



Community-Based Services Technical Assistance Services

With the assumption of certification activities by the Survey and Certification team, the development of new waiver services, and revision of the Division's regulations, the Division recognized the importance of providing technical assistance to community providers separate and apart from the survey process; thus, the Technical Assistance team was created in 2009.

The technical assistance team includes a Program Manager and Program Specialist who have access to other Division clinicians. Technical assistance services occur by phone, email, in-person, or via formal meetings or training opportunities.

In addition to general technical assistance in responding to questions and concerns, the Technical Assistance team members:

- Assist with the initial application process and policy review for prospective applicant agencies interested in offering specialized services;
- Review and process referrals for Team Behavioral Consultation (TBC), which is a service available to teams working with individuals who are experiencing challenging behaviors;
- Prepare, conduct, and/or organize DDD sponsored trainings statewide;
- Develop competency tools for training sessions, retain training documentation, and training materials;
- Monitor and assist with evaluation and improvement of processes and procedures within the Division;
- Facilitate planning and problem-solving meetings, and special projects focused on improvement;
- Assist with data collection and review for national surveys;
- Conduct research on best practice approaches in the developmental disabilities field; and
- Analyze data and prepare reports as needed.

The Division also provides some specialized technical assistance services as described in the following sections.

Team Behavioral Consultation Services

Team Behavioral Consultation (TBC) is a service available to individuals in DD services. The purpose of Team Behavioral Consultation services is to address needs of children and adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities who are experiencing behavioral difficulties that threaten success in community placement. The TBC process involves intensive observations and assessment of the individual in natural environments, and the subsequent development of behavioral support recommendations for the individual and his/her community team.

TBC services use applied behavioral assessment with bio-psychosocial approach to hypothesize the function(s) and context(s) of problematic behaviors. As a result of onsite consulting, TBC develops recommendations tailored to an individual's situation including interaction guidelines, behavioral data collection/use, behavioral interventions, environmental modifications, safety issues, and professional referrals.

Targeted Behavioral Assessment and Support Consultations

Through the survey and certification processes, and as recognized by the Department of Justice Independent Expert, many Nebraska specialized providers struggle with performing functional behavioral assessments and with developing adequate behavioral support plans (BSPs) for the individuals they support. In 2010-11, the Division provided training to all providers on the functional assessment and BSP development processes that are utilized at BSDC; yet little improvement was seen. Thus, the Division is currently providing access to Nebraska Providers to the contractor that helped develop the BSDC processes. The Division chose sixty individuals covered by the DOJ agreement based upon assessed need and through an attempt to impact a broad array of providers who serve people with challenging behavioral needs. Throughout 2012-13, the contractor will work hands-on with each provider to perform a functional behavioral assessment and develop a BSP for the individuals. The intent is to use this process as an applied training tool to impact provider understanding of the Division's expectations and to improve overall quality of the functional behavioral assessments and BSPs.

Targeted Medical/Clinical Reviews and Consultations

Through the survey and certification processes, and as recognized by the Department of Justice Independent Expert, many Nebraska specialized providers struggle with recognizing and coordinating the healthcare needs of the individuals they support. In order to address this challenge, the Division has incorporated the healthcare screening tool used by BSDC into Community Based Services. Service coordinators were trained on and implemented this tool in 2011-12 on all individuals in services to identify individuals who may have significant medical needs. This information will be used to determine whether there are areas where additional service coordination training and monitoring, and even perhaps targeted caseloads, may be beneficial. The information may also be used to develop individualized monitoring tools for individuals with the highest recognized needs.

The Division has also created a Community Based Services Medical Services Team that consists of two nurses. This team operates separate and apart from the BSDC Medical/Professional Team, but often collaborates with them when additional medical or clinical expertise is needed. The Medical Services Team's first priority has been to perform file reviews on the sixty individuals from BSDC who have moved into the community who have the greatest medical needs. The Team then meets with the individuals, their families, their providers, and their service coordinator and provides any recommendations or finding that arise from their review. The Team also works closely the individual's service coordinator to individualize their monitoring schedule and develop specialized monitoring tools if necessary. The Team also provides training to the service coordinator where necessary on recognizing and responding/reporting items of concern. The Medical Services Team will next continue this review for all individuals covered by the Department of Justice Settlement Agreement. The Team is also available to consider referrals from other service coordinators throughout the state, or to support the general technical assistance team when medical issues arise.

A report entitled “Community: New Initiatives and Future Directions” is included herein that described the Medical Services Team’s efforts to date.

Health Supports Curriculum

As a result of the efforts of the Medical Services Team reviews and report, the Division felt that community providers would benefit from additional resources in equipping staff to recognize and respond to the health and medical needs of the people they support. We coordinated with Dr. Nabih Ramadan, MD, MBA, to develop a video-based curriculum that providers can utilize to train staff on an array of different areas. The curriculum will be available to all Nebraska specialized DD providers at no cost to them.

An overview of the curriculum is scheduled to be presented to provider administrators on February 5, 2013. Additional sessions are scheduled for February and March of 2013 to present the actual training modules to provider representatives responsible for staff training and oversight. The curriculum materials consist of a training guide (which includes the Powerpoint presentations for each modules shown in the videos, and competency-based exams), DVDs of the video presentations for each module, and an outline and recommendation for implementing the training. The training modules are being implemented at the Division’s Bridges program, and those presentations are being videotaped as well (and will be posted on our website for providers to use as well.)

A summary of the curriculum is included herein in the document entitled Supporting the Health & Well-Being of Persons with IDD.

Attachments:

Attachment A: OMNI Behavioral Health ITMS Report

Attachment B: Team Behavioral Consultation: A summary of case timelines

Attachment C: Meeting Health Supports Need of People with IDD Report

Attachment D: Meeting Health Supports Need of People with IDD Curriculum