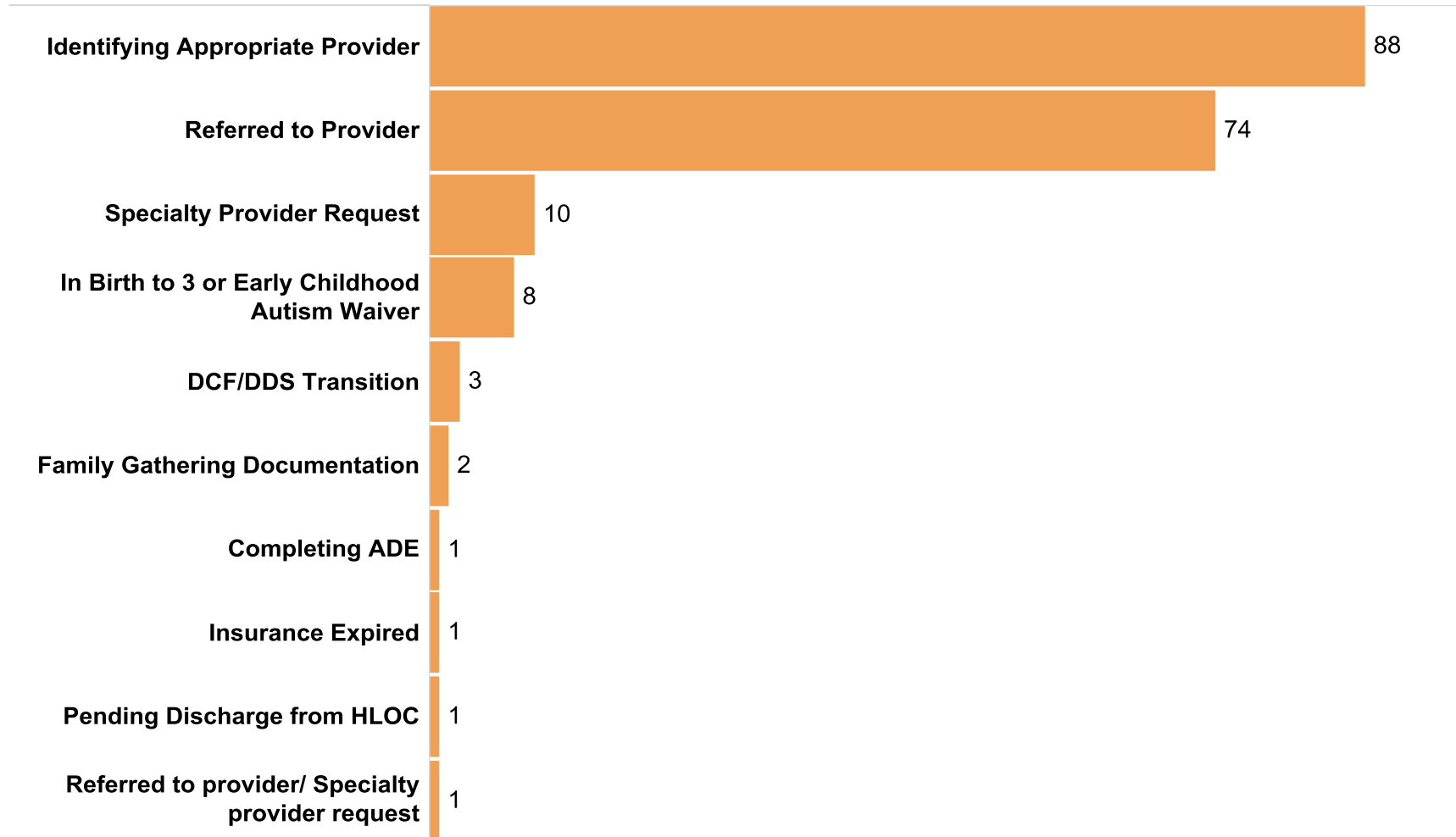
- Contact families within 24 hours of referral
- Home or community visits within 72 hours of initial contact
- Connect youth, families and adults with resources in their communities
- Develop and maintain relationships with those agencies who provide community services
- Attend regional Community Collaboratives, DCF and DDS Meetings
- Develop and maintain a resource list and familiarity with appropriate services for potential member referrals

