



## FAMILY & YOUTH EMPOWERMENT TEAM

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EDUCATING, ADVOCATING  
FIGHTING STIGMA



ALPHABET SOUP  
OF  
ACRONYMS  
WHAT IS EVERYONE  
TALKING ABOUT?!?!?!





# *LOOK* up *indiana.org*

## **How to Find Help using the Provider Directory on LookUpIndiana.org**

Ready to search the directory and find help?

1. Visit <https://lookupindiana.org/find-help/>
2. In the SEARCH BY NAME box, type in the name of a provider, if you know it.  
OR, you can search by CITY or ZIP CODE in the box below, if you want more specific results.
3. Click the red FIND HELP box, or simply hit Enter.
4. Scroll through the options that show on the screen below. Narrow your results further with the options on the left.
5. Learn more about providers and see their locations on a map by clicking on the providers' names in red.

This is some of the most used acronyms and words we have come across in our meetings.

By no means a complete collection, as each agency has their own.

- **504 Plan** *504 Plan* is an alternative to an Individualized Education Plan(IEP) for a student with a disability. It can provide supports and accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure equal access to an education with typical peers, but it does not provide specialized instruction. While there are some protections available with a 504 Plan, there are not as many protections as there are with an IEP. A 504 Plan is not part of special education and is typically for students who do not have academic challenges.
- **ABA Applied Behavior Analysis Therapy** Considered the gold standard for autism therapy, ABA is a scientific, evidence based approach to identifying and understanding behaviors, reinforcing desired behaviors, and replacing inappropriate or undesirable behaviors through measured, data driven positive reinforcements or consequences.
- **Algo Level** Individuals receiving services through the Community Integration and Habilitation (CIH) Medicaid Waiver through BDDS (Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services) will be assigned an assessment level, known as an “Algo level,” that is based upon their need for services as well as their health and behavior needs. It is called an “Algo” because it is created by an algorithm that factors in various information about the individual. Assessment levels can range from a level of 0 for those with minimal needs, to a level of 6 for those with very intensive needs. The assessment level is directly based upon an individual’s ICAP (Inventory for Client and Agency Planning) assessment and addendum questions to the ICAP on health and behavioral needs.
- **APS Adult Protective Services**-the Adult Protective Services program was established to investigate reports and provide intervention and protection to vulnerable adults who are victims of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. APS field investigators operate out of the offices of county prosecutors throughout the state.

- **Article 7** *Article 7* is the common name for Indiana's Special Education Laws. Designed to comply with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Article 7 are the laws and procedures school districts must follow to provide a student with a disability a Free and Appropriate Public Education. The law ranges from defining various qualifying disabilities, outlining evaluation procedures, protecting parent and student rights to be an equal member of the process, laying out disciplinary protections for students with disabilities, and outlining grievance procedures when families and schools disagree.
- **ASD Autism Spectrum Disorder, formerly known as PDD** Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a neurological and developmental disorder that begins early in childhood and lasts throughout a person's life. It affects how a person acts and interacts with others, communicates, and learns. It often includes repetitive behaviors. It includes what used to be known as Asperger syndrome and pervasive developmental disorders. Individuals with Autism may or may not have a co-occurring intellectual disability. Autism is considered a spectrum disorder because the effects of ASD can range from very minor to quite severe.
- **ADA Americans with Disabilities Act** In 1990 ADA passed A comprehensive civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability.
- **ADHD Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder**- A common mental disorder characterized by inattention, hyperactivity, and impulsivity that causes distress and/or other problems at home, at school, or in social settings.
- **Anxiety Disorder** Excessive fear, nervousness, or anxiousness that hinders the ability to function normally and can cause individuals to try to avoid situations that trigger or worsen their symptoms of anxiety.



