

D.1: Behaviour analysis services

Unit: Disability Services	Effective date: March 28, 2022
Branch: Social Supports	Last updated: March 28, 2022
Policy number: D.1	Review date: March 28, 2024

Purpose

This policy describes the conditions under which a client may access behaviour analysis services.

Policy

1. In order to access behaviour analysis services, clients must meet one of the following conditions:
 - a confirmed diagnosis or medical query pending assessment of autism spectrum disorder (ASD);
 - exhibits behaviour that significantly impacts the client's daily functioning and/or puts themselves or others at risk; or
 - a need exists for consultation services regarding environmental changes that may reduce a client's challenging behaviours.
2. Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA) are responsible for creating and overseeing intervention plans and programs for clients based on best practices of their discipline and determining the suitability of behaviour interventionists hired by caregiver to administer the program appropriately, where applicable. Refer to policy D.2: Behavioural interventionist and training for more information.
3. When accepting new referrals, Disability Services (DS) prioritizes adding clients aged 12 or under to the active BCBA caseload before providing services to clients older than 12, except in urgent circumstances (such as self-harming behaviour).
 - DS may waitlist new clients where necessary.
4. In order to accommodate new referrals, DS may:
 - reduce frequency of meetings or extend timeframes between meetings with existing clients and their supports;
 - reschedule or reduce number of hours of training for behaviour interventionist or offer group training sessions, where appropriate;
 - provide service by phone, email, videoconferencing, or other electronic measures, in order to reduce travel time; and/or
 - other measures as appropriate.
5. When providing services to clients living in Yukon's rural communities, DS:
 - aims to meet with clients and caregiver in their home communities outside of Whitehorse at least twice per calendar year;

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- schedules meetings with all clients in (or on the way to or from) the Yukon community the BCBA is visiting, whenever possible;
- schedules meetings with client and caregiver when they come to Whitehorse and are available to meet with the BCBA (this may replace a visit to the client's community if clinically appropriate); and
- relies more heavily on phone, email, videoconference, or other electronic measures, due to travel considerations.

6. DS may discharge a client from behaviour analysis services when:

- the client has met identified goals;
- the client has plateaued in progress;
- the service is no longer clinically-indicated, including a changing diagnosis;
- the client is not participating in therapy despite efforts to engage them, or wishes to discontinue;
- the caregiver is not supportive of therapy or wishes to discontinue;
- new or younger clients must be prioritized over clients who have received services for a lengthy period or who are unlikely to attain significant benefits from ongoing services; or
- other factors are preventing the client from benefitting from therapy and mitigation efforts have failed.

Definitions

Behaviour analysis (BA): An umbrella term referring to the practice of applying psychological principles of learning theory in a systematic way to teach skills and modify behaviour.

Behaviour interventionist: A person hired by caregiver, and trained and monitored by the BCBA to administer the ABA program with the client.

Board Certified Assistant Behaviour Analyst (BCaBA): An individual with an undergraduate level of education in behaviour analysis who is certified by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board Inc.® and is supervised by a BCBA. BCaBAs may provide behaviour analysis services under the supervision of a BCBA.

Board Certified Behaviour Analyst (BCBA): An individual with a master's level of education in behaviour analysis and is certified by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board Inc.®. A BCBA works with a client and caregiver to identify desired skill acquisition and behaviour changes,

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and develops a program to meet those goals; meets with the client, caregiver, and behaviour interventionist regularly to monitor and adjust the program as needed.


Caregiver(s): A person or persons who are the primary unpaid caretakers of the client and who reside in the same home as the client. They may or may not have legal guardianship over the client.

Client: An individual with a disability who receives services from Disability Services.

Genie: The online case management system used by Disability Services.

Authorities

- Health Act (Yukon)
- Financial Administration Act (Yukon)

APPROVED BY:		Director, Social Supports
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