

## Bureau of Autism Services – New Name Announced

### ODP Announcement 19-144

#### **AUDIENCE:**

Individuals and Families, Providers, Administrative Entity (AE) Administrators or Directors, County Administrators, Supports Coordination Organizations (SCO), Adult Autism Waiver (AAW) and Adult Community Autism Program (ACAP) providers and Other Interested Parties

#### **PURPOSE:**

To announce the Bureau of Supports for Autism and Special Populations within the Office of Developmental Programs

#### **DISCUSSION:**

The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) is pleased to announce the extension of the Bureau of Autism Services (BAS) to include the establishment of the Special Populations Unit. This has occasioned the renaming of the Bureau of Autism Services to the Bureau of Supports for Autism and Special Populations (BSASP).

The Special Populations Unit will focus on capacity building to support individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind. Additionally, the Unit will work within ODP on the Everyday Lives recommendation #1 to assure effective communication.

The Bureau will continue to develop and manage services and supports to enhance the quality of life of individuals in Pennsylvania living with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and their families. The Bureau also focuses on building statewide capacity and competency in the professionals who assist and support Pennsylvanians with ASD across the lifespan.