- **BDDS    *Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services***
  - Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services, also called “Beads” or BDDS offices, are where you apply for Medicaid Waivers, such as the Family Supports (FS) Waiver and Community Integration and Habilitation (CIH) Waiver. Families can also apply for Caregiver Support or group home placement through the BDDS office. Obtain the number for your local BDDS office by calling (800) 545-7763.
- **BIP    *Behavior Intervention Plan*-** A Behavioral intervention plan means a plan agreed upon by the CCC and incorporated into a student’s IEP that describes the pattern of behavior that impedes the student’s learning or the learning of others; the purpose or function of the behavior as identified in a functional behavioral assessment; the positive interventions and supports and other strategies to address the behavior and maximize consistency of implementation across people and settings in which the student is involved; and if applicable, the skills that will be taught and monitored in an effort to change a specific pattern of behavior of the student. The behavioral intervention plan seeks to maximize consistency of implementation across people and settings in which the student is involved.
- **BMAN    *Behavior Management Services/Behavioral Support Services*-** Behavior Management services are a service available through one of the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services waivers.
- **BRS    *Bureau of Rehabilitation Services*-** The Bureau of Rehabilitation Services is an agency within the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services that includes Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Blind and Visually Impaired Services, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, Independent Living Services Program, Project Search, and Pre-ETS.
- **BX    *Behavior Diagnosis***



- **CANS** **Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths** the level of need to youth has assessment that is completed upon intake to determine
- **CAP** ***Corrective Action Plan***- A Corrective Action Plan can be used by multiple agencies and organizations. For BDDS, a Corrective Action Plan details a problem that has occurred with waiver services and the plan to ensure such a problem does not happen again in the future.
- **CASA** ***Court Appointed Special Advocate*** a community volunteer trained to advocate for a child's best interest.
- **Case Management \*\*\*** Many agencies, providers, and programs provide case management services, and those services will look and function differently depending on the program funding.
- **CCC** ***Case Conference Committee***- The case conference committee is comprised of school personnel, including but not limited to, the Teacher of Record/Special Education Teacher; a Teacher of Service/General Education Teacher; various school therapists; and a Public Agency Representative; the parents/guardians, and potentially the student who all have equal importance in the case conference committee.
- **CCO** ***Chief Clinical Officer***
- **CCP** ***Care Coordination Partnership***
- **CHINS** ***Child in Need of Services*** A child under the age of eighteen who is neglected or abused, and who is not getting care or treatment that the child needs.

- **CHIP Children's Health Insurance Program-** The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) program through Medicaid that provides low-cost health coverage to children in families that earn too much money to qualify for traditional Medicaid. In Indiana, families who make up to 250% of the Federal Poverty Level may be able to qualify for this program. Families may need to pay a small monthly premium for this health coverage.
- **CIH Waiver      *Community Integration and Habilitation Waiver*-** The Community Integration and Habilitation Waiver is one of the Medicaid Waivers available through the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services after the Autism Waiver and Developmental Disabilities Waiver were merged together and renamed. This waiver provides a variety of services from which individuals and families can choose. However, a few things make this waiver different from the Family Supports Waiver. First, this waiver offers Residential Habilitation Services, staff in the home to teach an individual independent living skills, as well as a few other services only available through the CIH Waiver. Second, the budget for services for this waiver is based on need as determined by the ICAP and ALGO level. This is now an emergency based waiver, and individuals seeking a CIH Waiver must meet certain emergency criteria in addition to standard eligibility criteria.
- **CMS Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services-** Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. CMS is the federal agency responsible for administering Medicaid, Medicare, State Children's Health Insurance (SCHIP), the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and other health-related programs. They must also approve each state's Medicaid State Plan, which details how the state will administer its Medicaid program. States must also get approval for any program that will use Medicaid funding such as Medicaid Waivers, the Children's Mental Health Wraparound program, Medicaid Rehabilitation Option services, and many more.

- **CP** *Cerebral Palsy*- Cerebral palsy is a group of disorders that affect movement and muscle tone or posture. It's caused by damage that occurs to the immature brain as it develops, most often before birth. It may or may not affect speech, and individuals with CP may or may not also have an intellectual disability.
- **CIT** *Crisis Intervention Team* is a police mental health collaborative program the term **CIT** is often used to describe both a program and a training in law enforcement to help guide interactions between law enforcement and those living with mental illness.
- **CITY** *Crisis Intervention Training for Youth* specific, youth based intervention and de-escalation training and tactics.
- **CLC** *Cultural and Linguistic Competence*
- **CM** *Case Manager*
- **CMHC** *Community Mental Health Center*
- **CMHI** Children's Mental Health Initiative Program intensive home and community-based wraparound for youth and families without funding.
- **CMHW** *Children's Mental Health Wraparound* program with serious emotional disturbances (SED) with intensive home and community based wraparound services that will provide within a System of Care (SOC) philosophy and consistent with Wraparound Principles.
- **CPS** *Child Protective Service* the investigating division of the Department of Child Services.

