

## Launch of the Quality Assessment and Improvement (QA&I) Process for the Adult Autism Waiver (AAW) ODP Announcement 19-032

### **AUDIENCE:**

All Supports Coordination Organizations (SCOs) and Providers of AAW services

### **PURPOSE:**

To announce that all SCOs and Providers delivering supports and services for participants in the AAW program will be integrated into the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) QA&I process beginning July 1, 2019. The QA&I process will replace the existing AAW monitoring process and will be one of the tools used to evaluate the current system of supports and identify ways to improve it for all individuals supported by ODP.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The QA&I process was first introduced in July 2017 with ODP's ID/A Waiver programs. The process is designed to conduct a comprehensive quality management review of county programs, Administrative Entities (AE), SCOs and Providers delivering services and supports to individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism spectrum disorders.

The comprehensive quality management review is accomplished using a combination of self-assessment, desk review, onsite review, individual interviews, corrective action, Plan to Prevent Recurrence (PPR) and quality management (QM) plans. The QA&I process occurs over a three-year cycle with each of the entities receiving a full review at least once within that period.

All QA&I activities stem from the completion of an annual self-assessment. It's important to note that the self-assessment is to be completed by **all** AAW SCOs and Providers each year, including those not providing services at the time of the

assessment. Results of self-assessments are used to inform full reviews and identify improvement and technical assistance activities in the interim review period which is the two years of the QA&I cycle when the onsite review does not occur.

***To support this integration, ODP will provide QA&I process training for SCOs and Providers serving AAW participants in the spring of 2019. Look for a date, time and any specific instructions for this training in a future communication.***

For more information about the QA&I process, please visit “QA&I Process Resources” on MyODP at: <https://www.myodp.org/course/index.php?categoryid=395>.

Please submit any questions regarding this communication via email to Patrick Keating at [patkeating@pa.gov](mailto:patkeating@pa.gov) with “AAW QA&I Launch” in the Subject Line.