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Robert Moser, MD, Secretary  
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Sam Brownback, Governor

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Health Care Commission  
J. Scott Day  
Steve Dechant  
Sandy Praeger  
Nancy Ruoff  
Dennis Taylor

**FROM:** Mike Michael

**DATE:** May 30, 2012

**SUBJECT:** **Decision on Autism Pilot Program**

Section 1 of Senate Substitute for House Bill No. 2160 required the State Employee Health Plan (SEHP) to implement a pilot program providing coverage for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). ASD is defined by the bill as the following disorders within the autism spectrum: Autistic disorder, Asperger's Syndrome and pervasive developmental disorders not otherwise specified.

In order to pilot the ASD coverage, the SEHP coverage required modification to add coverage for Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA), autism specialists and intensive individual service providers. Coverage for ASD services became available on January 1, 2011. Coverage is subject to the plan's appropriate deductible, copays and coinsurance requirement for other covered services. Benefits are limited to an annual benefit maximum established based upon the age of the member. Members from birth to less than age seven (7) years have a maximum benefit of \$36,000 per year for paid ASD care and treatment. Members who are over age seven (7) but younger than age nineteen (19) have an annual benefit maximum of \$27,000 per year for ASD care and treatment.

The ASD coverage pilot had minimal impact on the SEHP. During Plan Year 2011, the SEHP had 126 members who received services for ASD under the rider. For claims incurred and processed for services received during Plan Year 2011 with a diagnosis of ASD the total allowed amount was \$214,656 for all services. This figure includes \$92,394 for ABA services. The average monthly treatment cost for each eligible member receiving ASD treatment was \$141 for all services, of which \$61 was for ABA services.

### **Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that the SEHP continue the Autism Pilot Program for Plan Year 2013 so that additional utilization and cost data can be gathered.