

# Lanterman Regional Center

## Quality Guidelines for Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Services

The following guidelines should be considered when selecting an ABA service provider.

**1. Service Provider utilizes standard techniques described in the ABA scientific literature (e.g., incidental teaching, pivotal response training, discrete trial training).**

- ❖ Service provider uses evidence-based techniques that are appropriate for the client's needs and teaches these techniques to parents and caregivers.
- ❖ Service provider ensures that their staff is trained and experienced in applying standard ABA techniques via initial and ongoing staff training.

**2. Assessments and evaluations of progress are based on objective data.**

- ❖ Assessments for Behavior Management Consultation-Parent Training may require up to 8 hours over a period of two months. A full functional behavioral assessment for intensive ABA programs includes a functional analysis of behaviors and may require up to 36 hours over a period of 3-4 months.
- ❖ Treatment plans are developed from the information obtained during the assessment process.
- ❖ Treatment goals are stated in terms of specific behaviors that can be observed and measured.
- ❖ Criteria are defined so it is clear when goals are achieved.

**3. ABA services help clients and families achieve their desired outcomes.**

- ❖ Parents or other caregivers are involved in the development of goals and review of progress towards goals.
- ❖ The agency has clear criteria for defining when a child should transition from the intervention.
- ❖ Service provider encourages parents to access public education and generic community resources to support the desired outcomes.

**4. ABA service providers are accountable for their programs.**

- ❖ Treatment approaches are continued or modified based upon their effectiveness in changing behavior.
- ❖ Services are provided in settings where targeted behaviors typically occur.
- ❖ Observation and supervision for Behavior Management Consultation Parent Training programs occur monthly (on-site) by a qualified licensed clinician (i.e., Psychologist, Marriage and Family Therapist or Clinical Social Worker).
- ❖ Observation and supervision for intensive ABA programs occurs weekly (on-site) by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). Monthly team meetings including all interventionists, parents, and BCBA are required.

- ❖ Service provider maintains a record of contacts with clients and families.
- ❖ Service provider emphasizes the use of positive behavior supports.
- ❖ Service provider communicates change in interventionist to parents ahead of time.

**5. ABA services help clients and caregivers to manage themselves and their home.**

- ❖ Parents and caregivers are taught the principles and procedures that will help them teach their child new desirable behaviors in natural settings, via modeling with client and feedback from interventionists and supervisor.
- ❖ The family is given a written explanation of the role of the ABA interventionist in analyzing behaviors, developing treatments, and teaching the parent or caregiver to carry out interventions in natural settings.
- ❖ The treatment plan describes parent involvement in:
  - setting goals
  - implementing treatment
  - review of progress to evaluate effectiveness of treatment intervention
  - providing consistency across environments and over time.

**6. ABA service providers maintain a professional relationship with the client and the family.**

- ❖ Families receive copies of all administrative policies and procedures, including emergency procedures and contact information.
- ❖ Agency policies and guidelines addressing how services are delivered, how treatment plans are supervised, and written entry and exit criteria are explained to parents and provided in written documents, before any services are provided.
- ❖ Families are informed of the process for requesting a change in interventionist.
- ❖ Service providers share their grievance/complaint policy and procedures with families.
- ❖ Service provider uses authorized hours as determined by the assessment.

**7. Program personnel treat clients and families with courtesy, honesty, and respect.**

- ❖ Service provider personnel arrive at the client's home on time and provide services for the authorized period of time.
- ❖ Assessment is initiated within one month of receipt the referral.
- ❖ Service provider ensures client confidentiality.
- ❖ Family's scheduling needs are considered when establishing a treatment schedule.
- ❖ Where possible, services are provided in the language preferred by the family.