

Summary of PA DPW policies & procedures regarding EPSDT & BHR Service delivery

Since 1992, any child in Pennsylvania has been entitled under the law to "Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment" (EPSDT) services which include diagnostic testing for the purpose of uncovering a disability that may require treatment. These services are now referred to as "Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services for Children and Adolescents" (BHRSCA).

When diagnostic testing by an appropriately licensed professional (psychologist, psychiatrist, medical doctor, etc) reveals a disability in a child, that child's parent may make an application to the State Department of Public Welfare (DPW), via the local county office, for the child's receipt of Medical Assistance (MA) benefits. If the evaluation meets the criteria set by DPW, the child's parent can obtain MA benefits for that child (as a "Disabled Child Only"), regardless of family income. "School" psychologists can help with the process of establishing eligibility for MA benefits, but they cannot prescribe *treatment*, so their evaluations cannot be used to obtain any particular *services*.

The granting of MA eligibility can be made *retroactively* up to 90 days in the past, so that the providers of service to the child can be compensated at the Medical Assistance "fee schedule" rate for such services, including up to 5 hours for the initial diagnostic psychological evaluation, and Behavior Specialist Consultant (BSC) and Mobile Therapy (MT) services.

In this way, Behavior Specialist and Mobile Therapy services, prescribed by an appropriately licensed practitioner and in accordance with DPW bulletins, policies and procedures can be delivered and paid-for through the state's ACCESS system without any delay in the delivery of these necessary services to the child.

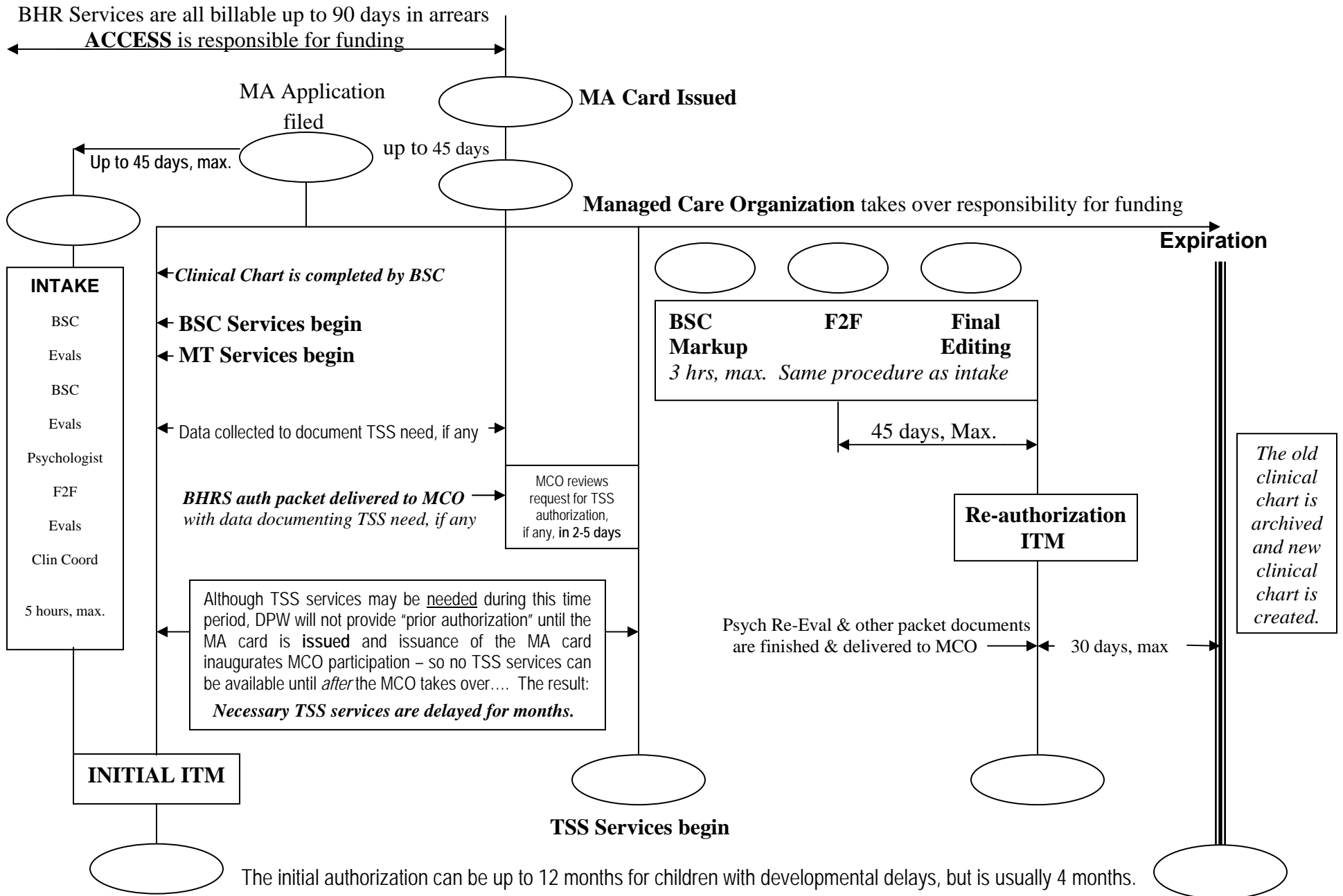
Unfortunately, any child in need of Therapeutic Staff Support (TSS) services must wait until he/she has become the client of a Behavioral Health Managed Care Organization (BHMCO) before any TSS service can be delivered. This is the case because TSS services must be "prior authorized" and requests for prior authorization of TSS services cannot be made to DPW until after the child's eligibility for MA has been *established*. Since assignment to a Behavioral Health Managed Care Organization (BHMCO) happens as soon as MA eligibility is established, there is no time for DPW to review any applications for TSS services, and so any child in need of TSS services must wait until he/she has become the client of a BHMCO before any TSS service can be authorized – this delays the delivery of necessary TSS services by one or more *months*.

