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ABILITIES TOGETHER

Optimizing Service Delivery Options

Presented by: Carolyn Cheney
Director, Case Management Services

(207) 443-3341 • www.pinetreesociety.org

Pine Tree Society

- Celebrating 75 years of serving Maine people with disabilities and their families.
- Offering a full range of programs and services designed to help children and adults with disabilities lead richer, more socially connected lives.
- Programs include:
 - Day program for adults
 - Case management
 - Assistive Technology and Augmentative Communications services
 - Pine Tree Camp

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To Gain Access

- You must secure MaineCare or Katie Beckett.
- MaineCare is financial needs based
- Katie Beckett is medical needs based

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Establishing A System

- Organizing, keeping copies of documents
- Identifying what you need
- Track Patterns
- Top priority for services is related to “Health and Safety Concerns”

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Building Your Team

Key Players for your Team are:

- Case Manager
- Medical Provider/Specialists
- Therapists
- Special Education Providers

Know your team well; have their contact information handy, make notes from meetings, ask questions and expect follow through on goals.

Develop Your Knowledge Base

Research, Research, Research

- Seek information on-line
- Talk with other parents
- Get involved with parent support groups
- Know the DHHS website and services offered under MaineCare

Organize your resources and keep adding to them.

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Networking

- Identify and get to know key players in the system.
- Know your local legislators
- Make your correspondence about your child and their specific support needs
- Be clear and respectful in communication with the key players
- Keep copies of correspondence
- Get involved

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State Agencies

- Children's Services (Birth to 18 years of age)
Agency is CBHS "Children's Behavioral Health Services"
- Adult Services
Agency is OACPD "Office of Adults with Cognitive and Physical Disabilities"

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Children's Services

Eligibility

- Must have active MaineCare/Katie Beckett

Children's Behavioral Health Services

- Provides information and referrals for children to their 21st birthday with developmental disabilities/ delays, mental retardation, Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD)/ autism and mental health disorders.

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What MaineCare Covers

What services are covered?

- Doctors visits: Well checkups and sick care; specialist care, if necessary
Hospital care: inpatient outpatient emergency room
- Immunizations
- Prescriptions
- Surgery
- Laboratory & X-ray
- Dental care: Full coverage for children and limited coverage for adults
- Medical equipment and supplies
- School-based health centers Chiropractic treatment services
- Therapies: speech/language physical occupational
- Vision screening/eyeglasses
- Hearing test/hearing aids
- Ambulance
- Case management
- Mental health and substance abuse treatment
- Family planning services
- Prenatal care
- Transportation for medical appointments

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Who is Covered

Who is eligible for this insurance?

- Children and teens age 18 and under, and pregnant women who meet income guidelines. Assets are not counted.
- Parents living with their children and teens age 18 and under who meet income guidelines. Assets need to be under \$2,000.

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Katie Beckett

Katie Beckett is a MaineCare option for children with serious health conditions. It is one of the many ways your child can get MaineCare. If your child meets the rules for this option, your child can get MaineCare full benefits. These are the same benefits that other children get. To get coverage through the MaineCare Katie Beckett option:

- You must fill out a MaineCare application;
- Your child must be 18 or younger; and
- Your child must meet financial and medical rules.
- There are two steps to meet the financial rules:
- First we decide if your child can get MaineCare benefits based on your family's income and assets. If the answer is yes, your child will get MaineCare full benefits.

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Katie Beckett

If your child cannot get MaineCare based on your family's income and assets, we then see if your child:

- has his or her own monthly income of under \$1656 and assets of \$2000 or less; and
- meets the two medical rules for the MaineCare Katie Beckett option.

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More Katie Beckett Info.

These are the two medical rules:

- Your child must meet the Social Security rules for disability. This means your child must have a physical or mental disability that will last at least twelve months. This disability must be serious enough that your child is not able to do what other children of the same age can do.

To make sure your child meets this rule, DHHS staff will ask you for information about your child. We will need your permission to see your child's medical records.

- Your child is:
 - a. not living in a hospital or nursing home, psychiatric hospital, or nursing home for children with mental retardation, but needs the level of care they give; or
 - b. living in one of these places, is being discharged and continues to need the level of care they give.

Questions: call DHHS at 1-800-321-5557 or 287-3931. If you are deaf or hard of hearing call the TDD/TTY line at 1-800- 423-4331.

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Katie Beckett Continued

How do I apply?

- Fill out a MaineCare application. Be sure to note on it that your child is disabled.
- Return it in person or by mail to the DHHS office closest to your home. The addresses are on the back.
- It takes time to get all of the information MaineCare needs. You may not hear from us right away, but we will make our decision as fast as we can.

What happens after I apply?

- We decide if your child meets the financial rule and the two medical rules;
- We send you a letter with our decision;
- We will review your child's financial and medical eligibility each year.
- If you disagree with our decision, you may ask for a hearing. The letter we send you with our decision will tell you how you can appeal the decision if you do not agree with it.

Now that I have MaineCare/Katie Beckett How Do I Start Services

Select a case management agency

- Case management agency can determine eligibility
- They will complete the process of registration with APS Care Connections
- They will develop a plan of care and
- Link to and coordinate available services

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Who is eligible for children's case management

- Eligibility for case management services for children birth to 5 is determined by evidence of developmental delays or risk of delays. A specific diagnosis of Intellectual Disability (Mental Retardation), (Full Scale IQ below 70), Autism Spectrum Disorder or a Mental Health Diagnosis is required for school age children ages 6-20.
- Contact for services can be made directly to an agency.

