

Testimony

Senate Medicaid Hearing, Nov. 17

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I'm here representing two groups, the Alliance for Pediatric Therapies and the Alliance of Florida PPECs. Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care centers are medical day treatment centers for medically complex children.

The medical professionals we represent don't treat low-income, unemployed or uninsured grownups. They treat children. Not just any children. Children with medical and developmental issues that require a lot of care. And that costs money.

HMOs traditionally deny or limit occupational, speech and physical therapy treatment to these kids. That's why the Legislature two years passed a law requiring large commercial plans to cover treatment for autism spectrum disorder. As you know, there is a continued effort to pass mandated coverage for children with other developmental disabilities.

A solution would be to allow these children to remain in MediPass. Where Medicaid HMOs limit therapy services and close their provider network doors to therapy providers, MediPass does not. MediPass offers children access to the doctor-prescribed therapies they need for full and healthy development.

MediPass and Children's Medical Services are generally the only ones that cover PPEC services as well. MediPass and Children's Medical Services are patient-centered and follow the medical home model. They have an any willing provider concept that is important to providing children access to medical professionals.

Second, we ask that you to recognize that transportation is a key component of PPEC care. The transporting of these children becomes much more difficult when you have multiple health plans with multiple transportation vendors. It's much more efficient when they are transported together.

Third, we want to make you aware of electronic billing issues. In the reform counties, there were some PSNs that were not equipped for electronic billing. Medical professionals had to wait several months to get paid, almost putting them out of business. As a solution, we ask that you require PSNs to have electronic billing. That was a component that was in the House bill last year, and we believe is an important element of making reform work.