

Testimony
Human Services Committee
Department of Human Services
Representative Alon Wieland, Chairman
July 31, 2012

Chairman Wieland, members of the Human Services Committee, I am Tina Bay, Director of the Developmental Disabilities Division for the Department of Human Services. I am here today to provide you information regarding the Medicaid Autism waiver.

The Autism waiver was approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for a period of three years (November 1, 2010 – October 31, 2013). The waiver has the capacity to annually serve 30 children ages birth through four years of age who have a confirmed diagnosis on the Autism spectrum.

The following services are available to a child enrolled in the waiver: intervention coordination that supports families through coaching and problem solving to implement strategies within daily routines, in-home supports, which offer the family a staff person in their home to assist in the consistent implementation of evidence-based interventions; equipment and supplies, and environmental modifications.

In the first year of the waiver, November 1, 2010 – October 31, 2011, 16 children were enrolled in the autism waiver and received at least one of the services listed above.

Currently, we are in the second year of the waiver, and 19 children are enrolled. Children may receive multiple services based upon their needs.

Twelve of the 19 children have been authorized for in-home supports, seven authorized for equipment and supplies, and 17 of the children are authorized for intervention coordination.

For the 2011–2013, biennium, the budgeted amount for the Autism waiver is \$1,860,324. Actual expenditures are \$124,651. Although this is lower than we anticipated, the data indicates that the number of children receiving services has increased over the past three months along with the expenditures for these individuals.

This concludes my testimony, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.