



Finding Flexibility: DBH Responses to COVID-19

Services Previously Occurring In Person

- Categorical evaluations
- BABIES evaluations
- 45 day evaluations
- IFSP development meetings
- IFSP review meetings
- Intervention services
- Transdisciplinary team meetings
- Adaptive functioning assessments
- Diagnostic evaluations

Services Currently Occurring Through Telehealth

- Categorical evaluations
- BABIES evaluations
- 45 day evaluations
- IFSP development meetings
- IFSP review meetings
- Intervention services
- Transdisciplinary team meetings
- Adaptive functioning assessments

(Spoiler alert: only one thing is missing)



Modifications and Adjustments

- Conducted trial eligibility assessments through telehealth to identify barriers and challenges
- Created new scripts to explain telehealth to families
- Modified calendars for clinicians, service coordinators, and interpreters
- Created materials lists for families so they can elicit behaviors from their children during assessments
- Modified hearing and vision screening to gather information remotely
- Adjusted timelines between eligibility assessments and IFSP development

Modifications and Adjustments

- Intake – contacting families on multiple calendars to explain telehealth, reschedule families, and keep track of wait lists
- Clinicians – conducting assessments through telehealth by clinical observation and parent coaching, providing intervention through parent coaching
- Program assistants – helping secure online versions of assessment measures, adjusting report distribution to families
- Revenue cycle – modifying billing to reflect telehealth services
- IT – providing tech support to staff and families to ensure we can still serve families

Diagnostic Evaluations Pilot Project

- Vanderbilt University has provided free webinars and materials to clinicians to facilitate assessment of autism spectrum disorder through telehealth
- TELE-ASD-PEDS – assessment tool designed to be administered by parents with clinician coaching
- RMHS psychologists are currently developing pilot program to see how this model could be used during COVID-19 restrictions and in the future for other areas in the state