The denial of funding for competently-prescribed BSC and MT services can only be implemented after the initial period of the child's BHR service prescription has expired. The initial prescription period is often just four (4) months, but DPW policy in cases of children with Autism, Pervasive Developmental Disorders and other developmental disabilities, stipulates that the initial prescription period can be up to one (1) year in duration.

Responsibility for funding BSC and MT services that were implemented during the "90-day presumed eligibility" period (before MA eligibility is established) falls to the BHMCO, which must continue to fund all existing BHR Services for the remainder of the initial authorization period.

It is the responsibility of the provider of BHR Services to promptly notify the BHMCO that its new client has been receiving BHR Services, and to supply documentation of this as required.

BHRSCA Time Frames – Pennsylvania



INTAKE FORM

Child's Name: _____

County: _____

Done Date

- _____ Family contacts NBC for help.
 - _____ EVS check to confirm MA status. If *active* MA already exists, unless in Philadelphia, take name & phone & refer to County BHMCO
- if MA doesn't already exist (or child lives in Philadelphia):**
- _____ Intake Psychologist does MA eligibility evaluation if BHRS does **not** appear necessary but child does have MH disability symptoms.
- If BHRS appears to be necessary (and child lives in Philadelphia or does not have *active* MA eligibility):**
- _____ Schedule intake with Behavior Specialist Consultant (BSC)
 - Intake Coordinator consults Clinical Director to determine if a BSC is available to take the case if BHRS is necessary.
 - If BHRS seems needed, BSC collects data using the *Parent Information Questionnaire for Psychological Assessment* form
 - Data collection can be done at the home of the parent (preferably), via the telephone or via correspondence.
 - _____ BSC sends draft BHRS packet for Quality Assurance review.
 - BHRS draft packet is sent to Intake Psychologist before ITM)
 - _____ Schedule Intake Psychological evaluation (*psychologist should receive draft packet prior to face-to-face meeting with child*).
 - Intake Coordinator schedules the intake psychologist's face-to-face meeting AND the ITM for the same day, within ½ hour of each other, and monitors their completion.
 - County CASSP Coordinator invited to attend ITM at family home via fax of Plan of Care Summary form 5+ days in advance
 - _____ Intake Psychologist completes face-to-face visit with child, holds ITM with BSC, and obtains necessary signatures to begin BHRS.
 - _____ All ITM documents are delivered to Clinical Director.
 - BSC creates the initial Client Chart.
 - Clinical Director assigns a MT if necessary and begins tracking of BHRS delivery
 - _____ Begin BSC _____ Begin MT _____ Begin data collection to document need for TSS, if any
 - _____ BSC revises BHRS packet within 30 days to reflect TSS need, if any. Revised Psych Eval amends original Psych Eval.
 - _____ Clinical Director delivers application for MA benefits to County Assistance Office (*within 45 days of the **revised** Psych Eval date*).
 - _____ MA card issued (Clinical Director checks EVS daily to make certain we discover this date as soon as possible)
 - bill ACCESS for data collection, original & revised psychological evaluations, BSC & MT services as soon as MA ID # is issued
 - _____ Clinical Director delivers current BHRS packet (**with revised Psych Eval**) to MCO within 2 days after MA ID # is issued
 - If NBC is unable to provide BHRS as prescribed within two weeks, notify MCO and offer Share-Transfer list option to parent.
 - _____ Begin billing MCO for existing **BSC** and/or **MT** services. If TSS is necessary, MCO has been notified of existing TSS prescription.
