PBS Implementation in IDD Systems of Support: State and National Perspectives

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Positive Behavior Support
In the South Carolina IDD System

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To build/enhance a system that integrates policy, qualifications, training, services, and quality assurance for implementation of positive behavior support (in a Medicaid funded state system)
At the beginning . . .

- The Medicaid Waiver service was “psychological services” and did not delineate aba/pbs sufficiently.
- There was no rigorous qualification process.
- The QA process had not been developed.
- A “psychological services” provider could provide counseling, behavioral intervention, or similar services as they saw fit.
Role of Policy

- Rely on empirically validated practices
- Involve people who can make decisions regarding policy, and then funding . . .
- Even with evidence-based practices, if you can’t finance the change, it won’t happen
  - Medicaid Waiver
Role of Policy and Training

Develop basic educational, training and experience requirements for providers
  BCBA is not sufficient by itself for PBS . . .

Develop training that reinforces message and gives staff, providers, families the skills and tools needed

Design quality improvement system to ensure initiative is doing what you wanted it to do
Training – a) Supervisors; b) DSPs; c) BSP Developers

Supervisors:
- Over 1600 supervisors trained: competency-based
- Turnover impacts the effort and #’s

DSPs -- By local provider agency personnel
- Over 2,500 trained

BSP Developers
- BACB Approved Course Sequence
  - Infused with PBS . . .
  - USC for majority of time, Clemson, other
Quality Assurance

- Began in early 2000’s
- 2014 saw new set of standards approved for this service
  - Significantly more detailed
  - More objective
  - Points assigned per standard and sub-standard
  - Requires 80% minimum performance in QA review per each of 5 standards
Training is essential, but more is needed for system change

Change is gradual

Some people will not like the change . . .

- Challenges from Medicaid, lawsuits, “political” efforts

Requires:

- Key support from the beginning and for the long-term effort
What Has Been Accomplished

- Created & revised new Medicaid Waiver service
- Created & revised qualification & application process
- Created & revised quality assurance process to assess performance
- Implemented high quality training at multiple levels
- Major improvements to services provided
Require local agency management participation and evidence of “buy in” before training efforts

Database on BSS/PBS providers that includes caseload size, agencies, etc.

Crisis Intervention and prevention system
What May be Changing

- Changes in DD Agency Leadership Have Impact
- Length of continued support is hard to predict
- Shifts:
  - Move from Medicaid Waiver to Residential Habilitation funding/requirements
  - QA shifted to different contractor
Thank You!