Social Skills Group Program

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Clients

Preteens

Teens

Adults

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Group Program Focus

- Pre-teen, teens and young adults who have the ability to participate in a group environment and who present with deficits in social skills.

- Clients must be able to function in a group without 1:1 support.

- The group can be used as a transition out of 1:1 ABA or be client's initial and stand-alone treatment modality.

FAQ: Can a client have a paraprofessional to help with transition into the group?

- **Yes** - a paraprofessional can attend with a client who needs help during the transition to group.

- **When this is case you bill at the paraprofessional level and don't bill for the group.**

- This is considered 1:1 ABA that happens to be in a group setting.

- If H2019 hours are needed and not authorized, please submit an addendum prior to providing H2019 hours

Group Treatment Provider:

Primary facilitator

Primary Facilitator Must Be

Qualified Autism Service Provider (e.g. BCBA, LMFT, LCSW, Psych) SLP

BCaBA

Master-level provider (e.g. ASW, AMFT)

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Secondary Facilitator

Secondary or additional practitioners may be added as needed; However, one facilitator must meet the qualifications on slide 5. Paraprofessionals (RBTs) can fill the role of the secondary facilitator
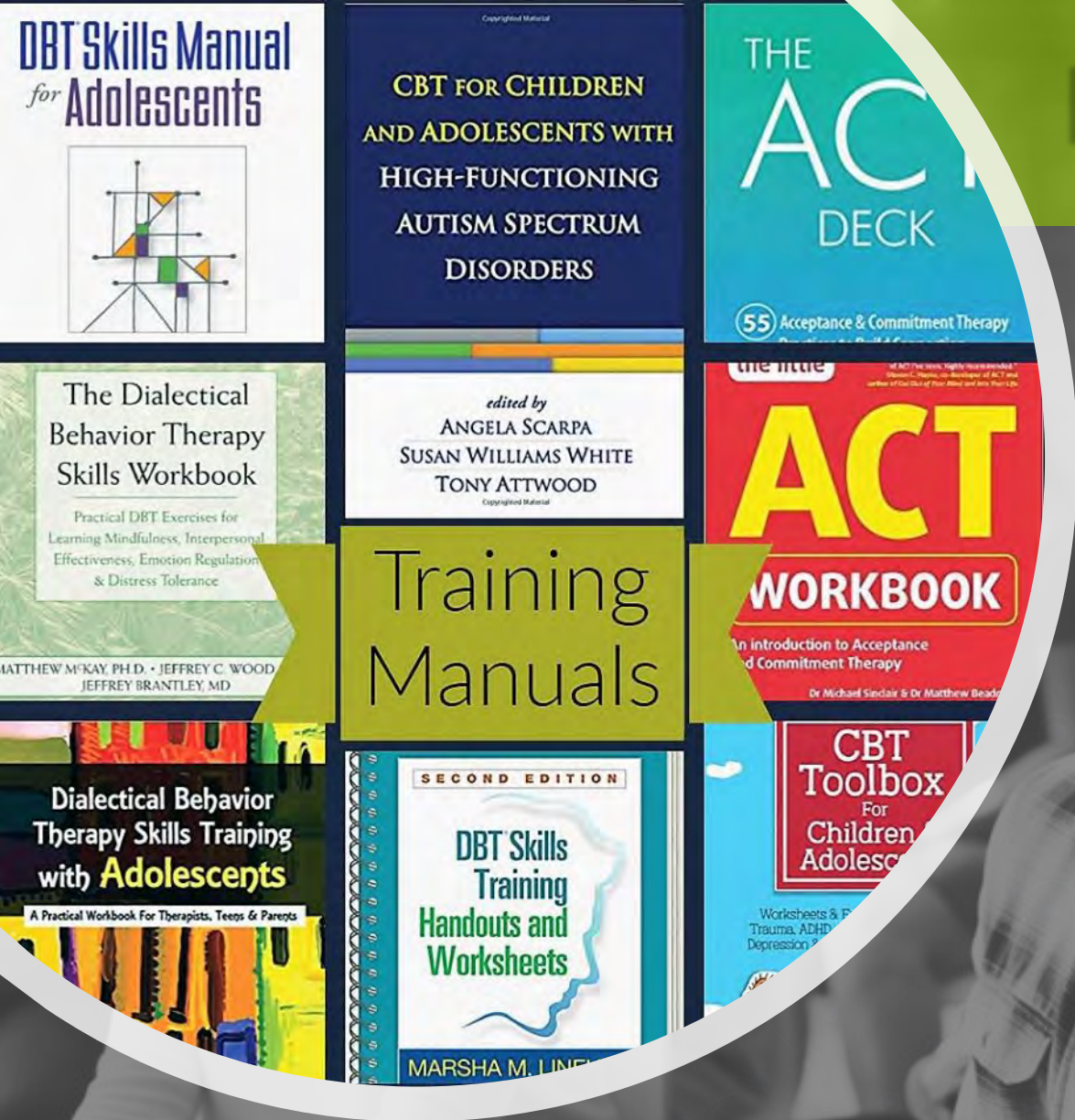
Examples:
- A 6-8 client group could be facilitated by a BCaBA and an RBT
- A group of 5 clients could be facilitated by a LCSW and an RBT

