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.

### Behavior Support Services

Functional assessment and/or functional analysis of problem behavior that includes direct observation, interview of key persons, collection of objective data.

Analysis of functional assessment data to determine the function(s) of the behavior(s) (and later to assess success of intervention and any needed modifications).

**Providers:** Behavior Support Services are provided by qualified professionals enrolled with the Department of Health and Human Services as providers of Behavior Support Services. SCDDSN must first verify the qualifications and approve the provider before he/she can enroll with SCDHHS.

**Arranging for the Service:** If it is felt that a participant may need Behavior Support Services, then behavior support services should be authorized in the form of a behavior support evaluation/assessment. The participant or his/her family or guardian should be provided with a listing of available Behavior Support Service providers. A provider authorized to provide Behavior Support Services must be chosen. The offering of the choice of providers must be clearly documented. You should contact the chosen provider and inquire about the standard length for an evaluation/assessment (one unit equals 30 minutes of service). This information should be entered on to the participant’s Support Plan and approved by the SCDDSN Waiver Administration Division. Once approved, the assessment can be authorized using the **Authorization for Services (Community Supports Form BS-27)**. Upon receiving a copy of the assessment/evaluation, if the participant has been assessed and behavior support service is recommended, the specific need should be documented in the plan.

Again the needed services would be added to the participant’s Support Plan and approved by the SCDDSN Waiver Administration Division. One unit equals 30 minutes of service. Once the service is approved, **Authorization for Services (Community Supports Form BS-27)** can be completed by the same process used for Behavior Support evaluations/assessments as stated above.

**Monitoring the Services:** You must monitor the effectiveness, frequency, duration, benefits, and usefulness of the service along with the participant’s/family’s satisfaction with the service. Information gathered during monitoring may lead to a change in the service, such as an increase/decrease in units authorized, change of provider, change to a more appropriate service, etc. Monitoring of this service may occur with the participant/family, service provider, physician, hospital staff, and/or other health care provider. Monitoring may also occur during review of evaluation reports or progress notes.
completed by the provider. The following criteria should be followed when monitoring Behavior Support Evaluations and Services:

**Behavior Support Evaluation**
- Within two weeks of completion

Some items to consider during monitorship include:

- What are the recommendations from the evaluation?
- If therapy is recommended, how much and how often?
- If only a behavior support plan is needed, how much time will be needed for implementation and training?

**Behavior Support Services**
- At least monthly for the first two months
- At least every six months thereafter
- Start over with each new provider

Some items to consider during monitorship include:

- If the participant has recently had an evaluation, the recommendations from the evaluation must be reviewed to ensure that it addresses the initial concerns that justified the need for the evaluation.
- Are they making significant progress towards the goals and objectives outlined in the evaluation? If not, have the participant's goals and objectives been modified to reflect the need for current services?
- Are the goals and objectives of therapy consistent with the participant’s overall life goals?
- Is the participant satisfied with his/her provider of services?
- Do behavior support services need to continue at the same level?

**Reduction, Suspension, or Termination of Services:** If services are to be reduced, suspended, or terminated, a written notice must be forwarded to the participant or his/her legal guardian including the details regarding the change(s) in service, allowance for appeal/reconsideration, and a ten (10) calendar day waiting period before proceeding with the reduction, suspension, or termination of the waiver service(s). See Chapter 8 for specific details and procedures regarding written notification and the appeals process.