- **CSHCS    *Children's Special Health Care Services***- Indiana Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) is a program administered by the Indiana State Department of Health that provides supplemental medical coverage to help families of children who have serious, chronic medical conditions, age birth to 21 years of age, who meet the program's financial and medical criteria, pay for treatment related to their child's condition. Right now, households must be below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level to qualify financially for the program. Children will also need to apply for Medicaid, but a child does not have to be eligible for Medicaid in order to be eligible for CSHCS.



- **DD** ***Developmental Disability***- The state definition of Development Disability (DD) is a severe, chronic disability which: 1) is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments; 2) is manifested before the person attains age 22; 3) is likely to continue indefinitely; 4) results in substantial limitations in three or more of the seven areas of major life activity: self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living, and economic self-sufficiency; and 5) reflects the person's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic care treatments or services which are of lifelong or extended duration, and are individually planned and coordinated. All criteria must be met for a person to be eligible for Developmental Disability (DD) services.
- **Developmental Disabilities Waiver Ombudsman** By law, the Ombudsman receives, investigates, and attempts to resolve complaints and concerns that are made by or on behalf of people with developmental disabilities in the ICF/DD Level of Care Waiver programs.
- **DCS** ***Division of Child Service.***
- **DHHS** ***Department of Health & Human Services***
- **DDRS** ***Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services-*** Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services (DDRS), a division of the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA). DDRS is sometimes referred to as “DARS.” This office administers services for people with disabilities and oversees the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services, the Bureau of Rehabilitative Services (which includes Vocational Rehabilitation Services), First Steps, and the Bureau of Quality Improvement Services.

- **DFR aka Medicaid Office**    *Division of Family Resources-* Every Indiana county has its own Medicaid office, so if you need to apply for Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, or WIC benefits, you can contact your local office or apply online at [www.indianamedicaid.com](http://www.indianamedicaid.com).
- **Disability** Any physical, mental, cognitive or social limitation of a person. Definitions vary depending on the requirements of the specific state or federal program.
- **DSP**    *Direct Support Professional-* A Direct Support Professional is the staff who works with people with IDD
- **Dual Diagnosis/Co-Occurring Condition**    In the Developmental Disabilities realm, dual diagnosis refers to someone with an intellectual or developmental disability and mental illness. In the mental health arena, that is referred to as co-occurring conditions. To mental health professionals, a dual diagnosis refers to someone with mental illness and substance use disorder.
- **DUAL**    Common shortcut assigned to DCS & SJS
- **DX**    Diagnosis



- **EBP**      *Evidence-Based Practice*      The use of current best evidence in making decisions about the care of individuals. This approach must balance the best evidence with the desires of the individual and the clinical expertise of health care providers.
- **ECI**      *Earlier Childhood Initiative*
- **ED**      *Emotional Disturbance*
- **ESY**      *Extended School Year*
- **EPSDT**      *Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment*- EPSDT is a specific provision within Medicaid regulations that provides a comprehensive set of preventive and health care services to Medicaid-eligible children from birth to 21 years of age to screen for, diagnose, and treat illnesses or suspected disabilities.
- **Entitlement**      An “entitlement” within the Medicaid program means that certain benefits are guaranteed to all people who meet the eligibility requirements for those benefits. Under the Medicaid State Plan, eligible persons are entitled to all services available under that plan as soon as they are found eligible. Medicaid Home and Community-Based Waivers Services are not an entitlement.



