

Behavior Support Services

Definition: Behavior Support Services are those services which use current empirically validated practices to identify causes of, intervene to prevent, and appropriately react to problematic behavior. These services include initial assessment for determining the need for and appropriateness of behavior support services; behavioral assessment (i.e. functional assessment and/or analysis) that includes direct observation, interview of key persons, collection of objective data; analysis of behavioral/functional assessment data to determine the function of the behaviors (and later to assess success of intervention and any needed modifications) and behavioral intervention based on the functional assessment that is primarily focused on prevention of the problem behavior(s) based on their function.

Providers: Those listed as providers of Behavior Support Services on the Qualified Provider Listing found on DDSN's website. These providers must be used.

Arranging for the Service: If it is determined that those who support the participant need support to know how to respond to the problem behavior(s) engaged in /displayed by the participant, Behavior Support should be authorized. The participant or his/her family or guardian should be provided with a listing of available Behavior Support Service providers. The offering of the choice of providers must be clearly documented. The initial authorization should be sufficient to cover the functional assessment and development of the Behavior Support Plan (*while every person is unique, typically around 16 hours / 32 units of service would be sufficient for assessment and plan development*). Once the assessment is completed and the plan developed, an authorization can be issued so that those who will implement the plan can be trained and the effectiveness of the Behavior Support Plan can be monitored (*while everyone is unique, typically 2 hours/ 4 units per month would be sufficient for typical monitoring and 3 hours /6 units per month would be sufficient for when fidelity checks are required; approximately 56 units per year*).

One unit of Behavior Support Services equals thirty (30) minutes of professional time. The **State Funded Community Supports (BSS 1)** must be used to authorize the service. The **State Funded Community Supports (BSS 1)** instructs the provider to bill the participant's Financial Management Agency for services rendered. The **State Funded Community Supports (BSS 1)** will remain in effect until a new authorization is issued or until a Notice of Reduction or Termination (Form1) is issued.

The cost of Behavior Support Services must be added to the State Funded Community Supports Budget Calculator. Under no circumstances may the annual cost limit of the State Funded Community Supports be exceeded.

The need for Behavior Support services must be documented in the Support Plan and the plan must be approved by the DDSN Waiver Admin Division before services can be authorized.

Monitoring: The Support Plan, which will include the Behavior Support Services, must be monitored in accordance with SCDDSN Case Management Standards. When monitoring, it will be important to know if the assessment and plan are completed with a reasonable amount of resources used and once the plan is completed, it will be important to know whether or not those who support the person understand the strategies they are to use and whether or not they find the strategies to be effective.

Reduction or Termination of Services: When Behavior Support Services are being reduced or terminated the Notice of Reduction or Termination (**SFCS Form 4**) must be used to notify the participant/representative, the provider and the Financial Management Agency. See the Case Management section for more information.