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AUTISM SOCIETY

Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism

Colorado



COCAP

Colorado Coalition of Autism Professionals

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May 17, 2010

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Via Certified First Class U.S. Mail

Re: Health Insurance Mandated Autism Treatment

Dear Colorado Group Health Plans,

On behalf of the autism community, the Autism Society of Colorado and the Colorado Coalition of Autism Professionals are writing in the continuing spirit of collaboration and cooperation. It has been our desire to work collaboratively with the Colorado Group Health Plans that are subject to C.R.S. 10-16-104(1.4), now referred to as HIMAT, Health Insurance Mandated Autism Treatment.

We hosted a meeting on March 17, 2010, through invitation extended by the Colorado Association of Health Plans. We thank the health plans and service providers that attended that meeting.

As we worked through the meeting agenda, it was apparent that many of the matters raised by HIMAT require careful consideration. Although we did not reach many decisions at that first meeting, we did identify matters for continued discussion and determination, including, for example, authorization and billing procedures, diagnosis preferences, documentation requirements, standards of care and qualifications of providers.

Accordingly, we are disappointed that our invitation to have another meeting was not accepted. *We are again extending an invitation to have further dialogue and collaboration.* If you would like to discuss any of the matters presented by HIMAT or Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in general,

please contact the undersigned. We would be pleased to speak with you individually or in another group setting.

We would also like to reiterate our request for information regarding both your procedural requirements and substantive policies related to HIMAT and ASDs. We hope that you will proactively provide full information to the undersigned and to insureds and providers as soon as possible. As you well understand, information such as pre-authorization requirements, documentation requirements, billing codes and substantive policies developed in accordance with HIMAT have a significant impact on the efficiency and availability of coverage. While we do not know all of the formal requirements you must comply with, we do understand that pursuant to both Sections 6 and 7 of Amended Regulation 4-2-17 (Prompt Investigation of Health Plan Claims Involving Utilization Review and Denial of Benefits), this information must be provided at certain points during the review process. *It is our hope that you will share all relevant information with affected insureds and providers proactively, sufficiently in advance of July 1, 2010.*

It is mutually beneficial to communicate regarding the many matters raised by implementation of HIMAT. We hope to continue to work collaboratively with you on HIMAT and on an ongoing basis to provide health insurance coverage for the medical needs of the autism community.

Best Regards,



Jill Tappert, Esq. (inactive status)

Best Regards,



David Hatfield, Ph.D, BCBA-D, Licensed Clinical Psychology

cc:

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