THE NEED FOR BEHAVIOR THERAPISTS IN FLORIDA

A SURVEY FOR FLORIDIANS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc.

EASY READ

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PROJECT: THE NEED FOR BEHAVIOR THERAPISTS IN FLORIDA

What is behavior?

The word “behavior” describes the way a person acts.

Here is the word used in a sentence: “Michael’s behavior was calm and polite.”

This means Michael was acting in a way that was quiet and calm. He was doing and saying things that were polite to others.

Behavior is what we do. Some examples are:

- How we speak with others
- How we respond when something happens
- How we express feeling happy, sad, or upset

Why is behavior important?

There are many situations when people are expected to behave a certain way.

The way you should behave may depend on where you are, what time it is, and who you are with.

For example, when you are in a public place, like a bank, library, or store, the people there expect you to follow certain rules.

You should not yell, run, or do other things that might be disturbing to others.

What happens when your behavior does not fit the situation?

When you behave in a way that others do not expect, it could cause you and others serious problems.

You could upset a friend, lose a job, or be removed from a place you like to be.

You could also hurt someone's feelings or even put yourself or someone else in danger.

Sometimes doing the unexpected is not a big deal. Sometimes others may find unexpected behavior funny or interesting.

BUT: If you do not know how others will react when you behave differently, you are taking a chance that might not work out for you.

Some behaviors are definitely a problem. Here are some examples:

- ***Getting upset in a way that is dangerous or frightening to others***
- ***Harming yourself or others***
- ***Breaking a law, such as taking something that doesn't belong to you***

Who can help you with your behavior?

If you are having a hard time with your behavior, there are people who can help.

A behavior therapist is trained to help people so that their behavior is better.

Unfortunately, in Florida, there is a shortage of behavior therapists for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council needs to know how people with I/DD feel about this shortage. They also want to know what you think can be done about it.

Why are we interested in what you think?

Your opinion will provide people with I/DD with more self-determination.

This means they will have better decision-making about important things that affect their lives.

The results can lead to changes in services and goals.

For example, if goals are regarded as not very important or useful, changes could be made.

What do you think about increasing the number of behavior therapists in Florida?

The pages that follow are a survey. Your answers will help us understand how you feel about the shortage of behavior therapists in Florida.

Your answers will be kept secret.

Florida Behavior Therapist Shortage Survey

ABOUT YOU

AGE:

- ☐ LESS THAN 18
- ☐ AGE 18 – 24
- ☐ AGE 25-34
- ☐ AGE 35-44
- ☐ AGE 45-54
- ☐ AGE 55-64
- ☐ 65 OR OVER
- ☐ PREFER NOT TO SAY

GENDER:

HOW DO YOU DESCRIBE YOUR GENDER?

- ☐ FEMALE
- ☐ MALE

SELF-IDENTIFY (PLEASE SPECIFY BELOW)

PLEASE SPECIFY:

_____

_____

- ☐ I PREFER NOT TO ANSWER

Florida Behavior Therapist Shortage Survey (Continued)

ABOUT YOU

RACE:

- ☐ AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE
- ☐ ASIAN
- ☐ BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN
- ☐ NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER
- ☐ WHITE
- ☐ TWO OR MORE RACES SOME OTHER RACE
- ☐ I PREFER NOT TO ANSWER

ETHNICITY:

- ☐ HISPANIC
- ☐ LATINO
- ☐ NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO
- ☐ DIFFERENT ETHNICITY (PLEASE STATE):

_____

_____

_____

- ☐ I PREFER NOT TO ANSWER

Florida Behavior Therapist Shortage Survey (Continued)

ABOUT YOU

AFFILIATION/ROLE:

- ☐ INDIVIDUAL WITH DISABILITY
- ☐ FAMILY MEMBER OR CAREGIVER
- ☐ SERVICE PROVIDER
- ☐ K-12 EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVE
- ☐ UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVE
- ☐ STATE AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE
- ☐ OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY):

_____

_____

COUNTY WHERE YOU LIVE:

_____

_____

Your Opinion

1. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE SHORTAGE OF BEHAVIOR THERAPISTS IN FLORIDA?

A. IT IS IMPORTANT TO HELP INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (I/DD) IMPROVE BEHAVIOR.

- ☐ AGREE
- ☐ DISAGREE
- ☐ DON'T KNOW

B. THIS SURVEY PROJECT WILL HELP FIND OUT WHAT IS NEEDED TO HELP PEOPLE'S BEHAVIOR.

- ☐ AGREE
- ☐ DISAGREE
- ☐ DON'T KNOW

C. THERE NEEDS TO BE MORE BEHAVIOR THERAPISTS FOR FLORIDIANS WITH I/DD.

- ☐ AGREE
- ☐ DISAGREE
- ☐ DON'T KNOW

Your Opinion (Continued)

2. IS MY WORK ON THIS PROJECT MEANINGFUL?

A. PEOPLE LISTEN AND RESPECT WHAT I SAY IN MEETINGS FOR THIS PROJECT.

- ☐ AGREE
- ☐ DISAGREE
- ☐ DON'T KNOW

B. MY WORK ON THIS PROJECT IS A GOOD USE OF MY TIME.

- ☐ AGREE
- ☐ DISAGREE
- ☐ DON'T KNOW

C. MEETINGS ABOUT THIS PROJECT ARE PRODUCTIVE.

- ☐ AGREE
- ☐ DISAGREE
- ☐ DON'T KNOW

D. EVERYONE WHO SHOULD BE A PART OF THIS PROJECT IS INCLUDED.

- ☐ AGREE
- ☐ DISAGREE
- ☐ DON'T KNOW

E. THIS SURVEY IS A GOOD WAY TO LEARN WHY THERE AREN'T ENOUGH BEHAVIOR THERAPISTS AND HOW TO SOLVE THAT.

- ☐ AGREE
- ☐ DISAGREE
- ☐ DON'T KNOW

Your Opinion (Continued)

3. THE NEXT ITEMS HELP US UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SURVEY PROJECT.

A. THIS PROJECT SHOULD FIND OUT HOW TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF BEHAVIOR THERAPISTS IN FLORIDA.

- ☐ AGREE
- ☐ DISAGREE
- ☐ DON'T KNOW

B. THIS WORK SHOULD INCREASE THE NUMBER OF BEHAVIOR THERAPISTS IN FLORIDA.

- ☐ AGREE
- ☐ DISAGREE
- ☐ DON'T KNOW

C. ALL LEVELS OF BEHAVIOR THERAPISTS SHOULD BE INCREASED AFTER THIS PROJECT.

- ☐ AGREE
- ☐ DISAGREE
- ☐ DON'T KNOW

D. PEOPLE WITH I/DD AND CHALLENGING BEHAVIOR WILL IMPROVE THEIR BEHAVIOR BECAUSE OF THIS PROJECT.

- ☐ AGREE
- ☐ DISAGREE
- ☐ DON'T KNOW

E. PEOPLE WITH I/DD WILL HAVE IMPROVED BEHAVIOR THAT WILL LAST INTO THE FUTURE.

- ☐ AGREE
- ☐ DISAGREE
- ☐ DON'T KNOW