Delivering Applied Behavior Analysis Services to the TennCare Population

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Learning Objectives:

- Understand how delivery of services is the same for DIDD and BlueCare/TennCare Select
- Understand how delivery of services is different under DIDD and BlueCare/TennCare Select
- Documentation Requirements
- Upcoming Changes
Your Contracts for ABA Services – Common Threads

- Compliance
- Disclosure
- Availability of Records
- Documentation
Essential Assessment Components

- Demographics and Date of Assessment
- Reason for Referral
- Description of Behaviors of Concern in Observable and Measurable Terms
- Hypotheses Regarding Medical, Psychiatric, and Other Contributions (i.e., ecological) to Problem Behavior (Motivating Operations)
- Hypotheses Regarding Functions of Target Behaviors Based on Direct Observations
Essential Assessment Components, continued

- Baseline Data for Target Behaviors
- Functional Analysis Summary w/graphs
- Identification of Functionally Equivalent Replacement Behaviors/Contingency Management
- Objectives for Target and Replacement Behaviors
- Service and Behavioral Recommendations
- Risks/benefits/possible side effects/ potential contraindications for recommended approach
- Signature
Graphing Progress

Steps:
- Appropriately Labeled Horizontal (x) and Vertical (y) Axes
- Labeling Graph Title and Caption
- Labeling Axes
- Legend
- Phase Change and Event Lines
Behavioral Support Plan

- List of Target Behaviors: frequency, intensity, duration
- Identify Prevention Strategies
- Reinforcement Strategies – Identify Conditions Under Which Reinforcement is Provided
- Teaching Strategies for Replacement Behavior/Contingency Management
- Responses to Targeted Problem Behaviors
- DIDD Behavior Services Work Product
Follow Up Documentation

Records should include:

- Date of Service
- Client Info on Each Page (DOB, etc.)
- Behavioral Change Objectives/Corresponding Assessment of Progress
- Appropriate Objectives (observable, measurable, time limited)
- Adverse Incidents
Follow Up Documentation, continued

- Stated Hypotheses Regarding Function of Behaviors of Concern Based on Most Recent Data Collected
- Reliability of Data Collected and Implementation Reliability for Planned Interventions
- Assessment of Effectiveness of Plan (ideally every time, but at least quarterly)
- Assessment of Continued Appropriateness of Selected Replacement Behaviors/Contingency mgt.
- Documentation of Training Provided to Caregivers
Follow Up Documentation, continued

- Adjustments or revisions to behavioral objectives: If objectives are met, advance to a subsequent objective or discontinue service. If not met, consider modification to make them more achievable.

- Recommendations for Any Adjustments to the Plan

- Recommendations to Continue at Current Level or Increase/Decrease/Discharge

- Signature and Date
Tips

- Contact notes can be brief summaries that can be expanded upon in service reports
- Formally analyze activities
- Document extraneous events that impact outcomes (event lines in graphs)
- Document Factors Outside Control (barriers)
Tips, continued

- Document where the services took place (home, school, community, etc.)
- Document types of interventions (training, modeling, revising plan, etc.)
- What was the level of caregiver involvement?
- Note any significant life changes (new school, new home, new medication)
- Specify the severity of the behavior (describe words such as “aggressive”)
Tips, continued

- Document how the caregivers are doing with the member when you are not there. Good day or bad days? Significant interventions such as crisis team or ER visit? Remember to report those Adverse Incidents!

- Identify any additional services the member or family might need in addition to ABA – we can help facilitate!
Monthly/Quarterly Reviews
(see Documentation Section)

- Assessment of Objectives
- Reliability of Data and Implementation
Medical Necessity Reviews
BlueCare/Select

- initial review process
- concurrent review process
- “Tips” document from UM for case examples

DIDDD
- Imminent risk of harm
- Significant damage to property
- Impairs community living
Common Issues Noted During Medical Necessity Reviews

- Inconsistency of Information Provided
- No Demonstrated Benefit in the Documentation
- Services Not Justified
- Documentation is not Thorough Enough to Mitigate Liability in the Event of an Incident
- No Solid Clinical Summary
- Curriculum is not Individualized
- Failure to fully document caregiver training and caregiver progress/lack of progress regarding BSP
Audit Elements (in addition to Documentation)

- Number of encounters scheduled v. Number of Encounters completed
- Number of units approved v. number of units used/expired/unused
- Signature, credentials, date completed
Medical Necessity Criteria

- BlueCare and DIDD use the same MNC, found below at:
  
  http://www.tn.gov/tenncare/forms/apcard.pdf

- DIDD and BlueCare Credentialing Criteria are different

- Heed distinctions in Quick Guide regarding MNC v. educational needs (website link on slide 22)

- DIDD Protocol
Non-Billable Activities

- Services Not Within the Scope of Behavior Analyst
- Must Be F2F or collateral F2F Except for Assessment and Plan Development Phase
- Documentation Following Direct Services (i.e., contact notes)
- Travel Time
- Services Rendered by Someone Other Than Contracted Behavior Analyst (unless an identified alternate)
Non-Billable Activities, continued

- Services or Reporting Rendered at the Pleasure of the Court or LEA (unless also determined Medically Necessary)
- Services Defined in the Interagency Agreement between TennCare and Education as being covered as part of an IEP or FAPE
- For DIDD only, Services must be F2F with person or staff training (yearly limit applies to training)
Modalities

- Group Services – No billable ABA services in TN
- Telemedicine – expressly prohibited by TennCare policy
- TennCare specific exclusions available at:
  http://www.tn.gov/tenncare/forms/quickguide.pdf
Updates on Insurance, Licensure and Credentialing

- Insurance coverage will not change this year in TN
- Summer legislative study session on proposed licensure for ABAs
- Potential changes for credentialing requirements in TN contingent upon licensure and legislative changes
Additional Resources

- Your Provider Agreements
- Provider Manuals (incorporated by reference in your Provider Agreements)
- TennCare website
- BlueCare/TennCare Select Regional Network Managers
- DIDD Protocol
On The Horizon

- DIDD Provider Manual Changes
- BlueCare/TennCare Select Coding Addition
Questions?
Thank You!