

# **Developmental Disabilities Resource Center**

## **DDRC Behavior Health Team**

The Behavioral Health Team, funded by Jefferson County mill levy funds provides assessment, support and treatment to address mental health issues affecting individuals eligible for DDRC services that are residents of Jefferson County.

The team includes two Behavior Analysts, a Behavioral Health Nurse, and a Psychiatrist. The team reviews referrals and makes appropriate service recommendations. Services may include consultation, behavior assessment and intervention, care coordination, psychiatric assessment and treatment, and medication review. The DDRC Behavior Health Team collaborates with other community agencies to build capacity and provide a systematic approach in the treatment of children and adults with developmental disabilities and behavior and/or mental health issues. If you are interested in a referral to the Behavior Health Services team, please contact your Resource Coordinator.

### **What can I expect from the Behavior Analyst at DDRC?**

A board certified behavior analyst will gather information regarding the client and the behavior(s) of concern. The information will be gathered by conducting a functional assessment. A functional assessment identifies environmental variables that may be contributing to the occurrence of the concerning behavior. A functional assessment consists of primarily two levels.

The first level of the assessment is the intake interview. The goals of the intake interview are twofold. The first goal is to determine if the referral is appropriate. That is, will the client benefit from behavior support? Is the behavior analyst qualified to treat this particular concern? The second goal of the intake interview is to obtain subjective information about the concerning behavior from the interdisciplinary team (e.g., parents, client, staff, teachers, etc). After the intake interview, the caregiver(s) may be asked to record data on the concerning behavior.

The second level of assessment will consist of the behavior analyst observing the behavior in the natural environment and/or in the clinic setting using a one-way mirror. The natural environment may include classroom settings, home settings, day programs, vocational settings, etc. If the behavior can be observed in the clinic, certain conditions will be set up to evoke the target behavior(s) so it can be assessed, which is referred to a functional analysis.

Once the functional assessment is completed, an evaluation with treatment recommendations will be provided and reviewed with the caregiver(s). The recommendations will be written in specific detail so it's clear on how to implement the treatment strategies. The behavior analyst will train the caregiver(s) on the treatment recommendations.

All treatment follow-up will be provided in the office with the team and/or the client. That is, the behavior analyst will be available for on-going training and to answer any questions or concerns; however, this will be conducted in the office. It is up to the caregiver(s) to schedule and keep these appointments with the behavior analyst. Please see the cancellation policy for procedures regarding repeated cancellations or no-shows.

Because there is a high demand for behavior support services and due to the long waiting list, these services are time limited. The goal is to assess why the behavior(s) is occurring, to give treatment recommendations, and to teach the caregivers how to implement the recommendations.