

West Virginia University Center for Excellence in Disabilities Positive Behavior Support Program

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FAMILY PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

The Positive Behavior Support (PBS) Program is provided by the West Virginia University Center for Excellence in Disabilities (CED) through a grant with the West Virginia Bureau for Behavioral Health. The purpose of the PBS Program is to build workforce capacity to support individuals who have challenging behaviors. We offer short-term individual assistance to a very limited number of individuals with challenging behaviors statewide. Short-term assistance **requires the commitment** of the individual and a team of concerned individuals (family, friends and agency representatives). Our PBS specialists work with the team for about 3-5 months to develop a range of supports and activities to assist the team in reducing challenging behavior and helping the consumer lead a meaningful life.

Considerations & Expectations

A referral/request for individual assistance needs to take into consideration the following:

1. Short-term assistance is open to individuals who have a developmental disability, traumatic brain injury, and/or serious emotional disorders who are at risk of out of home placement and have **severe challenging behavior**.
2. It typically takes 3 to 5 months for us to complete assessments and develop a positive behavior support plan; the caregiver and team are responsible for collecting data and carrying out recommendations.
3. The PBS Program requires caregivers to:
 - a. Be present at all times during scheduled appointments
 - b. Maintain ongoing timely communication
 - c. Complete assessments
 - d. Collect data on target behavior(s)
 - e. Carry out recommendations designed to improve the individual's quality of life
4. Failure to return 3 consecutive phone calls and/or emails from staff and/or missing 3 appointments will result in the case not being served and returned to the waiting list.