- **FAPE** *Free and Appropriate Public Education*- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act mandates that students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education. This can start as young as age 3 and can continue through the school year in which the student turns 22, if the case conference committee agrees. By free, that means schools cannot charge a student more than a nondisabled student for attending school or a specific class.
- **Family-Driven Approach** Principle by which families have the primary role in decisions regarding their children. Also applies to the policies and procedures governing the well-being of all children in a community, state, tribe, territory, and nation.
- **FCM Family Case Manager at DCS**
- **FBA Functional Behavioral Assessment**- A Functional Behavioral Assessment is an evaluation and process that uses data to identify patterns in the student's behavior and the purpose or function of the behavior for the student.
- **First Steps** First Steps is Indiana's early intervention program that provides services to infants and toddlers from **birth to third birthday** who have developmental delays or disabilities.
- **FSSA Family and Social Services Administration**- The Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) is the division of state government that funds social services and healthcare. FSSA is the umbrella agency that oversees the Division of Aging, Division of Disability and Rehabilitation Services, Division of Early Childhood and Out of School Learning, Division of Family Resources, Medicaid, and the Division of Mental Health and Addiction. IN.GOV/FSSA

- **FSW *Family Supports Waiver***- The Family Support Waiver is one of the waivers available through the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services. There are nearly 30 services available under the FSW. This is the waiver that most individuals with IDD receive, and it can provide up to \$17,300 in waiver services each year. Individuals must also meet Medicaid eligibility requirements.



- **GAL**      *Guardian ad Litem* an attorney that is appointed by the court who represents and advocates a child's needs and best interest.
- **Group Homes** The term “group home” has multiple meanings depending on the funding agency. Through the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities, a group home is an Intermediate Care Facility for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. ICF-DDs are licensed as an institutional facility through the Indiana State Department of Health. While families often use the term “group home” when talking about Medicaid Waiver residential settings, group homes are an alternative to Medicaid Waivers/Home and Community Based Services. You must choose either a waiver or a group home placement.



- **Habilitation** The coordinated use of medical, social, educational, and vocational measures for training persons with disabilities to the highest possible level of functional ability, usually applies to children or adults with lifelong disabilities. Habilitation teaches skills the individual did not already have. There are several different types of habilitation, including vocational, social, psychological, medical and educational. Under the Affordable Care Act, insurance plans are required to cover medically necessary rehabilitative medical treatment.
- **HCC** *Hoosier Care Connect*
- **HHW** *Hoosier Health Wise*
- **HIP** *Healthy Indiana Plan*
- **HIPAA** *Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act*
- **HCBS** *Home and Community-Based Services*- Home and Community Based Services are the official term for a Medicaid Waiver. It allows Medicaid to provide support services provided in a person's residence or community in order to maintain or restore participation in community activities in order to prevent admission into a nursing facility, group home, or other institutional setting. Home and Community Based Services cannot be provided in the school setting.



- **IDEA**      *The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*
- **IEE**      *Independent Educational Evaluation*
- **IFSP**      *Individualized Family Service Plan  
(similar to IEP) First Step*
- **ISP**      *Individualized Service Plan*
- **ISS**      *In-School Suspension*
- **ICAP** *Inventory for Clients and Agency Planning*- Inventory for Clients and Agency Planning, also known as the Objective Assessment (OA), is the assessment BDDS uses to determine a person's skills and produce a "service score," which helps determine how much care a person needs through the CIH Waiver.
- **ICF/DD** *Intermediate Care Facility for the Developmentally Disabled*- An Indiana State Department of Health licensed institutional facility in which persons with developmental disabilities may live and receive 24 hour supervision. ICF/ DDs are sometimes referred to as Intermediate Care Facility for persons with an Intellectual Disability (ID). ICF/DD may be facilities for nine or more people (large private ICF/DD) run by private companies or group homes for four to eight people (small ICF/DD). When an individual is in an ICF/DD, or group home, setting the ICF/DD becomes responsible for the individual's total care. They provide medical and mental health treatment, food, basic living supplies, daily programming, community outings, and social opportunities.
- **ID**      *Intellectual Disability*- a disability characterized by significant limitations both in intellectual functioning (reasoning, learning, problem solving) and in adaptive behavior, which covers a range of everyday social, practical, and independent living skills. This is characterized by an IQ score of around 70 or below, with adaptive skills being considered in this determination.

