

Position Statement
A-5750 / S-4274
2018-2019 Legislative Session

*Requires DHS to take certain measures concerning
Integrated Case Management Services program*

Easterseals New Jersey supports A-5750, which would provide much needed clarity to the Integrated Case Management Services (ICMS) program and allow for more efficient and effective delivery of much needed mental health services.

ICMS has been operating under draft regulations for nearly 23 years. These broad and impermanent rules contribute to confusion and inconsistency, costing the ICMS program and service agencies in New Jersey valuable time and money.

Easterseals New Jersey serves thousands of New Jerseyans with mental health challenges every year, and ICMS is a great tool for getting services to those who need it most. However, the current regulatory structure of ICMS has made the delivery of care more challenging than it needs to be.

Having ICMS operate with licensing and outcome tracking requirements would bring the program on par with the other Medicaid-funded services for New Jerseyans with mental health challenges. This would ensure consistency and clarity for both care providers and the auditors who are responsible for ensuring programmatic success for ICMS participants.

By having everyone operate under one clear set of rules and guidelines, ICMS can be a more efficient and accountable program. This legislation would order DHS outline the parameters of ICMS, giving service agencies a clear set of standards. Doing so, would enable this program to thrive for years to come.

Easterseals New Jersey is committed to providing the highest level of service possible to our program participants, A-5750 would help us achieve this goal.

Easterseals New Jersey urges the Legislature to pass A-5750.

★★

Easterseals is a national 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that has helped children and adults with disabilities and special needs, live better lives for 100 years. Operating in 21 counties throughout the state, Easterseals New Jersey offers a variety of disability services to help people with various special needs address life's challenges. Annually, Easterseals New Jersey serves over 9,000 individuals at our over 100 sites with direct services, advocacy, and education. We believe everyone, no matter their circumstance or level of ability, deserves the opportunity to increase their independence and achieve their goals.

Brian Fitzgerald, President and CEO
Jacob Caplan, Advocacy Manager