



Department of Public Health and Human Services

Developmental Services Division ♦ Developmental Disabilities Program ♦ 111 N. Sanders Rm 305

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Steve Bullock, Governor

Richard H. Opper, Director

POLICY MEMO

To: All State, Contracted and Provider Staff
Re: Positive Behavior Support
From: Jeff Sturm, Program Director,
Developmental Disabilities Program

The Montana Developmental Disabilities Program supports individual growth and welfare for all service recipients through the use of Positive Behavior Support by focusing on what is important to the person in services and eliminating the use of abusive or demeaning procedures that cause pain or discomfort in an attempt to change a person's behavior. The focus of Positive Behavior Support is on creating effective environments and a better quality of life for the individual rather than focusing on decreasing challenging behavior. The Developmental Disabilities Program has adopted and published The Positive Behavior Support Rule, Administrative Rules of Montana 37.34.1401, 37.34.1402, 37.34.1404, 37.34.1405, 37.34.1411, 37.34.1412, 37.34.1418, 37.34.1420, 37.34.1422, to require the use of Positive Behavior Support.

The Montana Developmental Disabilities Program embraces the philosophy of Positive Behavior Support as a tool for growth and change. A central characteristic of Positive Behavior Support is assessment-based interventions that are directly linked to the reason why the challenging behavior occurs. Many program and provider staff participated in a series of training opportunities to enhance skill development in the area of functional behavior assessment, as well as to provide staff with a new direction that supports the best interests of the individuals. The three hour, Jargon - Free training was videotaped and can be accessed through the training link of the Montana Developmental Disabilities Program web page. Components of the various courses provide tools for functional behavior assessment as well as a quality assurance review process for Positive Behavior Support Plans.

Case Managers and Quality Improvement Specialists will help develop a Montana service review process that will be utilized in the oversight and performance review of all plans of care that have Positive Behavior Support Plans incorporated in them. As future training dates are made available, we strongly encourage that all staff, both provider and state, take advantage of these opportunities to expand their knowledge of Positive Behavior Support so that they may begin to understand the underlying principles of human behavior in order to comprehend challenging behavior as communicative, purposeful, and meaningful for the person. A strong, supportive Positive Behavior Support Plan emphasizes the development of functional alternative behavior, using positive approaches, positive behavior intervention, and positive reinforcement procedures designed for use in everyday settings using available resources.