

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 447.205, the Georgia Department of Community Health is required to give public notice of any significant proposed change in its methods and standards for setting payment rates for services.

Behavioral Support Services-Service Establishment

Pending enactment of HB 911, and approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Department of Community Health (DCH) is proposing effective July 1, 2022 to establish a new service known as Behavioral Support Services.

Behavioral Support Services are one-to-one, face-to-face, behavior management intervention and stabilization services in home or community settings designed to teach and reinforce behavioral goals through training and direct support. Behavioral Support Services are designed for children and youth who meet serious emotional disturbance, autism spectrum disorder, traumatic brain injury and/or other developmental criteria with behavioral symptoms. Services will be authorized according to medical necessity criteria and review via prior authorization.

The purpose of Behavioral Support Services is to reinforce positive behaviors, continue training and education for the youth and family in areas that promote health, safety and well-being of the child and family of origin, adoptive or foster family. Behavioral Support Services are provided by a trained and supervised behavioral aide. Through Behavioral Support Services, a behavioral aide supports the youth by augmenting life, behavioral, and social skills training needed to reach their identified treatment goals and function in normal life roles in the community.

During skills training, the behavioral aide describes the skill and expectations for the youth's behavior, models the skill, engages the youth in practice of the skill, and provides feedback on skill performance. The ability to acquire and apply these skills helps prevent relapse, increase independent functioning, and strengthen goal attainment. These aides consult face-to-face with family members, other caregivers, teachers or other key individuals that are part of a youth's treatment team in order to determine how to help the youth be more successful in meeting treatment goals.

The increase in rates of reimbursement is funded in accordance with the DCH American Rescue Plan of 2021 (ARP) and supported ongoing by State appropriations.

Proposed July 1, 2022 rates are as follows:

Service	Proposed Rate	Billing Code
Behavioral Support Services	\$6.63 per 15-minute unit	S9122 U1

The proposed reimbursement rate change is estimated to increase expenditures as follows:

SFY 2023			
Program	State Funds (ARP)	Federal Funds	Total Funds
Aged, Blind and Disabled (ABD) Medicaid	\$17,079,021	\$35,924,381	\$53,003,402

This public notice is available for review at each county Division of Family and Children Services office. An opportunity for public comment will be held on **May 19, 2022 at 11:00 a.m., via Zoom audio**. There will be **no in-person** attendance at the Department of Community Health (DCH).

Individuals who are disabled and need assistance to participate during this meeting should call (404) 656-4479 at least three (3) business days prior to the scheduled public hearing to ensure any necessary accommodations can be provided.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88477020345?pwd=cmZzdHVBTIB1b1d5TmpqTStmK1dLUT09>

Meeting ID: 884 7702 0345

Passcode: Open

One tap mobile

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+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 884 7702 0345

Individuals wishing to comment in writing on any of the proposed changes should do so on or before **May 26, 2022**, to the Board of Community Health, Post Office Box 1966, Atlanta, Georgia 30301-1966. You may also email comments to Danisha Williams, danwilliams@dch.ga.gov or fax to 404-651-6880.

Comments submitted will be available for review by submitting a request via email to Danisha Williams, danwilliams@dch.ga.gov. Comments from written and public testimony will be provided to the Board of Community Health prior to the **June 27, 2022** Board meeting. The Board will vote on the proposed changes at the Board meeting to be held at 10:30 a.m. at the Department of Community Health.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 12th DAY OF May 2022

Caylee Noggle, Commissioner