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Who is Who at CBHS

- Rachael Posner-Regional Supervisor
- Bob Barton-Supervisor
- Lisa Salger-Section 28 referrals

- Contact number is 822-2000

- Located at 161 Marginal Way in Portland

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Available Services for Children

- Section 28
- Section 65
- Wrap Around (Team Planning Process)
- Flex Funds
- Respite Funds
- Consultation Services
(Behavioral/Communication)
- Therapeutic Rec. Funding

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Section 28 Services

- Treatment Services for Children With Cognitive Impairments And Functional Limitations are medically necessary treatment services for members under the age of twenty one (21). Treatment services are designed to retain or improve functional abilities which have been negatively impacted by the effects of cognitive or functional impairment and are focused on behavior modification and management, social development, and acquisition and retention of developmentally appropriate skills. Services include problem solving activities in order to help the member develop and maintain skills and abilities necessary to manage his or her behavioral health treatment needs, learning the social skills and behaviors necessary to live with and interact with other community members and independently, and to build or maintain satisfactory relationships with peers or adults.

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Section 65 Services

- Child & Family Behavioral Health Treatment Services
 - This is an intensive service for children and their families. This service has a community and home based setting and is delivered with active parent involvement. It's goal is to help how the child and their family understand their mental health needs, change the way they react to each others behaviors for more positive results and improve how effectively they work together in identifying their challenges and strengths , as well as, their own natural and community supports.

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Wrap Around Services

- Wraparound Maine is a statewide initiative to deliver a team-based, collaborative process for developing and implementing individualized care plans for children with behavioral health challenges and their families.
- Through the wraparound process a team is built to surround a youth and family with customized services and supports. Wraparound Maine is overseen and supported by a statewide network of Community Boards. Active involvement of Special Education Administrators on each local board and routine participation of school personnel on Wraparound Teams offer an important opportunity to improve educational outcomes at the student and systems levels.

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Flex Funding

- The flexible funds are designed to provide flexible short term; time limited support to fill gaps in services that cannot be addressed through any other funding source. The funds may be a one time purchase or may help the child/youth transition to a more stable service or funding source. These services are part of the child's service or treatment plan due to evidence of a demonstrated need.
- Requests are to be completely filled out, legible, with a current ISP attached. We need as much information about the request as possible, so it is clear to the reader exactly how this request relates to the child's diagnosis/disability and what other funding sources have been attempted. The goals on the ISP should reflect the identified needs.

Respite Funds

Respite care offers temporary, planned relief from the responsibility of constant care giving. Respite care allows parents and caregivers the time to go shopping, take a walk, go to a school concert or ball game, attend a meeting or have a relaxing weekend.

Who is Eligible?

- A child from birth to age 18 (age 21 if still attending school) who has significant delays (6 months or greater) in two or more areas of development, or
- A child with a documented emotional or behavioral diagnosis,
- A child, age 0-5 who is considered "at-risk" and is receiving case management services.

Contact information for District 1 & 2

- Woodfords Family Services
- P.O. Box 1768, Portland Maine 04104
- 1-800-439-0314, www.woodfords.org
- Contact information for District 3, 4, & 5

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Consultation Services

- Behavioral Consultation
- Augmentative Communication
- OT Evaluations
- Neuro-Psychological Evaluations

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Therapeutic Recreation

The Therapeutic Recreation (TREC) funding program allows children with special needs the opportunity to interact with peers and their community in recreational activities that support the teaching of life-long skills. Woodfords assists families in applying for funding and also guides families through the process of finding therapeutic activities. This funding support is provided by the State of Maine's Children Behavioral Health Services (CBHS) and is administered by Woodfords Family Services.

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Children's Waiver

Newly accepted process and language is being written at this time. The purpose will be to serve children with significant behavioral challenges in more long-term residential placements.

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Adult Services

- Eligibility is determined by OACPD “Office of Adults with Cognitive and Physical Disabilities”
- Contact person is Millie Savage at 822-0270
- Once eligibility is determined an adult case manager can be selected by the family.

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Section 29 or “Support Waiver”

- Community Supports are available to assist you in being an active, healthy community member. They can also help you on your path to employment.
- Community supports are capped at 1,300 hours per year or 22.5 hours per week.
- There is currently a waitlist for Section 29

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Employment Supports

- Employment support is available to you after you work with BVR.
- You need to work with your case manager and BVR to determine how much support you need
- Employment supports are capped at 300 hours per year

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Section 21 “Comprehensive Waiver”

- This is a comprehensive waiver and provides residential services and supports in an effort to “manage health and safety” for consumers who are in critical need i.e. homeless, risk to themselves or others, guardians who can no longer provide for their care, etc.
- Your case manager and state providers will assist in making this determination.

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Respite Services

If you live at home and your family needs to go away or you need to get away and you need someone to be with you, then money can be given to you to pay for someone to help. The amount of money depends on how much help you need, how long you need it and how much money the program has. Respite Services are capped at \$1,000 per year.

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Questions?

Carolyn Cheney, Director
Case Management Services

A program of Pine Tree Society

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Thank you!

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