 - _____ MCO authorizes prescribed TSS service, if any. Clinical Director assigns TSS and includes TSS in service tracking.
 - _____ Begin billing MCO for TSS service. Prepare for future reauthorization of BHRS via ongoing data collection and service tracking.

Intake Procedures – tasks occur in the order presented in each column. Columns are continuous from left to right.

<p>Receive Phone Call from parent asking for help.</p> <p>If child IS already enrolled in MA and lives outside Philadelphia, refer parent to MCO in their County. We are not allowed to help children in those situations, unfortunately.</p> <p>If child is NOT already ENROLLED in Medical Assistance, or if the child lives in Philadelphia, continue below:</p> <p>Refer to www.abc-pa.org</p> <p>1) Download Referral form</p> <p>2) Complete Referral form</p> <p>3) Mail or fax back form</p> <p>Provide information about other types of services that may be of interest to the family; refer for crisis service if the child has an emergency need for help.</p>	<p>Place phone call to parent to acknowledge receipt of Referral form within 24 hours.</p> <p>1) Assess whether BHRS is likely to be needed and useful:</p> <p>a) If so, assign BSC to do BHRS intake (full Bio-Psycho-Social Evaluation and BHRS packet).</p> <p>b) If not, assign BSC to collect data for Medicaid Eligibility evaluation (1 page report).</p> <p>2) If child is disabled and could potentially benefit from Medicaid enrollment but does not appear to need BHRS, or if BHRS cannot be delivered by NBC, deliver necessary paperwork to obtain MA eligibility to family and provide recommendations for filing it efficiently.</p> <p>If BHRS is probably needed and NBC could provide it, continue to next column....</p>	<p>If BHRS probably needed & NBC could provide it:</p> <p>BSC begins data collection using the Information Questionnaire for Bio-Psycho-Social Evaluation.</p> <p>BSC writes draft BHRS packet.</p> <p>BSC discusses plans for BHRS with psychologist who will do face-to-face meeting with child and complete Treatment Plan and chair ISPT meeting.....</p> <p>Schedule Psychologist’s face-to-face meeting AND the ISPT meeting AND CASSP Coordinator visit all for the same date within ½ hour of each other.</p> <p>Psychologist completes face-to-face eval AND treatment plan, AND chairs ISPT AND gets signatures so BSC/MT can begin as soon as ISPT is finished.</p>	<p>Continue collecting behavioral data for 30 days. Collect data in school if TSS seems to be needed there.</p> <p>Determine if TSS is needed based on preceding data collection. Confirm parent (and school) consent and intent to collaborate for TSS service.</p> <p>Revise Psychological Evaluation Report (PER) and other Packet data to reflect need for TSS, if any.</p> <p>Assist parent in completing application for MA benefits.</p> <p>Deliver revised PER to County Assistance Office with MA application requesting retroactive start date (up to 90 days in arrears). PER date cannot be more than 45 days prior to ISPT date.</p> <p>Get a receipt for the MA application delivery noting who received it, date and time. 45 day clock starts.</p>	<p>MA office processes MA application within 45 days per DPW policy.</p> <p>Monitor EVS to be sure we identify the date when MA benefits begin.</p> <p>DPW issues MA benefits notification to parent & updates EVS.</p> <p>ACCESS funds all BHRS delivered before MCO gets the BHRS packet, including all evaluation time.</p> <p>MCO receives BHRS packet with revised PER within 2 days after DPW issues MA benefits notification.</p> <p>MCO gets 2-5 days to approve BHRS packet, including TSS authorization if any. BSC/MT are already approved by default. MCO takes over funding for all BHRS, including TSS if any.</p> <hr/> <p>Prepare for BHRS reauthorization since current authorization will expire in less than 60 days.</p>
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The Institute for Behavior Change

