

DDD AND SPINA BIFIDA



SPINA BIFIDA
ASSOCIATION
OF ARIZONA



SPINA BIFIDA WITHIN ARIZONA

- Three to five births per month
- Neural Tube Defect from birth
- Surviving into adulthood
- Three types (Occulta, Meningocele, Myelomeningocele)
- Myelomeningocele is the most invasive type



WHY IS LEGISLATION NEEDED?

- Adds Spina Bifida as qualifying Developmental Disability within Arizona
- Coverage extends beyond "At Risk" (Birth to Six) category
- Coverage of crucial therapies (OT, PT, Speech) extended beyond "At Risk"
- More therapies mean increased health and wellbeing, less difficulties in physical health, executive functioning, etc.
- Less money spent on Emergency Room visits, as they are minimized and even prevented due to preventative care
- Many services require BOTH DDD and AHCCCS/ALTCS, easing financial strain on families



CRUCIAL THERAPIES AND SERVICES

- Speech, Occupational Therapy, and Physical therapy covered by DDD will continue with coverage
- Accepted insurances other than DDD pose financial hardship on families (if they qualify)
- Adult Day Programs such as Civitan and others require DDD coverage and can provide essential life skills



WHO QUALIFIES?

- Spina Bifida carries the same functional limitation categories as other qualifying disabilities, such as Cerebral Palsy
- DDD eligibility would still require the three out of seven functional limitations due to Spina Bifida being a Developmental Disability
- This means that not all people with Spina Bifida qualify if they don't meet the requirements



EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

- Greater selection of employment services means more chances to thrive and lessen financial dependence on government resource.
- Transition services to help smooth out the process to employment
- Contributes to a "Can Do" mindset needed within the Spina Bifida community



HOUSING

- DDD Recipients can work with Centers for Independent Living (CILs) to explore affordable housing opportunities available through DDD services
- DDD Recipients can also work with CILs to explore needed housing accommodations
- Opportunities to live within the community mean more ways to foster independence
- Housing assistance would reduce the increasing occurrences of homelessness among this underserved population



MEDALLION PROGRAM

To assist with independent living, people with Spina Bifida would greatly benefit from the DDD Medallion Program

This helps notify First Responders when an emergency occurs



RESOURCES

- Spina Bifida Association of Arizona (www.sbaaz.org)
- Spina Bifida Association of America (www.spinabifidaassociation.org)

