Development of a Multi-Tier Behavioral Support System in School Settings for Individuals with Special Needs

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Introduction
Multi-tiered behavior supports were put in place at a school that serves students with developmental disabilities. School staff aimed to reduce the frequency of restrictive behavioral interventions. Behavioral supports included teams identifying and monitoring students receiving frequent physical management, teams analyzing school-wide trends in incident reports, and training staff on preventive and de-escalation techniques.

Description of School:
• 150 students with developmental disabilities
  • 90 day students, 60 residential students
• Varying levels of functioning severity across individuals from non-verbal to conversational
• Continuum of services from intensive behavioral classrooms to employment center

Challenging Behaviors:
• Range that result in frequent staff injury
  • Examples: aggression, self-injurious behaviors, property destruction, sexualized behaviors
• History of holds and escorts to maintain safety

Incident Reports
“Big Five” Analysis

Incidents in the Front Hallway
• The Team developed interventions based on the consistent and systematic analysis of number of incidents in the front hallway each month.
• From 2013-2015, the number of incidents in the front hallway per month decreased across all years and months.

Physical Management

Reduction of Protective Holds

73% Reduction in Holds

Conclusions
• Based on the introduction of a multi-tiered system of support, the school currently implements a Tier 3 system, which uses incident report data, high flyer list, and explicit data monitoring systems. This system appears to support the reduction of incidents across time.
• A Tier 1 system is in development and will emphasize staff training techniques and consistent use of Safety Care.
• The multi-tiered system produced a reduction in holds and physical management, and an increase in the diversification of hands-on interventions, working from least restrictive methods and incorporating functionally based methodologies.