

Behaviour Psychology Services : Information Disclosure Statement

Information about Behaviour Psychology Services (BPS)

Behaviour Psychology Services is a voluntary program that assists families and caregivers of an adult with an Intellectual Disability who need assistance with managing behavioural concerns. In order to receive this service, the adult must be a participant of Community Living disABILITY services (CLDS) and have an assigned Community Service Worker (CSW). The referral is completed by a CSW and may include information about the participant's diagnosis, previous assessments, relevant social history, medical concerns, medications, and the nature of behavioural concerns. This is a person-centered consultative service which works in conjunction with the various supports offered through CLdS (day and residential programs, therapeutic and clinical services) in order to enhance the psychosocial and behavioural functioning of the participant and the caregivers. The aim of BPS is to work closely with caregivers to assess and develop a behaviour intervention plan, based on specific behavioural concerns identified by the caregivers. Behaviour Psychology Services does not provide direct support services to the participant but rather provides consultation to caregivers to address behavioural challenges in day services and at home. Services are provided by Behaviour Specialists who are trained in developmental disabilities and behaviour psychology. All clinical services are under the supervision of a registered psychologist.

Once BPS has received a referral from a CSW, we will schedule an intake triage assessment with the participant, the caregivers (family, residential and day program staff) along with the CSW. The purpose of this assessment is to:

- Collect information about the participant and the nature of the behavioural concerns.
- Provide the participant and their caregivers with information about BPS in order to make an informed choice about the services.
- When appropriate, provide basic recommendations about education or best practices for adults with disabilities.
- Provide an opportunity for BPS to “triage” or determine the priority of behavioural services based on the severity of the presenting concerns and the caregivers’ willingness and availability to participate in a consultative model of service.

Based on the outcome of this initial meeting, the Behaviour Specialist/Psychologist will make recommendations regarding the intensity and frequency of consultation best suited to the presenting concerns. The BPS clinician may also recommend other clinical services that may be more appropriate for the participant and their family such as marriage and family counseling, individual counseling for the participant, psychiatry, or other allied health services such as speech and language therapy, physiotherapy or occupational therapy.

Caregiver's role in clinical services

In order for caregivers and participants to make an informed choice about whether Behaviour Psychology Services is the right resource for their team, it is important to discuss the important role that caregivers play in the consultative process and the responsibilities placed upon caregivers as part of this role.

Once a Behaviour Specialist is assigned to the participant and caregivers, you will meet with them on a mutually-agreed upon basis. You may be asked to collect information between meetings to get a better understanding of how often challenging behaviour is occurring and under what circumstances. During the intervention, caregivers may also be asked to keep track of certain behaviours to evaluate the effectiveness of the Behaviour Intervention Plan. Once the Behavior Intervention Plan is implemented, the Behaviour Specialist will meet with the team for review and brief follow-up as determined by the team and Behaviour Specialist. Termination of services is decided collectively between the caregivers, CSW, and the Behaviour Specialist once the team feels that the initial referral behaviours have improved or they feel that services are no longer needed. The participant or caregivers may choose to terminate services at any time. If the Behaviour Specialist determines that Behaviour Psychology Services are not benefiting the participant, they may decide to terminate services and refer the participant and caregiver to other services.

We try our best to schedule appointments based on everyone's availability. However, missed appointments can make it difficult for everyone. Therefore, the expectations for missed and rescheduled appointments are as follows:

- 1) If someone is sick, please notify your Behaviour Specialist prior to the appointment.
- 2) If you have to cancel or reschedule a session, please try to let us know as soon as possible.
- 3) If you have cancelled or missed a session, it is your responsibility to contact the Behaviour Specialist to reschedule.

Confidentiality

Participating in Behaviour Psychology Services is a voluntary program. All information will be kept private unless the participant or Substitute Decision Maker provide verbal or written permission to share this information. However, there are exceptions to confidentiality. Legally, if there are any concerns about safety, confidentiality cannot be ensured. If one of these exceptions occur, the Behaviour Specialist will do their best to inform the participant and caregivers. The Behaviour Specialist is legally bound to report confidential information if they believe the following:

- A child (age 0-18) is being abused, neglected or is a witness of abuse
- The participant is being harmed or abused
- If the record is subpoenaed. The Behaviour Specialist may advocate limiting the information admissible, but the court can access the file.

Also, in order to ensure that the service is working to your benefit, Behaviour Specialists maintain consistent communication with the Community Service Worker. Additionally, Behaviour Specialists are supervised by a registered psychologist and will discuss the details of progress with the Clinical Supervisor who is also expected to keep your information confidential. In addition, your assigned Behaviour Specialist may consult with other Behaviour Specialists within the clinical services team. In this instance, every effort is made to keep your identity confidential during the consultation, and these professionals are also required to maintain confidentiality.

Signatures

Your signature below indicates that you have reviewed the information in this document. If you have any questions or are unclear about any policy, please feel free to discuss with your CSW or with Behaviour Psychology Services.

Participant's Printed Name _____

Substitute Decision Maker's Signature _____

Date Signed _____

Printed SDM Name _____

Release of Information

I/We, _____, the substitute decision maker(s)
for

_____,
(DOB: _____),

hereby authorize Behaviour Psychology Services to exchange confidential information
regarding diagnosis, assessment, and treatment with the following
individuals/organizations:

I/We understand that this information will be treated in a confidential manner and that it
will be used for the purposes of assessment, consultation, and treatment planning.

Signature of Substitute Decision Maker

Date