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All Therapeutic Staff Support (TSS) providers are supervised weekly by Behavior Specialist Consultants. BSC and MT providers are supervised by Licensed Psychologists.

The Network for Behavior Change, pc

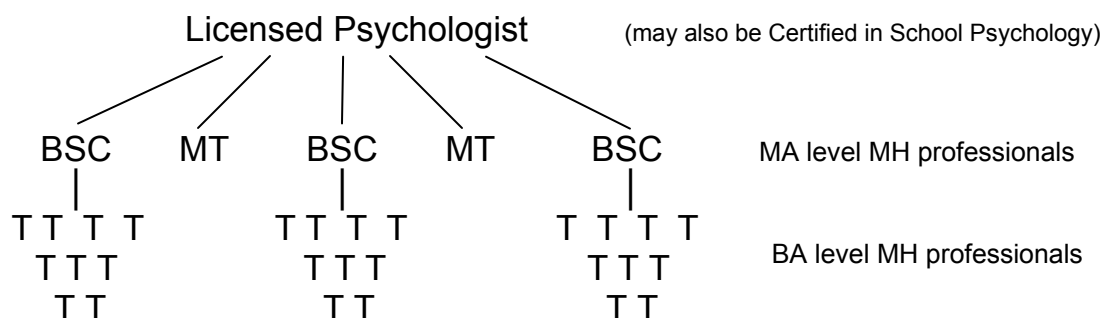


Each Licensed Psychologist can supervise up to 3 "FT equivalents" (120 hours) of BSC/MT providers each week.

Each TSS supervisor can supervise up to 9 "FT equivalents" (360 hours) of TSS providers each week.

Nonlicensed employees of The Institute for Behavior Change (IBC) provide BSC, MT and TSS services to clients under the scope of practice of licensed psychologists from *The Network for Behavior Change*. A licensed psychologist provides face-to-face supervision to each BSC and MT providing services to clients under the psychologist's scope of practice. Each licensed psychologist signs an Agreement with *The Network for Behavior Change* stating that they agree to take "full and complete professional responsibility" for all services provided to clients by persons under their scope of professional practice.

The Institute for Behavior Change provides in-home and in-school behavioral treatment and mental health services to children and adolescents, especially those with developmental delays, in Pennsylvania. All services are delivered under the scope of practice of professionally licensed psychologists (members of *The Network for Behavior Change*). Each psychologist supervises up to 3 full-time equivalents of BSC and MT providers (delivering up to 120 clock hours weekly), with up to 9 full-time equivalents of TSS providers supervised by each BSC.



