



ATAM – The Autism Treatment Association of Minnesota

March 4, 2023

Autism providers need immediate financial relief to ensure that children and families have timely access to early intervention for autism (EIDBI).

They suffered a sudden deep drop in their workforce during the great resignation of the winter of 2021-2022, which persists today.

This resulted in a total financial loss of \$20 million to the group of providers, which they now carry as a debt which is difficult to repair, because all of their funding is paid by a Fee-for-Service.

Due to historically low reimbursement rates, the margin for each billable service too slight to repair that debt, while also attempting to recruit and retain new employees.

Support HF 1604/ SF 1765

This first bill will repair the providers' financial deficits, plugging the hole in the boat.

Please support HF 1604 and SF 1765, a bill that creates an emergency grant program for qualified early intensive development and behavioral intervention providers (EIDBI) for autism spectrum disorder.

Support HF 1626/ SF 1593

This second bill will then enable the providers to continue to operate with realistic funding rates, enabling them to sail the boat going forward.

Please support HF 1626 and SF 1593, a bill that creates a permanent increase in reimbursement rates established for qualified early intensive development and behavioral intervention providers (EIDBI) for autism spectrum disorder.

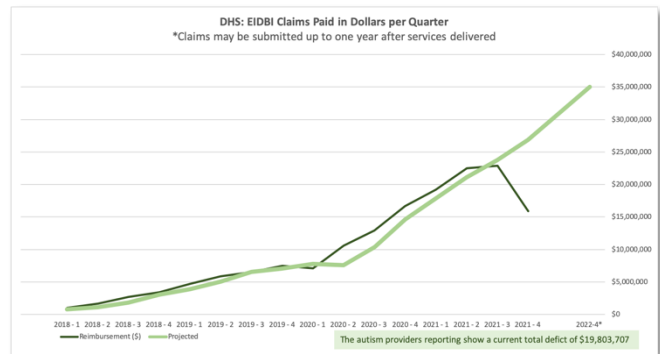
What happened to the Medical Assistance Reimbursement?

Minnesota DHS was reimbursing providers for EIDBI autism treatment services at the rate of \$23 million per quarter as of August of 2021.

By December of 2021, the total reimbursement for services had dropped by 30% to \$16 million.

The autism providers are now reporting a current total deficit of \$19,803,707.

Many are likely to close, under the weight of the resulting debt burden.



The families suffer.

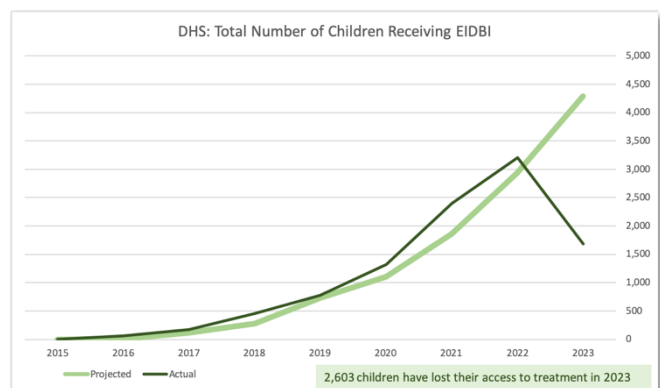
This hit our families hard.

2,603 children have lost access to EIDBI – a 60% drop in access to treatment.

These are families who are losing their chance for early intervention.

They have nowhere else to go for the treatment that their children need.

They are back on the waiting lists.



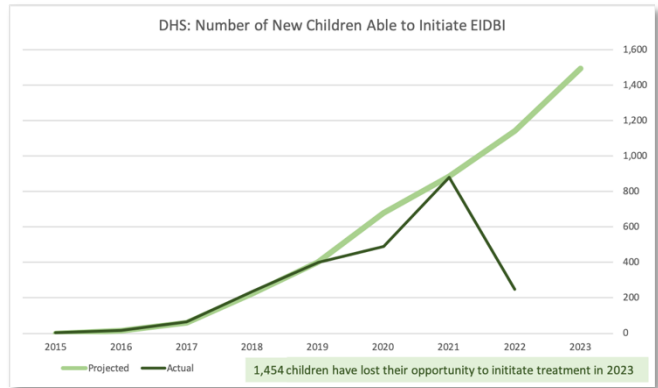
New children can’t even get services.

1,454 less new children are now initiating treatment – a 165% drop in new children beginning treatment.

EIDBI is Early Intensive Developmental Behavioral Intervention – A ground-breaking autism treatment program that was initiated by Governor Dayton in 2013.

EIDBI is designed to provide the mentoring and support that disadvantaged workers need to enter this workforce.

Yet the current Fee-For-Service reimbursement rates are inhibiting the providers’ ability to meet that promise.



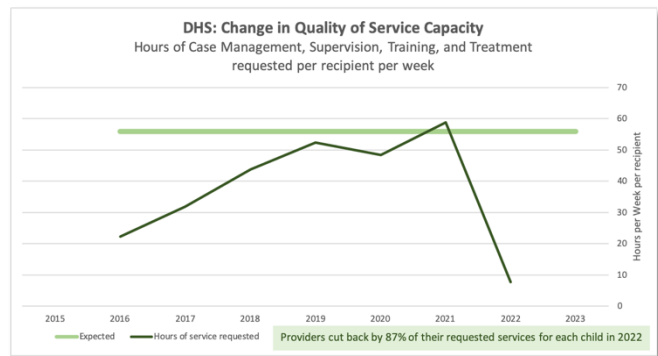
Existing children are losing their quality of services.

For those who are still being served the quality of treatment has substantially declined.

Providers are forced to deliver less services by less staff to each family.

A child who is receiving the full range of EIDBI services was receiving 56 hours of service per week prior to the current workforce crisis. In 2022, that number dropped to an average of only 9 hours per week given to all children still receiving services.

This is an 87% drop in quality of services across the board.



What is the overall need?

The University of Minnesota Autism Monitoring Program suggests that there are 40,567 total children with ASD in Minnesota.

There are currently 29,905 children under the age of 21 with an ASD diagnosis and on MA.

An additional 10,662 are covered by commercial insurance.