

Program Name: BEHAVIOR LANGUAGE CONSULTANTS, LLC

I. Policy

It is the policy of this DHS licensed provider, BEHAVIOR LANGUAGE CONSULTANTS, LLC, to promote the rights of persons served by this program and to protect their health and safety during the emergency use of manual restraints.

“Emergency use of manual restraint” means using a manual restraint when a person poses an imminent risk of physical harm to self or others and it is the least restrictive intervention that would achieve safety. Property damage, verbal aggression, or a person’s refusal to receive or participate in treatment or programming on their own, do not constitute an emergency.

II. Positive Support Strategies and Techniques Required

A. The following positive support strategies and techniques must be used to attempt to de-escalate a person’s behavior before it poses an imminent risk of physical harm to self or others:

BEHAVIOR LANGUAGE CONSULTANTS, LLC will utilize positive support strategies and de-escalation techniques from the research in applied behavior analysis and training in Professional Crisis Management (PCM). These may include, but are not limited to:

- Delaying and removing, if possible, antecedent triggers
- Prompting communication and/or other alternative skills
- Reminding of values and/or preferred items/activities/events
- Reducing the expectation and/or providing alternative choices
- Altering the environment (e.g. increasing physical space, providing clear and concise directions, reducing noise, etc.)
- Reinforcing and/or shaping behavior that is safe and closer to stable functioning

B. The program will develop a positive support transition plan on the forms and in manner prescribed by the Commissioner and within the required timelines for each person served when required in order to:

1. eliminate the use of prohibited procedures as identified in section III of this policy;
2. avoid the emergency use of manual restraint as identified in section I of this policy;
3. prevent the person from physically harming self or others; or
4. phase out any existing plans for the emergency or programmatic use of restrictive interventions prohibited.

III. Permitted Actions and Procedures

Use of the following instructional techniques and intervention procedures used on an intermittent or continuous basis are permitted by this program. When used on a continuous basis, it must be addressed in a person’s coordinated service and support plan addendum.

A. Physical contact or instructional techniques must use the least restrictive alternative possible to meet the needs of the person and may be used to:

1. calm or comfort a person by holding that persons with no resistance from that person;

2. protect a person known to be at risk of injury due to frequent falls as a result of a medical condition;
 3. facilitate the person's completion of a task or response when the person does not resist or the person's resistance is minimal in intensity and duration; or
 4. block or redirect a person's limbs or body without holding the person or limiting the person's movement to interrupt the person's behavior that may result in injury to self or others, with less than 60 seconds of physical contact by staff; or
 5. to redirect a person's behavior when the behavior does not pose a serious threat to the person or others and the behavior is effectively redirected with less than 60 seconds of physical contact by staff.
- B. Restraint may be used as an intervention procedure to:
1. allow a licensed health care professional to safely conduct a medical examination or to provide medical treatment ordered by a licensed health care professional to a person necessary to promote healing or recovery from an acute, meaning short-term, medical condition; or
 2. assist in the safe evacuation or redirection of a person in the event of an emergency and the person is at imminent risk of harm; or
 3. position a person with physical disabilities in a manner specified in the person's coordinated service and support plan addendum.
Any use of manual restraint as allowed in this paragraph [Section B] must comply with the restrictions identified in [Section A].
- C. Use of adaptive aids or equipment, orthotic devices, or other medical equipment ordered by a licensed health professional to treat a diagnosed medical condition do not in and of themselves constitute the use of mechanical restraint.

IV. Prohibited Procedures

Use of the following procedures as a substitute for adequate staffing, for a behavioral or therapeutic program to reduce or eliminate behavior, as punishment, or for staff convenience, is prohibited by this program:

1. chemical restraint;
2. mechanical restraint;
3. manual restraint;
4. time out;
5. seclusion; or
6. any aversive or deprivation procedure.

V. Manual Restraints Not Allowed in Emergencies

- A. This program does not allow the emergency use of manual restraint. The following alternative measures must be used by staff to achieve safety when a person's conduct poses an imminent risk of physical harm to self or others and less restrictive strategies have not achieved safety:

- Continue to utilize the positive support strategies;
- Continue to follow individualized strategies in a person’s coordinated service and support plan and coordinated service and support plan addendum;
- Ask the person and/or others if they would like to move to another area where they may feel safer or calmer;
- Remove objects from the person’s immediate environment that they may use to harm self or others
- Call 911 for law enforcement assistance if the alternative measures listed above are ineffective in order to achieve safety for the person and/or others. While waiting for law enforcement to arrive staff will continue to offer the alternative measures listed above if doing so does not pose a risk of harm to the person and/or others.

B. The program will not allow the use of an alternative safety procedure with a person when it has been determined by the person’s physician or mental health provider to be medically or psychologically contraindicated for a person. This program will complete an assessment of whether the allowed procedures are contraindicated for each person receiving services as part of the required service planning required under the 245D Home and Community-based Services (HCBS) Standards (section 245D.07, subdivision 2, for recipients of basic support services; or section 245D.071, subdivision 3, for recipients of intensive support services).

VI. Reporting Emergency Use of Manual Restraint

As stated in section V, this program does not allow the emergency use of manual restraint. Any staff person who believes or knows that a manual restraint was implemented during an emergency basis they must immediately report the incident to the person listed below.

The program has identified the following person or position responsible for reporting the emergency use of manual restrain according to the standards in section 245D.061 and part 9544.0110, when determined necessary.

Kaitlin Dornbusch-Fenner and/or Marissa Stordahl.

Policy reviewed and authorized by:

Kaitlin Dornbusch-Fenner and Marissa Stordahl, Owners

Print name & title

Signature

Date of last policy review: 11/4/2022

Date of last policy revision: N/A

Legal Authority: MS §§ 245D.06, subd. 5 to subd, 8; 245D.061, MR part 9544.0110