



Improving Access for Autism in Georgia

*Incorporating Services into Georgia's Part C of
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Program - Babies Can't Wait (BCW)*

Presentation to: Autism Conference & Expo of Georgia 2018

Presented by: Synita Griswell, MPH

Date: May 16, 2018



We Protect Lives.

Overview of Autism Plan in Early Intervention

1. Implement Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) screening
 - Pediatricians will remain primary medical home for children
 - Public health will function as the safety net

Overview of Autism Plan in Early Intervention

2. Provide Adaptive Behavior Services (ABS) through Babies Can't Wait (BCW)

- Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) will be hired as contractors
- Additionally, BCBA's will participate in Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) team meetings, and oversee ABS provided in child's natural environment

Early Identification and Screening

Implementation of Autism Screening: Beginning May 2018

- BCW Service Coordinators and Children 1st Coordinators will be trained on the Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers-Revised/Follow-up (MCHAT-R/F) screening tool
- If a child screens positive, the primary medical doctor should be notified and family referred to a clinician able to make a diagnosis
- ✓ The State has trained a network of psychologists on conducting diagnostic evaluations using the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule, Second Edition (ADOS-2)

Early Behavioral Intervention

Provide ABS through BCW

- BCBA's will contract directly with State
- BCBA's can choose to supervise one or more registered behavioral technician (RBT) who provides service in the child's natural environment

Questions?



"A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."

-Winston Churchill

Synita Griswell, MPH

Program Manager, Autism & Developmental Disabilities

Georgia Department of Public Health

Phone: (404) 232-1630

Email: Synita.Griswell@dph.ga.gov

THANK YOU!

We Protect Lives.