



June 14, 2012

RE: Questions and Issues on the Implementation of the Autism Insurance Reform Act

Dear Robert:

In an effort to promote awareness of the Autism Insurance Reform Act (SB946) which mandates responsibility for private insurance carriers in California to provide coverage for autism-specific behavioral health treatment, the Autism Community Team (ACT) presented Town Hall meetings in Solano County and Sonoma County on 5/21/12 and 5/24/12, respectively. Both Town Hall meetings provided a forum to initiate discussion and identify questions and comments that ACT would forward to decision-makers in a number of agencies and organizations involved with the new mandate. The Town Hall meeting in Solano County where 40 people attended was comprised mostly of parents. The Sonoma County Town Hall meeting, on the other hand, had 30 people in attendance and was comprised mostly of professionals.

The information gleaned from the Town Hall meetings is being sent to the Department of Managed Health Care, the Department of Insurance, the Department of Developmental Services, the Senate Select Committee on Autism and Related Disorders, the Association of Regional Center Agencies, the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Area IV Developmental Disabilities Board, and North Bay Regional Center. In addition, the information is being posted on the websites of the Family Resource Centers in our catchment area: Matrix in Sonoma and Solano counties; and ParentsCAN in Napa County.

Please see the attached material consisting of the following: agendas; presentation power points; resource information; and most importantly, a list of questions generated by the audience at the Town Hall meetings.

The list of questions might be further developed to produce a set of questions and answers for the public.

As a follow up to our continued efforts to promote awareness of the Autism Insurance Reform Act (SB946), ACT plans to hold another set of Town Hall meetings this Fall to inform the public of the progress made on the implementation of the law and the resolution of the questions and issues raised at the recent Town Hall meetings. We invite your participation at that time.

Should you have any questions regarding the aforementioned or need clarification with regards to the material being sent, please contact me at (707) 256-1111.

Sincerely,

Patrick

Patrick J. Maher, MD.
Developmental Pediatrician
ACT Executive Chairperson