

Marla Root – Trainer Bio

Marla is the president of Root Consulting, LLC which operates the Illinois and Ohio Autism Insurance Coalitions. The Coalitions support families, providers, state agencies and health care systems in building service capacity and parity to ensure people with ASD have access to prescribed treatments such as mental health services, applied behavior analysis, and speech and occupational therapies. Marla's work Marla's experience as an advocate and her engagement in service development as an administrator for a community mental health center led to her 2010 Advocate of the Year award by The Ohio Governor's Council for People with Disabilities. Recently, she received the 2021 Trailblazer Award from the Milestones Autism Resource Center and the 2018 Autism Speaks' Implementation Award for her efforts in monitoring Ohio's autism insurance mandate. Most importantly, she is the proud parent of Eli, who is 27 years old, and has ASD/ID. Her family has used about every service Ohio offers, especially through the tough behavioral teen years that saw Eli leave the home for six months to stabilize. She is thrilled to see the start of the new Medicaid OhioRise program to support Ohio families who find themselves in a similar crisis situation as her family experienced.