BSC = Behavior Specialist Consultant

MT = Mobile Therapist

T = Therapeutic Staff Support provider

BSC meets with family and/or school officials every week and monitors TSS provider's service delivery. Parents and teachers supply outcome data to BSC weekly regarding frequency and severity of target behavior so that BSC can amend the Treatment Plan as often as necessary and so BSC supervision of TSS providers can be meaningful. MT provides psychological counseling in the child's home or school. TSS provider implements the child's treatment plan conscientiously and directly intervenes in the child's life at home and at school, helping parents and others to respond to the child's behavioral challenges therapeutically, consistently and more successfully.

Licensed Psychologists provide each BSC with face-to-face supervision as necessary to assure that professional psychological services are delivered to clients at all times. Psychologists supervise MT providers as necessary to assure quality service delivery; supervision time is paid time for IBC staff.

BSC providers deliver individual supervision to each TSS provider (including direct observation of their work) each week. TSS providers also receive 1 hour of group supervision each month. Emergency supervision is available as needed 24/7, including psychologist consultations whenever necessary.

Psychologists meet as necessary to review quality issues.

Quarterly staff meetings assure completion annual training requirements.

Each TSS provider receives 15 hours of pre-service training, 24 hours of training in the first six months of employment (including 15 hours of training regarding Autism Spectrum Disorders), CPR-First Aid instruction, and 20 hours of additional training annually.

Each BSC provider receives all training given to TSS, plus 20 to 40 hours of mentoring from an experienced BSC provider in the first two weeks of employment, and at least 20 hours of training annually (including all TSS training, specialized training in Autism Spectrum Disorders, and supervisor effectiveness training in the first six months of employment).

BSC earns \$27 to \$35 hourly; MT earns \$25 to \$27 hourly; TSS providers earn \$15 to \$16 hourly.

Employees who average 30 or more hours worked per week, including transportation time, are eligible for health insurance benefits, including dental and prescription coverage and other benefits.

Fast answers to frequently asked questions

What *exactly* are these services?

We deliver in-home and/or in-school behavior support to address troublesome behavior of all sorts in children of all ages who receive Medical Assistance benefits and need these services, at absolutely no cost whatsoever regardless of family income. Well-trained and closely supervised professionals deliver these services under the supervision of licensed psychologists who specialize in the treatment of children. **You can click on any [hyperlink below to view the Job Description for that position](#)** (Adobe Reader is required for viewing).

[Behavior Specialist Consultant](#) (BSC) providers have Masters degrees and experience in the use of behavioral psychology with children. They receive direct face-to-face supervision from licensed psychologists and work closely with parents and teachers to design and monitor the child's Treatment Plan. They supervise the TSS providers who implement the Treatment Plan on a day-to-day basis.

[Therapeutic Staff Support](#) (TSS) providers have Bachelors degrees and deliver 1:1 support to children according to a written Treatment Plan. They remain with the child for several hours at a time (typically between 10 and 25 or more hours per week). They give advice to the child, correct misbehavior therapeutically, and prevent the child from taking steps in the wrong direction. They work closely with parents and teachers to help the child to be more successful at home, at school and in the community.

[Mobile Therapist](#) (MT) providers have Masters degrees and work under the direct supervision of licensed psychologists. They provide in-home and in-school psychological counseling to the child, and meet with parents, teachers and other involved adults to help the child to develop a healthier self-image, learn more mature social skills, and improve interpersonal relationship skills.

[Program Specialists](#) have Masters degrees and experience with diagnostic educational, intellectual, and behavioral assessment instruments. They work under the supervision of a Certified School Psychologist and perform diagnostic evaluations of children in schools.

[Licensed Psychologists](#) are licensed for the independent practice of psychology in Pennsylvania. They are all specialists in developmental and child psychology, and take full and complete responsibility for the professional services delivered by persons under their supervision.

Are these services *effective*?