- **IDD** ***Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities***- IDD is a joint term referring to an intellectual disability, developmental disability, or both.
- **IEP** ***Individual Education Plan***- An Individualized Education Plan is a written document, developed, reviewed, and revised by the case conference committee, that describes how a student will access the general education curriculum, if appropriate, and the special education and related services needed to participate in the educational environment. Parents and the student are equal members of the case conference committee and should be an equal partner in creating an IEP.
- **Independent Living Centers** Independent Living Centers are agencies contracted with the Bureau of Rehabilitative Services to help individuals with any type of disability live as independently as possible.
- **ISDH** ***Indiana State Department of Health***- The Indiana State Department of Health is a state agency that oversees a variety of programs included but not limited to drug overdose preventions programs, maternal fetal health, Children's Special Health Care Services, Long Term Care Facilities, specific diagnosis-based programs such as HIV programs, and much more.



- **LCSW      *Licensed Clinical Social Worker***      An individual with a master's degree and state licensure in social work who provides mental health services including assessing, diagnosing, and therapy.
- **LD            *Learning Disabled***
- **LOC      *Level of Care-*** Individuals seeking Medicaid Waiver services or placement in a nursing facility or an ICF/DD or BDDS Group Home must meet eligibility requirements including a certain Level of Care.
- **LON      *Level of Need-*** Children seeking services through the Children's Mental Health Wraparound or Children's Mental Health Initiative programs must meet a certain level of need as determined by a Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment of the child and family. To be involved in CMHW or CMHI, a child must have a CANS score of 4 or higher and the family must have a CANS score of 1 or higher.
- **LRA      *Least Restrictive Alternative-*** As of July 1, 2019, individuals seeking guardianship of an adult must consider other, less restrictive alternatives to guardianship. It does not mean that the less restrictive alternative must be tried. However, alternative need to be considered before an adult is declared a Protected Person and placed under guardianship.
- **LRE      *Least Restrictive Environment-*** In an educational setting, the Least Restrictive Environment refers to the educational environment that gives the student the most freedom and interaction with same grade peers. The more time the student has in the general education setting with same grade peers, the less restrictive it is considered. This is a mandate through IDEA.



- **MAT** *Medication Assisted Treatment* for those in recovery from substance use disorders. Participation in therapy is often a required portion of this treatment.
- **Medicaid (Title XIX)** Medicaid is a federal/state program that provides health coverage for individuals in need.
- **Medicaid Waiver** A Medicaid Waiver is the common name for Indiana's Home and Community Based Services.
- **Money follows the person** Concept used by different agencies to ensure necessary funds available to meet their needs.
- **MDT** *Multi-Disciplinary Team*- This is a collaboration of multiple child serving agencies such as DCS, BDDS, Juvenile Justice, DOE, etc., who come together to discuss specific cases of children in need to determine which supports and services would be most appropriate.
- **MHAI** **Mental Health America of Indiana** [mhai.net](http://mhai.net)



- **NAMI    *National Alliance on Mental Illness*** The nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness.
- ***Natural Supports/Natural Helping Networks*** The systems of support and assistance that flow from the systems of support and assistance that flow from the relationships developed in natural environments such as an individual's family, school, work, and community
- **Nursing Facility (NF)** Comprehensive care facility or a health facility licensed by the Indiana State Department of Health that provides nursing care, room, food, laundry, administration of medications, special diets, treatments, and may provide rehabilitative and restorative therapies under the order of an attending physician.



- **OCD**      ***Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder***      A type of anxiety disorder where an individual has recurring, unwanted thoughts, ideas, or sensations that drive them to do something repetitively.
- **ODD**      ***Oppositional Defiant Disorder***      A disruptive disorder that is characterized by an angry or irritable mood, argumentative or defiant behavior, and/or vindictiveness.
- **OHI**      ***Other Health Impairment***      an umbrella term encompasses a range of conditions such as ADHD, anxiety, depression...
- **OON**      ***Out of Network***
- **OSEP**      ***Officer of Special Education Programs***
- **OSS**      ***Out-of-School Suspension***
- **OT**      ***Occupational Therapist***
- **Ombudsman**      An ombudsman is an individual who receives, investigates, and attempts to resolve complaints and concerns that are made by or on behalf of people against an agency or program.



