

Community Pathways – Revised Draft Proposal

Behavioral Assessment,  
Behavioral Consultation,  
and Brief  
Implementation  
Supports service were  
merged under this new  
proposal.

Service Type: Other

Service (Name):

Alternative Service Title: **BEHAVIORAL SUPPORTS SERVICES**

HCBS Taxonomy:

Check as applicable

Service is included in approved waiver. There is no change in service specifications.

Service is included in approved waiver. The service specifications have been modified.

Service is not included in the approved waiver.

**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 at home in community living as a result of behavioral, social, or emotional issues. These services help understand an participant's challenging behavior and its function is to develop a Behavior Plan with the primary aim of enhancing the participant's independence and inclusion in their community.

B. Behavioral Support services includes:

1. Behavioral Assessment - identifies a participant's challenging behaviors by collecting and reviewing relevant data, discussing the information with the participant's support team, and developing a Behavior Plan, that best addresses the function of the behavior, if needed;
2. Behavioral Consultation - services that oversee, monitor, and modify the Behavior 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 Plan.

**SERVICE REQUIREMENT:**

A. Behavioral Assessment:

1. Is based on the principles 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, to include the topography, frequency, duration, intensity/severity, and variability/cyclicity of the behaviors;
4. 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 participant 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. A participant's history based upon the records and interviews with the participant 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;
  - f. Recommendations, after discussion of the results within the participant's interdisciplinary team, for strategies to be developed in a Behavior Plan; and
  - g. Development of the Behavioral Plan.
- B. Behavioral Consultation services include:
1. Recommendations for 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 Plan, which may include speaking with the participant's Psychiatrists and other medical/therapeutic practitioners;
  3. Developing, writing, presenting, and monitoring the strategies for working with the participant and his or her caregivers;
  4. Providing ongoing education on recommendations, strategies, and next steps to participants 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 participant;
  5. Developing, presenting, and providing ongoing education on recommendations, strategies, and next steps to ensure that the participant is able to continue to participate in all pertinent environments (i.e. home, day program, job, and community) to optimize community inclusion in the least restrictive environment;
  6. Ongoing assessment of progress in all pertinent environments against identified goals;
  7. Preparing written progress notes on the participant's goals identified in the Behavioral Plan at a minimum include the following information:
    - a. Assessment of behavioral supports in the environment;
    - b. Progress notes detailing the specific Behavioral Plan interventions and outcomes for the participant;
    - c. Data, trend analysis and graphs to detail progress on target behaviors identified in a Behavioral Plan; and
    - d. Recommendations;
  8. Development and updates to the Behavioral Plan as per required by regulations; and
  9. Monitoring and ongoing assessment of the implementation of the Behavior Plan 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.

- C. 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 Plan and strategies;
  3. Participation in on-site meetings or instructional sessions with the participant's support network regarding the recommendations, strategies, and next steps identified in the Behavior 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 Plan.
- D. Prior to accessing DDA funding for this service, all other available and appropriate funding sources, including but not limited to those offered by Maryland's Medicaid State Plan, Division of Rehabilitation Services ("DORS"), State Department of Education, and Department of Human Services, must be explored and exhausted. These efforts must be documented in the individual's file.
- E. 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.
- F. The Behavioral Assessment is reimbursed based on a milestone for a completed assessment.
- G. The Behavior Plan is reimbursed based on a milestone for a completed plan.

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

- A. Behavioral Assessment services are limited to one per year unless otherwise approved by the DDA.
- B. Behavioral Consultation services and Brief Support Implementation Services 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
Individual	Qualified clinicians and staff for participant self-directing services
Agency	Approved Behavioral Support Services Provider

**Provider Category:** Individual

**Provider Type:** Qualified clinicians and staff for participant self-directing services

**Provider Qualifications License (specify):**

**License (specify):**

**Certificate (specify):**

**Other Standard (specify):**

The FMS must ensure the individual or entity performing the service meets the qualifications noted below as applicable to the service being provided:

Qualified clinicians to complete the behavioral assessment and consultation 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 a person who has:

- a. Demonstrated completion of high school or equivalent/higher,
- b. Successfully completed an 40-hour Registered Behavioral Technician (RBT) training, and
- c. Receives ongoing supervision by a qualified clinician who meets the criteria to provided behavioral assessment and behavioral consultation.

### **Verification of Provider Qualifications Entity**

**Responsible for Verification:**

- FMS

**Frequency of Verification:**

- Prior to service delivery

**Provider Category:** Agency

**Provider Type:** Approved Behavioral Support Services Provider

**Provider Qualifications License (specify):**

**License (specify):**

**Certificate (specify):**

**Other Standard (specify):**

Approved Behavioral Support Services Provider as per COMAR Chapter 10 Title 22.

Qualified clinicians to complete the behavioral assessment and consultation 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
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- c. Receives ongoing supervision by a qualified clinician who meets the criteria to provided behavioral assessment and behavioral consultation.

### **Verification of Provider Qualifications Entity**

#### **Responsible for Verification:**

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

#### **Frequency of Verification:**

- DDA - annually
- Providers – prior to service delivery