Our outcome data, based on over **500** treatment records selected at random between 2002 and 2007, show success rates between **74%** and **82%** addressing **physical aggression, communication deficits, personal safety issues, compliance with adult prompts** and **socialization deficits**. Our staff were delivering these services in 1981 -- *more than 10 years* before any other provider in Pennsylvania, and we've consistently earned the highest praise from parents, advocates, *and even Managed Care Organization officials* for the quality and integrity of our work, so we can probably help with just about any situation in this field that confronts a child. Call us *anytime* at 610-383-1432. For more in-depth information, go to www.abc-pa.org/EPSTDT_services.htm

If my child must have Medical Assistance (MA) to get these services, is my child *eligible* for Medical Assistance?

Yes, if he/she lives in Pennsylvania, is under 21 years of age, and has a disability, your child is ***almost certainly*** eligible for Medical Assistance benefits. It costs you *nothing* to ask. Please call anytime: 610-383-1432 for more information. If you would like written information about the MA eligibility evaluation process or the Institute for Behavior Change, including our Organizational Chart, click [here](#).

How long does it take to get an evaluation from you to determine my child's eligibility for MA benefits?

Provided that your child is a Pennsylvania resident under 21 years of age with a disability and without Medical Assistance benefits, if you can visit our office with your child (outside Coatesville in Chester county) the evaluation can be completed in a few hours, and the written report of the evaluation can be delivered to you in less than 30 days.

What does your evaluation involve?

About one to two hours of your responding to questions about your child, completing a brief behavior rating scale about your child's typical behavior, and having the child meet briefly face-to-face with a licensed psychologist. The psychologist's finished report can usually be delivered to you in less than 30 days. It will be about 10-15 pages long and will cover everything that any insurance company, funding agency or treatment service provider in Pennsylvania could possibly want.

Who performs this evaluation?

A trained mental health professional will ask the questions, write down your answers and help you respond to the behavioral rating scale. A licensed professional psychologist and Certified School Psychologist will meet with your child face-to-face and complete the evaluation.

Besides getting MA benefits, does your evaluation have any other uses?

Yes. Our evaluation report can serve **four additional purposes *simultaneously***:

1. Establish eligibility for Early Intervention services if your child is under the age of 5 and has a significant developmental delay.
2. Determine your child's entitlement to special education services in school.
3. Establish your child's entitlement to BHR ("wrap-around") services (professional behavioral support services in your child's home or school) if your child has a need for these services.
4. Create an integrated, individualized behavioral Treatment Plan for your child that will be acceptable to *any* Managed Care Organization in Pennsylvania for delivering "wrap-around" services if they're needed.

Is there a waiting list for these evaluations?

No. If your child needs help, call us: 610-383-1432. **We can usually get started in less than a week.**

Is there any cost for these evaluations?

No. The cost is paid 100% by the State of Pennsylvania, regardless of family income, if your child is found to be eligible for Medical Assistance benefits. If we don't believe that your child qualifies for Medical Assistance benefits, we will tell you so *before* the evaluation, so there will be no cost to you in any case. If you want a **different** type of evaluation (academic achievement, intelligence, personality), we can also help you, but there will be a cost to you (that *may or may not* be reimbursable in whole or in part by your private insurance company).

What if I already have Medical Assistance benefits for my child?

Unfortunately, if your child *already* has MA benefits -- unless you live in Philadelphia -- we can't help you until you get **permission** from your county government to get services from us. It's unfortunate, we have tried to change their policy, but we have to follow it if you live anywhere in Pennsylvania *except Philadelphia*. To get their permission, you have to visit one of the evaluation providers they've chosen for you -- usually a "Base Service Unit" and that provider has to prescribe the services your child needs. After you have *their* prescription, if *they* prescribed BHR ("wrap-around") services, you can probably get those services from us if we are authorized to work in your county....

The good news: Because we started delivering these services about 10 years before any other provider in Pennsylvania, and have worked with children as young as 18 months of age, we can probably help you work-through just about any situation in this field that confronts your child.

Please call us *anytime*: 610-383-1432.