- **Panic Disorder** Sudden and repeated attacks of fear that last for several minutes or longer. Also referred to as panic attacks.
- **PBIS** *Positive Behavior Intervention & Support*  
Efforts aimed at implementing a multi-tiered approach to social, emotional, and behavioral support in schools.
- **PCP** *Primary Care Physician*
- **PDD** *Pervasive Developmental Disorder* now known as **ASD**
- **PE** *Presumptive Eligibility*
- **Permanency Plan** The plan ordered by the court regarding the child's status for the future; except for certain cases, all permanency plans are reunification with parents; plans are addressed at one year intervals.
- **PH** *Physical Health*
- **PHI** *Protected Health Information*
- **PMP** *Primary Medical Provider*
- **PO** *Probation Officer*
- **PRTF** *Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility* approved by the state to provide residential treatment to youth that are no longer safe to be in the community. It is inpatient treatment for a minimum of 3 months with a maximum being determined by the youth's progress through treatment.
- **PT** *Physical Therapist*

- **PTSD      *Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder***    A condition that occurs when a person has experienced or witnessed a traumatic event (e.g., rape, violence, natural disaster, war, terrorism, or serious accident).
- **PAC – *Participant Assistance and Care***    PAC is a service available through the Family Supports Waiver through BDDS to provide additional support for a person with I/DD in the home or community. Specifics of the service will vary by individual and should be focused on meeting the person's needs and helping them achieve their goals and vision of a good life.
- **PCISP - *Person-Centered Individualized Support Plan*** Person-Centered Planning (PCP) is a process for a person with developmental disabilities and family/guardian to direct the planning and allocation of resources to meet the person's life goals.
- **Pre-ETS – *Pre Employment Transition Services***    Pre-ETS is a program through Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VR) to provide services for students 14-22 who are presumed eligible for VR services. Pre-ETS works on job exploration counseling, work-based learning experiences, counseling on post-secondary education opportunities, workplace readiness training, and instruction in self-advocacy.
- **Prior Authorization (PA)**    A process within Medicaid, initiated usually by the primary care physician so that a medical procedure, medical supply or therapy, etc. may be paid by Medicaid as long as the procedure, supply or therapy is authorized prior to the procedure, supply or therapy being performed, purchased or provided.
- **Provider**    A generic term describing any person, organization or company enrolled to deliver specific services. Qualifications vary depending on the type of service.



- **Rehabilitation** The coordinated use of medical, social, educational, and vocational measures for retraining people with disabilities to the highest possible level of functional ability to regain skills they have lost.
- **Respite** Is a service designed to provide a break for caregivers. Respite services cannot be provided while the caregiver is at work. Respite is available through several different programs including but not limited to Medicaid Waivers, foster care, post-adoption services, Children's Mental Health Wraparound, and Children's Mental Health Initiative.
- **Residential** Inpatient residential treatment for a youth that is no longer safe in the community. There is a variety of residential placements with PRTF's being one. Admission criteria varies between facilities along with who they will accept referral's from and what funding sources they will accept.
- **Resilience** The process of adapting well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats, or significant sources of stress, such as family and relationship problems, serious health problems, or workplace and financial stressors.
- **RX** Prescriptions



- **SDM *Supported Decision Making*** can be used as a support, as an alternative to guardianship, or in conjunction with guardianship. With Supported Decision Making, individuals identify people they can turn to for information, advice, and support in making their own decisions.
- **Sentinel Event** In the BDDS world, a sentinel event is a critical event that puts a person with I/DD in danger. It can include death, abuse, neglect, exploitation, illness requiring hospitalization, injury requiring urgent medical care, behavior episodes, arrest/conviction, or significant medication errors.
- **SA            *Substance Abuse***
- **SAMHSA        *Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration*** A federal agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that leads public health efforts to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America's communities. Website: samhsa.gov
- **SC *Service Coordinator*** provides services for agency's they serve.
- **Schizoaffective Disorder** A chronic mental health condition characterized primarily by symptoms of schizophrenia, such as hallucinations or delusions, and symptoms of a mood disorder, such as mania and depression.
- **Schizophrenia** A brain disorder that is characterized by delusions, hallucinations, difficulties thinking and concentrating, and lack of motivation.
- **SED        *Severe Emotional Disturbance*** Designation for a youth - A diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder experienced in the past year that resulted in functional impairment that substantially interfered with or limited a child's role or functioning in family, school, or community activities.

