

Community Behavioral Health: Provider Notification Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Attestations May 11, 2016

As many of you know, CBH is looking at the best way to identify which of our BHRS providers can offer Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) to fidelity. Quickly developing requirements from the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) complicate this endeavor. As an initial step to meeting the OMHSAS requirement of posting our providers who offer ABA on our website, we have listed some of our providers who specialize in Autism treatment, including ABA.

Our next step is to work with outside subject matter experts, providers, and the Bureau of Autism Services (BAS) to develop Practice Standards for ABA. Once we publish these standards, we will offer our providers a chance to demonstrate that they meet these standards. We will list the providers who meet these standards on our website as ABA providers. Providers who do not meet ABA Practice Standards but wish to use ABA science within their BHRS programs are free to do so but CBH will not identify them as offering an ABA program.

As BHRS providers may be aware, we shared the letter from OMHSAS regarding attestations and said we would be putting out a formal notification to providers with instructions. For now, we are advising that staff providing services that include ABA to a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder sign the individual attestation titled "Confirmation of Knowledge and Skills to Provide ABA." This was included in our last communication. Providers should keep these attestations in staff personnel files.

At this time, CBH is not requiring that providers submit the provider attestation titled "Attestation for Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services Providers that Provide Applied Behavioral Analysis using Behavioral Specialist Consultant-Autism Spectrum Disorder and Therapeutic Staff Support Services." CBH will revisit the submission of the provider attestations following the publication of ABA Practice Standards.

Recent bulletins from OMHSAS can be found here:

- TSS ABA Bulletin
- BSC ABA Training
- ABA Attestation Memo
- ABA Provider Attestation Form

Questions regarding this Notice may be directed to Lauren Dellacava at lauren.dellacava@phila.gov or 215-413-8583.