FAQ: Do all participants in the social skills group need to be BHPN clients?

- **No-** not all clients in the group need to be BHPN clients, but if there is even one BHPN client in the group the group must meet the BHPN guidelines

Modalities

Training Manuals with mentor

Online

In Person

Training Manuals

7

Modalities and Training

- Modalities include: ABA, ACT, DBT, and CBT

- For non-ABA social skills group, the mid- or high-level facilitators must have training in the modality. Training in the modality may be online, in-person, or with a training manual and mentor.

FAQ: If ACT can be used for group why doesn't the BHPN allow ACT for 1:1 treatment?

- The BHPN conducted a literature review, collaborated with several BCBAs with knowledge about ACT, consulted the Provider Advisory Committee, and discussed with Kaiser.
- The conclusions from this examination is that ACT is a psychotherapy model and there is insufficient empirical evidence for ACT's use in 1:1 treatment for ASD.
- There is modest evidence using ACT materials for group treatment as long as it is within the scope of the primary facilitator.
- For these reasons currently the BHPN allows ACT only for group treatment.

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Location: Clinic or Center, or Telehealth

- You must have drop off and pick up sign in procedure as well as emergency procedures for elopement (client under 18 years).

- The BHPN can provide you with sample procedures for pick up, drop off etc.

- The BHPN's Office of Risk Management may review these procedure during regular audits.

- Groups cannot be held in the community.

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Group Ratios & Hours

Max ratio: 4:1

Max group size: 8 clients

Frequency: Maximum 2 groups per week per client

Hours: Maximum 4 hours a week

Open groups: So that clients can start any week

Why Open Groups?

Open groups are important because clients and families don't want to wait.

The BHPN can consult with you around operational steps for open groups

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Supervision

Client receives 1:1 ABA & group: ABA supervision for group should be rolled into the supervision for 1:1 ABA

Client receives group only, 2 hours CM supervision allotted

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Placement

The BHPN will determine during the BHPN Initial Assessment which new clients are appropriate for Social Skills Group treatment.

- You will see these clients on the list as "Social Skills Group."
- You will receive a Social Skills Group Assessment authorization for these clients. This assessment can be completed by telehealth in one session.

You may recommend Social Skills Group for a client who has been receiving 1:1 ABA and is ready to transition to group.

- No assessment is needed as you have already been treating the client and have already made the determination that they are ready for group.

You may receive a client who is transferring from a provider who doesn't have a group program. The client may have discharged from the 1:1 episode of ABA and be ready for group or may be still receiving some 1:1 ABA.
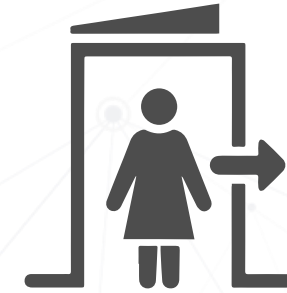
- You will receive a Social Skills Group Assessment authorization for these clients as they are new to you.

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Goals Objectives and Discharge Criteria

Goals & Objectives

Should be based on the modality and taken from the modality's manual

Discharge Criteria

Use the BHPN Discharge Guidelines
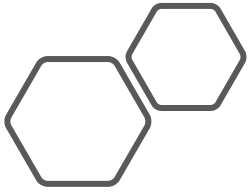
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The BHPN Can Help

Sample Policies: If you need sign in and out and emergency policies the BHPN can provide them.

Templates: Use the BHPN Templates for all assessments and reports.

Consultation: The BHPN is happy to consult with you and support you in developing your group program. **Talk with your CCM or Clinical Consultant.**

Questions?