- **Self-Harm** Intentional, direct injury that is not typically used as a suicide attempt but rather as a coping mechanism. Also referred to as self-injury, self-mutilation, and cutting.
- **SLD** *Specific Learning Disability*
- **SOC** *System of Care* A spectrum of effective community-based services and supports for children and youth with or at risk for mental health or other challenges and their families. An SOC is organized into a coordinated network, builds meaningful partnerships with families and youth, and addresses their cultural and linguistic needs in order to help them to function better at home, in school, in the community, and throughout life.
- **Strengths-Based** A perspective that emphasizes an individual or family's capabilities, support system, and motivation to meet challenges.
- **SUD** *Substance Use Disorder*
- **SNAP – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program** *SNAP* is the official name for the Food Stamp program. It provides financial assistance so individuals and families can purchase unprepared food. SNAP can only be used for food.
- **Special Needs Trust** A *special needs trust* is a special type of account regulated by federal law that allows families and/or individuals to set money aside for the exclusive use of an individual with a disability, and it is not counted as a resource by Medicaid or Social Security.
- **SSDI – Social Security Disability Insurance** is a program through the Social Security Administration that provides financial benefits to individuals who have been working and engaging in Substantial Gainful Activity and have become disabled to the point that they can no longer work enough to engage in Substantial Gainful Activity

- **SSI- Supplemental Security Income** is a financial benefit through the Social Security Administration to provide financial support for basic living expenses such as food, shelter, and basic utilities, to individuals who are Aged, Blind, or Disabled, cannot engage in Substantial Gainful Activity, and have very low income and countable resources below \$2,000.



- **TAYYA Transitional Age Youth and Young Adults** People in the period between the ages of 14 and 26 years when adolescents are moving into adulthood. This group faces special challenges related to development, physical and mental health, access to care, housing, education, career training, employment, life skills, and relationships.
- **TFC      *Therapeutic Foster Care*** in which additional services and supports are made available to foster parents and child at higher rates of reimbursement
- **Tourette Syndrome** A neurological disorder that is characterized by unwanted, involuntary movements and sounds. Also referred to as tics.
- **TPR      Termination of Parental Rights** the case filed by DCS if parents have been unsuccessful in the completion of services ordered under a CHINS; the result of a TPR will be severing of the legal connection of the parent and child.
- **Trauma-Informed Care** An approach to engaging people with histories of trauma that recognizes the presence of trauma symptoms and acknowledges the role that trauma has played in their lives.
- **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)** For the purpose of the Medicaid Waiver, TBI is an injury to the brain due to an outside cause, including closed or open head injuries, toxic chemical reactions, anoxia, near drowning, and focal brain injuries. TBI does not include injuries that are vascular in origin (CVA or aneurysm), alcoholism, Alzheimer's disease, infections, viruses or the infirmities of aging. As a result of the TBI, the person shows serious physical, cognitive, emotional and/or behavioral impairments.

- **Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver** Medicaid eligible people of any age who have experienced an external insult resulting in a traumatic brain injury, and who require services ordinarily only available in a nursing facility, may receive services under this Waiver. This Waiver is designed to provide supports such as personal assistance, limited habilitation services, and respite care, as well as limited environmental modifications.



- **VR/VRS/Voc Rehab - Vocational Rehabilitation Services**  
A state agency designed to help people with disabilities find community based, competitive wage employment.
- **Waiver Program** This program allows Indiana's Medicaid programs to pay for services that are provided in a person's home or other community setting rather than a Medicaid funded facility/institution. Waiver refers to the waiving of certain federal requirements that otherwise apply to Medicaid program services. Family income is not considered when a child has a waiver.
- **Youth-Guided** A part of family-centered practice that recognizes youth as advocates for themselves and engaging youth in the development of policy, program, and service design, as well as in decision-making, implementation, and evaluation. Also referred to as youth involvement or youth engagement.





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