



COMMISSIONER
Adelaide Horn

August 22, 2008

To: All Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS) Providers

Subject: Information Letter No. 08-123
Behavioral Support Services

Effective September 1, 2008, the service type previously labeled "Psychological Services" will change to "Behavioral Support." Board-certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA) have been added to the list of qualified providers able to provide this service. Psychological Services may continue to be provided by previously qualified providers and billed as Behavioral Support.

Behavioral Support services are to be provided when no other financial resources for such services are available or when other available resources have been exhausted. Participants who are under 21 years of age must first access Behavioral Support benefits from a psychologist through the Texas Health Steps-Comprehensive Care Program (THSteps-CCP) before Behavioral Support may be provided under this waiver.

Behavioral Support services provide specialized interventions that assist an individual to increase adaptive behaviors to replace or modify maladaptive behaviors that prevent the individual's inclusion in community life. Behavioral Support services also include the full range of psychological activities within the scope of state licensure for psychologists. This service includes assessment and analysis of the behavior(s) to be targeted so that an appropriate behavioral support plan may be developed and implemented. The service includes training of family members and/or habilitation attendants in the methods and documentation of the plan. Monitoring and evaluation of the plan with modifications, based on documented outcomes, are also included.

The rate for Behavioral Support will be the same as for Psychological Services. Current Individual Service Plans do not need to be changed. The new form will be available on the Internet and must be used at Annual Reassessment.

If you have any questions regarding Behavioral Support services, please contact Bob Scott at (512) 438-3078 or by email to bob.scott@dads.state.tx.us. If you have questions regarding the rate for Behavioral Support, please contact Victor Perez at (512) 491-1375 or victor.perez@hhsc.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Michelle Dionne-Vahalik
Director
Community Services

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