



May 8, 2013

Responses to Questions raised on the 4/17/13 Web Ex training for Behavior Specialist License (BSL)

Responses provided by the Departments of Welfare and State

Additional information can be found by viewing the training Power Point at

http://www.parecovery.org/services_bhrs.shtml

1. **Question:** If another state emails the background check to the applicant and the applicant forwards the email to the Board of Medicine (BOM), will the BOM accept the background check as an “original?”

Answer: To date BOM has not received any background checks via email. BOM will only accept background checks that come directly from the state police and BOM must be able to verify that the state normally emails completed background checks.
2. **Question:** What is the renewal process for a BSL?

Answer: Regardless of when the BSL was issued it will expire on December 31 of even-numbered years. Approximately 120 days prior to the expiration date, BOM will mail a renewal notice (with instructions on how to renew online) to the address BOM has on file for the licensee. It is therefore important that you keep your address record with the BOM current.
3. **Question:** Who can verify clinical and FBA experience?

Answer: The verification form must be completed and signed by the applicant’s previous or current employer or supervisor. The employer or supervisor can only complete forms that indicate the experience they can attest to being acquired under their direction or supervision. If an applicant needs to have more than one employer or supervisor complete the form, the applicant should make a copy of the form and have each employer or supervisor complete and submit that form. The applicant should also instruct the person signing the form that all fields need to be completed, including the field noting the person’s professional role, labeled “Profession.”
4. **Question:** If some of my documentation/verification forms have already been submitted (e.g., by a university or former employer/supervisor), but I haven’t submitted the first eight pieces of the application for a BSL, should I request that the documentation be resubmitted?

Answer: No. BOM will match up the documents already submitted to the application when it arrives. However, it is always best to submit the first 8 pieces of the application and then the additional document shortly thereafter. If BOM does not have items needed to complete the application, BOM will notify you in writing when it evaluates the application.

5. **Question:** If an individual will obtain a psychologist, LSW, LCSW, LPC license after 5/26/13 but before 1/1/14 should the individual submit a status plan to their behavioral health managed care organization (BH-MCO)?

Answer: Yes, individuals who are seeking, but have not obtained a psychologist, LSW, LCSW, LPC license by 5/26/13 should submit a status plan to their BH-MCOs.

6. **Question:** If an individual has a BSL but does not meet the qualification for a behavior specialist consultant (BSC), can the individual only serve youth with autism spectrum disorders (ASD)?

Answer: Yes; if an individual does not meet the qualifications of a BSC listed in Medical Assistance Bulletin (MAB) 01-94-01 but has a BSL, the individual may only serve youth with ASD.

7. **Question:** What happens if an individual has a BSL but does not have the required post graduate experience to be a BSC?

Answer: MAB 01-94-01 lists the qualifications for a BSC. These qualifications do not include a requirement for post graduate experience.

8. **Question:** Can an unlicensed BSC continue to serve children with ASD in the Fee For Service (FFS) system after 5/26/13?

Answer: A bulletin will be released in the near future which will address the circumstances in which unlicensed staff can serve FFS youth.

9. **Question:** How should the BH-MCOs handle new hires after 1/1/14?

Answer: If the new hire does not have a BSL, LCSW, LSW, LPC, or psychologist license or another license whose scope of practice includes the diagnostic assessment or treatment of ASD, the new hire must have submitted a complete application for a BSL by 1/1/14. The BH-MCO must review the applicant's information to determine if the new hire is reasonably likely to meet the qualifications for a BSL. If the BH-MCO determines that the new hire is reasonably likely to meet the qualifications for a BSL, the BH-MCO can pay the new hire for BSC services.

10. **Question:** Will licensed individuals be able to continue to bill for BSC services through an agency or psychologist?

Answer: Yes, licensed individuals providing BSC services to youth with ASD will be able to continue to bill through an approved behavioral health rehabilitation services (BHRS) provider.

11. **Training:** A number of questions were submitted about training availability, documentation of supplemental trainings, and documentation of university coursework.

- a. The application has now been revised and addresses a number of the documentation questions received. The most current application is dated **April 24, 2013**, and is posted to www.dos.state.pa.us. Select "Licensing"; "Health-Related Boards"; then "State Board of Medicine."
- b. Responses to other training questions submitted that are not addressed in the presentation can be found by visiting <http://bastraining.tiu11.org> and selecting the Behavior Specialist course. This includes the process for submitting Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) hours, 2013 NAC approved sessions, and BAS training system updates.
- c. Additional questions about BAS-approved trainings can be emailed to BAS ra-bastrainings@pa.gov.