

## Workgroup Budget Ideas

### **Proposal: Group Instruction for In-Home Behavior Intervention Services**

Reduce POS costs for in-home behavior intervention services by refining Service Code (Client/Parent Support Behavior Intervention Training) and Service Code 077 (Parent Coordinated Home Based Behavior Intervention Program for Autistic Children). These service codes will refine the two services such that group instruction on behavior intervention for parents (and/or guardians) must be completed prior to receipt of in-home behavioral services. Training would include the basics of behavior intervention, how to manage less severe behavioral challenges, and the role and responsibilities of parents (and/or guardians) in the provision of in-home behavioral services.

### **Background Information on Program Area:**

In fiscal year 2007/08, regional centers spent at least \$44,527,003 on in-home behavior services for consumers residing in their families' homes. These costs include those billed to Service Code 048 (Client/Parent Support Behavior Intervention Training) and Service Code 077 (Parent Coordinated Home Based Behavior Intervention Program for Autistic Children).

Behavior intervention services are often critical to a consumer remaining with their family at home. This is a proven model of providing cost-effective behavior intervention services. Currently, at least three regional centers (Valley Mountain Regional Center, North Los Angeles Regional Center, and Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center) provide group training to parents on behavior intervention. In-home behavioral interventions require a significant time commitment on the part of family members. Some family members are not aware of the time commitment and/or could benefit from group training in lieu of in-home behavioral services. Training would be provided by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst with teaching experience and costs approximately \$1,200 per training. For an average size regional center, the assessed need is about 24 trainings per year.

### **Please check applicable box(es):**

- Trailer bill language
- Regulation change
- Waiver amendment/New waiver

### **Pros:**

- This proposal could save the state General Fund while improving the capacity of parents to address the behavioral needs of their children.

### **Cons:**

- The total savings in this proposal are offset by the costs of providing the group training.

- Some families, including those who are not English speaking, or who live in remote rural locations, may not be able to access group instruction.
- In-home behavior intervention services are customized to meet the needs of the particular consumer, and also involve the siblings and extended family in interventions. Therefore, in some cases, in-home behavior services may be more effective than parent training.

**Fiscal :**

2009/10 Savings \$8.1 Million TF (\$6.4 Million GF)

*Annual Savings* \$16.2 Million (\$12.8 Million GF)

Annual cost to provide Group Training twice monthly at all 21 Regional Centers:  
\$604,800

Assumptions

1. Six months phase in.
2. Used FY 2007/08 Expenditures to project FY 2009/10 Expenditures
  - a. Expenditure growth of 36% annually in Service Code 048
    - i. FY 2009/10 Expenditures projected at \$46,013,455
      1. 42% of expenditures billed to waiver at 50% federal reimbursement
  - b. Expenditure growth of negative 11% annually in Service Code 077.
    - i. FY 2009/10 Expenditures projected \$1,147,402
      1. Service Code 077 is not billed to the waiver
3. FY 2009/10 need for Service Codes 048 and 077 will drop by 20%.
4. Estimate a cost of training (\$1200/class X 24 sessions per year X 21 regional centers) = \$604,800.