

Realigning DDS Clinical Behavioral Supports

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) supports a comprehensive approach in the implementation of clinical behavioral supports for individuals with intellectual disability. On February 1, 2018, Commissioner Jordan Scheff issued a revised policy and procedure designed to achieve the best outcomes for individuals who have behavioral health needs coupled with intellectual disability. The Positive Behavior Support (PBS) Program and Behavior Support Plans policy and procedure (I.E.PR.003) outlines expectations for the use of positive behavior supports in an individual's comprehensive behavior support plan.

The new procedure describes an individual's behavior support plan as a tool through which DDS can monitor and track various aspects of behavior supports to determine what combination is likely to achieve the best results for the individual. Individuals served by DDS often present with a complex array of needs and require a global approach. A comprehensive model, PBS is a natural fit for these needs, as it has evolved into a blending of knowledge and methods from multiple disciplines including biology, developmental psychology, behaviorism, systems theory, and empirical research. This allows it to integrate well with other clinical and collaborative supports, such as individual services (e.g., psychotherapy) and a multidisciplinary team process (e.g., nursing, psychology, psychiatry, occupational therapy).

For individuals with co-occurring intellectual disability and autism spectrum disorder, Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) may also be a suitable approach. ABA focuses more narrowly on occurrences surrounding a behavioral event and applies prescribed, data driven interventions to replace the behavior. The development of an ABA plan must be completed by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, licensed by the Connecticut Department of Public Health or an individual acting within the scope of practice of the person's license or certification and training, provided the person does not hold himself or herself out to the public as a behavior analyst.

As PBS and ABA are distinct service delivery models, DDS has realigned its qualification and authorization systems to better match the differences in behavior intervention models, including differences in qualifications for clinicians using each approach. Qualification and authorization for Clinical Behavioral Supports will now be divided into two sub-types: 1) Positive Behavior Supports and 2) Applied Behavioral Analysis. The chart below summarizes the differences in qualifications and review processes for the two sub-types:

Service Type	<i>Positive Behavior Supports</i>	<i>Applied Behavioral Analysis</i>
Education	Doctoral degree and current licensure in psychology (licensure per CGS Chapter 383), or current certification	Tier 1: Current CT licensure as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), or doctoral degree and

	<p>as a Board Certified Behavioral Analyst (BCBA) or master's degree in psychology, special education, social work or a related field. Proof of licensure per CGS Chapter 383b (Licensed Clinical Social Worker), or licensure per CGS Chapter 383a or 383c (Marriage and Family Therapist or Professional Counselor), as applicable.</p>	<p>current licensure in psychology, or master's degree in special education with a current teacher certification.</p> <p>Tier 2: Clinicians with one or more of the following may be considered for qualification, upon further review of training: Master's degree and current licensure in social work, master's degree and current certification as a School Counselor, master's degree and current licensure as a Professional Counselor, or master's degree and current licensure as a Marital and Family Therapist.</p>
Experience	Two years of experience providing behavioral supports to individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities.	Two years of experience providing behavioral supports to individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities.
Document Review	Review two behavioral support plans implemented by the candidate within the last year.	None for Tier 1. Will be determined on a case by case basis for Tier 2.
Other review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criminal background check, DDS Abuse/Neglect Registry check and Sex Offender Registry check 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criminal background check, DDS Abuse/Neglect Registry check and Sex Offender Registry check required for Tier

	required. • Interview with DDS Clinical Director and other DDS staff.	1 and Tier 2. • Additional review will be determined on a case by case basis for Tier 2.
Rate	• \$121.20/hour	• \$121.20/hour

The qualifications and processes described above will be effective as of December 1, 2018. All providers qualified for Clinical Behavioral Supports will be qualified for PBS as of that date. All clinicians with one or more of the following will be qualified for ABA as of that date:

- Board Certified Behavior Analyst
- Doctoral degree and current licensure in psychology
- Master’s degree in special education and current teacher certification

Clinicians with one or more of the following may be considered for qualification for ABA services, upon further review of education and training:

- Master’s degree and current licensure in social work
- Master’s degree and current certification as a school counselor
- Master’s degree and current licensure as a Professional Counselor
- Master’s degree and current licensure as a Marital and Family Therapist