Peers Specialists & Care Coordinators

- Connecting families to:
 - Housing and food assistance
 - Assistance with utility bills
 - Parent Supports
 - Educational Advocates
 - Information on DSS or DCF Voluntary Services Programs
 - Pet therapy
 - Occupational Therapy, Speech and Physical Therapy
 - Social skills groups and play groups
 - Dental care
 - Tickets for autism-friendly events
 - Help with scheduling appointments
 - Transition Services

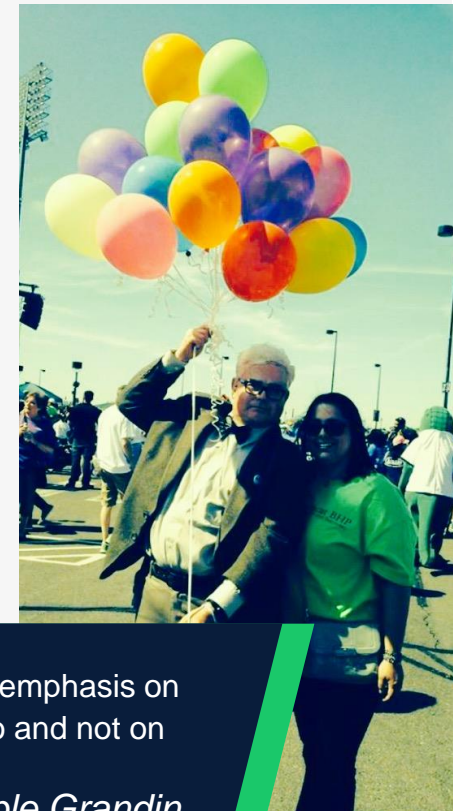
Beacon Peer and Care-Coordination Activities

Current Peer and Care-Coordination Activities
Total Count of Youth by Reason



What Else We've Done

- Autism Speaks Walks
- Special Education Parent Teacher Association (SEPTA) Events
- School Resource Fairs
- Stand Down Event at Department of Veterans Affairs
- Connecticut Autism Action Coalition (CAAC)
- Autism Services & Resources Connecticut (ASRC)
- Autism Awareness Day April 2



“There needs to be a lot more emphasis on what a child with autism can do and not on what he can't do”

-Temple Grandin

Transitioning From DDS to DSS

- As required by revisions to state law recently adopted by the General Assembly in Public Act 16-3 of the May 2016 special session, DDS Autism Division staff will become DSS Autism Services staff as of 7/1/2016. These staff include a Program Manager, 2 Resource Specialists, a Case Manager Supervisor, 3 Case Managers and an Administrative Assistant.
- The DDS staff will physically remain at DDS and use the DDS case management software system for the time being.
- Resource specialist and case managers will remain the same and contact information will remain the same for the time being.
- Letters have gone out to all families, individuals and providers explaining the changes and how these changes will impact them.

Transitioning From DDS to DSS (continued)

- For those individuals on a waiver under the age of 21 and receiving waiver services that are identical to services covered under the Medicaid State Plan, such as clinical behavioral supports and direct behavioral intervention, those services will transition to state plan services under Beacon Health Options.
- These individuals on a waiver will still be able to access other non-duplicated waiver services for which they are determined eligible.
- For all individuals on the waiver over the age of 18, there will be no change in their services.

How to Access Services

- **CT Behavioral Health Partnership:**
 - Phone: 1-877-552-8247 Fax: 1-855-901-2493
- **Websites:**
 - CT Behavioral Health Partnership: www.ctbhp.com
 - Department of Developmental Services: <http://www.ct.gov/dds>
 - Department of Social Services: <http://www.ct.gov/dss>
 - Department of Children & Families: <http://www.ct.gov/dcf>
 - Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services:
<http://www.ct.gov/dmhas>

Questions?

Thank you