

Act 62 Service Denials and Issues

On January 19 representatives from the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS), Office of Medical Assistance Programs (OMAP), and the Pennsylvania Health Law Project (HLP) met with members to review and discuss the *Autism Insurance Act* and related issues and challenges. There continue to be significant issues and questions regarding claim denials, credentialing, and contracting delays. Programs are again encouraged to direct their issues and enquiries to:

- OMHSAS, by email to Sherry Peters (shepeters@state.pa.us) and the
- Pennsylvania Insurance Department, by email to Cindy Fillman (cfillman@state.pa.us). Please also copy Connell O'Brien (connell@paproviders.org).

OMHSAS plans to launch its provider-focused online tracking survey in February. The state is working to track service denial and coverage exhaustion trends as well as trends related to diagnosis and procedures. Efforts are underway to have the state eligibility verification system (EVS) include information directly related to Act 62 insurance coverage.

The Health Law Project reports that the actions of private insurance companies seem to be generating increased barriers to service access and service payment beyond the Medicaid coverage system. HLP has begun the process of exploring legal action on behalf of consumers. Families are encouraged to appeal denials and the HLP is available to provide free representation. Families can contact David Gates at the HLP by email at dgates@phlp.org.

Watch for Office of Medical Assistance Programs information on Third Party Liability for Act 62 to be available on the PCPA web site next week. An Act 62 *Alert* will let you know when and where it will be posted.