

FAMILY SUPPORTS WAIVER

Service Type: Other

Service (Name):

Alternative Service Title: **BEHAVIORAL SUPPORTS**

Service Definition:

- A. Behavioral supports are an array of services to assist participants who without such supports are experiencing or are likely to experience difficulty in community living as a result of behavioral, social, or emotional issues.
- B. Behavioral Support services can support individuals and families with all of their complexity, strengths and unique abilities to achieve self-determination, interdependence, productivity, integration and inclusion in all facets of community life across the lifespan. They support individuals and families as they focus on life experiences that point the trajectory toward a good quality of life across the lifespan. They are important to a good quality of life, including daily life, safety and security, community living, healthy lifestyle, social and spirituality, and citizenship and advocacy. They can help to support self-determination, community living, building social capital, and economic sufficiency to achieve individually defined life outcomes.
- C. Behavioral Support services includes:
 - 1. Behavioral Assessment - services to help understand an individual's challenging behavior and what need it is communicating in order to develop a Behavior Tiered Supports Plan to enhance the individual's independence and inclusion in their community;
 - 2. Behavioral Consultation - services that oversee and monitor the implementation of recommendations developed under the Behavioral Assessment as indicated in the Behavior Tiered Supports Plan; and
 - 3. Brief Support Implementation Services - time limited service to provide direct assistance and modeling to families, agency staff, and caregivers so they can independently implement the Behavior Tiered Supports Plan.

SERVICE REQUIREMENT:

- A. Behavioral Assessment identifies or confirms an individual's challenging behaviors, and identifying co-occurring mental health issues that contribute to those behaviors, by collecting and reviewing relevant data, discussing the information with the individuals' support team, and recommending one of three tiers for behavioral supports as indicated in a Behavior Tiered Support Plan.
- B. Behavioral Assessment:
 - 1. Is based on the principals of person-centered thinking, a comprehensive Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA), and supporting data;

2. Is performed by a qualified clinician;
 3. Requires development of specific hypotheses for the challenging behavior, a description of the challenging behaviors in behavioral terms, and the topography, frequency, duration, intensity/severity, and variability/cyclicity of the behaviors;
 4. It must be based on a collection of current specific behavioral data; and
 5. Includes the following:
 - a. an onsite observation of the interactions between the individual and his/her caregiver(s) in multiple settings and observation of the implementation of existing programs;
 - b. an environmental assessment of all primary environments;
 - c. a medical assessment including a list of all medications including those specifically prescribed to modify challenging behaviors, the rationale for prescribing each medication, and the potential side effects of each medication;
 - d. an individual's history based upon the records and interviews with the individual and with the people important to/for the person (e.g. parents, caregivers, vocational staff, etc.);
 - e. record reviews and interviews recording the history of the challenging behaviors and attempts to modify it; and
 - f. recommendations, after discussion of the results within the individual's interdisciplinary team, for Tier 1 (i.e. positive interactions, choice making, predictable/proactive setting/environment, Tier 2 (i.e. social, communication, emotional, physiological intervention/therapy), or Tier 3 (i.e. Individual Behavior Plan) strategies to be developed in the Behavior Tiered Support Plan.
- C. Behavioral Consultation services include:
1. Arranging subsequent professional evaluation services (e.g., Psychiatric, Neurological, Psychopharmacological, etc.), not identified in the Behavioral Assessment, that are deemed necessary and pertinent to the behavioral challenges;
 2. Consultation, subsequent to the development of the Behavioral Assessment, which may include speaking with the individual's Psychiatrists and other medical/therapeutic practitioners;
 3. Developing, writing, presenting, and monitoring the strategies for working with the individual and their caregivers;
 4. Providing ongoing education on recommendations, strategies, and next steps to individuals support network (i.e. caregiver(s), family members, agency staff, etc.) regarding the structure of the current environment, activities, and ways to communicate with and support the individual;
 5. Developing, presenting, and providing ongoing education on recommendations, strategies, and next steps to ensure that the individual is able to continue to participate in all pertinent environments (i.e. home, day program, job, and community) to optimize community inclusion;
 6. Ongoing assessment of progress in all pertinent environments against identified goals;
 7. Preparing written progress notes on the individual goals identified in assessments and recommendations that are submitted to the individual's team. Progress should at a minimum include the following information for each tier of behavioral support service of the Behavior Tiered Support Plan:

- a) Tier 1 – ASSET evaluation for the assessment of positive behavioral supports in the environment and must include data that describes progress towards goals of the individual;
 - b) Tier 2 – Tier 1 requirements and progress notes detailing the specific interventions and outcomes for the individual; and
 - c) Tier 3 – Tier 1 and 2 requirements, trend analysis and graphs to detail progress on target behaviors identified in a Behavioral Plan;
8. Development and updates to a Behavioral Plan for all Tier 3 interventions as per required by regulations; and
 9. Monitoring and ongoing assessment of the implementation of the Behavior Tiered Supports Plan and written Behavioral Plan (as applicable) based on the following:
 - a) At least monthly for the first six months; and
 - b) At least quarterly after the first six months or as dictated by progress against identified goals.
- D. Brief Support Implementation Services includes:
1. On-site execution and modeling of identified behavioral support strategies;
 2. Timely semi-structured written feedback to the clinicians on the provision and effectiveness of the Behavior Tiered Support Plan and strategies;
 3. Participation in on-site meetings or instructional sessions with the individual’s support network regarding the recommendations, strategies, and next steps identified in the Behavior Tiered Support Plan;
 4. Brief Support Implementation Services cannot be duplicative of other services being provided (e.g. 1:1 supports); and
 5. The Brief Support Implementation Services staff is required to be onsite with the caregiver in order to model the implementation of identified strategies to be utilized in the Behavior Tiered Support Plan.
- E. Services will not be covered if available under the individual’s private insurance, the Medicaid State Plan (including EPSDT benefits), private or public educational services, the Rehabilitation Act, other waiver services, or through other resources.
- F. To the extent that any listed services are covered under the Medicaid State Plan, the services under the waiver would be limited to additional services not otherwise covered under the Medicaid State Plan, but consistent with waiver objectives of avoiding institutionalization.
- G. Behavioral Assessment is reimbursed based on a milestone for a completed assessment.

Specify applicable (if any) limits on the amount, frequency, or duration of this service:

Behavioral Assessment is limited to one per year unless otherwise approved by DDA.

Behavioral Consultation and Brief Support Implementation Services service hours are based on assessed needs, supporting data, plan implementation, and authorization from the DDA.

Service Delivery Method (check each that applies)

- Participant Directed as specified in Appendix E
- Provider Managed

Specify whether the service may be provided by (check all that applies): Not Applicable

Legally Responsible Person

Relative

Legal Guardian

Provider Specifications: (Instructions list the following for each type of provider that can deliver the services):

Provider Category	Provider Type Title
Agency	Licensed Behavioral Support Services Provider

Provider Category: Agency

Provider Type: Licensed Behavioral Support Services Provider

Provider Qualifications License (specify):

License (specify):

Licensed Behavioral Support Services Provider as per COMAR 10.22.10

Certificate (specify):

Other Standard (specify):

Qualified clinicians to complete the behavioral assessment include:

1. Licensed psychologist;
2. Psychology associate working under the license of the psychologist (and currently registered with and approved by the Maryland Board of Psychology);
3. Licensed professional counselor;
4. Licensed certified social worker; and
5. Licensed behavioral analyst.

All clinicians must have training and experience in the following:

1. Applied Behavior Analysis; and
2. Behavioral Tiered Supports Plans

Staff providing the Brief Support Implementation Services must be one of the following:

1. Certified Crisis Intervention Specialist;
2. Certified Behavioral Intervention Technician; or
3. Registered Behavioral Technician.

Verification of Provider Qualifications Entity

Responsible for Verification:

- DDA for verification of Licensed Behavioral Support Services provider
- Providers for verification of clinician's qualifications and training

Frequency of Verification:

- DDA - annually
- Providers – prior to service delivery