

**Testimony of Betsy Mahoney, Esq., Community Outreach Liaison, Autism Society of Maine, in Support of LD 415, Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services To Increase MaineCare Reimbursement Rates for Targeted Case Management Services To Reflect Inflation**



72B Main Street  
Winthrop, ME 04364  
[www.asmonline.org](http://www.asmonline.org)  
1-800-273-5200 or 377-9603  
Fax 207-377-9434

Good afternoon, Senator Claxton, Rep. Meyer, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Betsy Mahoney and I am the community outreach liaison for The Autism Society of Maine. My 30-year-old son has autism spectrum disorder, developmental disabilities and receives case management services under MaineCare.

The Autism Society fully supports LD 415, which requires an increase in reimbursement rates for targeted case management services. Targeted case management services are essential if children and adults with disabilities who qualify for services are going to receive them. They are overdue for a reimbursement increase because the reimbursement rate for these services hasn't been adjusted since 2009. Let me explain why targeted case management is so important to MaineCare enrollees with autism and developmental disabilities.

**Who is eligible for targeted case management services?**

Children receiving MaineCare with behavioral health disorders, developmental disabilities, and/or chronic medical conditions; and adults with developmental disabilities, substance abuse and/or HIV.

**What do targeted case managers do?**

Assess eligible MaineCare members' service needs; assist in developing an Individual Plan of Care including goals and actions to address medical, social, educational services; and refer MaineCare members to needed services. MaineCare members who receive benefits under one of the waiver programs must have a case manager.

**Does a MaineCare member need to receive services under one of the MaineCare waiver programs in order to qualify for targeted case management services?**

No. However, targeted case management services are critically important for families on the waiting list for Section 29 services because they are an essential connection to essential support services. A MaineCare member with disabilities is able to receive some services while they are on the waiting list, such as adult ed, therapeutic riding, medical visits, and services from Disability Rights Maine but they need a case manager to inform them about those services. Without a case manager, families on the waitlist often have no idea of what services are available.

**When was the last time the reimbursement rate for targeted case management services was adjusted?**

In 2009. The hourly reimbursement rate, which is a little more than \$100/hr., has to cover not only the case manager's pay, but also the supervisor's pay, mileage, training costs and agency overhead.

**Who provides targeted case management services?**

Community case managers are employed by private case management agencies such as Woodfords Family Services, which is where my son's case manager works. They are social services workers, health professionals, and other qualified staff who must meet DHHS requirements.

Case management agencies have to be approved by DHHS, meet DHHS requirements, and execute a MaineCare Provider Agreement, which includes limits on the number of clients each manager servers. The State used to provide these services but discontinued them in 2017, which increased the caseload for case managers services offered by private agencies.

These case managers currently provide services to more than 1,200 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

72B Main Street, Winthrop, ME 04364 Phone: 207.377.9603 or 1.800.273.5200 Fax: 207.377.9434

Email: [asm@asmonline.org](mailto:asm@asmonline.org)

Web: [www.asmonline.org](http://www.asmonline.org)