



## **Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS) Equivalent/Alternative Certification Guidelines**

**Purpose:** This is designed to assist county Mental Health Plans (MHP) in identifying their proposed services to be considered for certification as a “TBS-equivalent/alternative service” as outlined in the *Emily Q v. Bonta* Exit Plan (April 23, 2009). The Special Master is charged with the review, evaluation, and certification of these services and shall have sole discretion in determining whether these additional programs and services meet the TBS-like criteria. This process is an effort to reasonably account for all mental health services provided by the county MHP that are considered “TBS-like” services. These services will be used as a supplemental utilization rate that will assist counties in attaining the targeted 4% benchmark by June 30, 2012.

**Class Eligibility:** The TBS-like services must serve the *Emily Q* class. Class eligibility is defined as all current and future beneficiaries of full-scope Medi-Cal below the age of 21 in California who are placed in a Rate Classification Level (RCL) facility of 12 or above and/or a locked treatment facility for the treatment of mental health needs; are being considered for placement in these facilities; or have undergone at least one emergency psychiatric hospitalization related to their current presenting disability within the preceding 24 months.

### **Elements that must exist to be considered a TBS-Equivalent Service:**

- Has a time limited focused on specific target goal attainment;
- Has individual treatment planning created with client, family, and treatment team (behavioral health staff, mental health representative, relatives, school personnel, parent partner, therapeutic aid, etc.);
- Establishes clearly defined measurable behaviors that are used to substantiate progress;
- Provides functional analysis of behaviors to understand needs the client is attempting to address in order to teach healthy replacement behaviors and decrease negative behaviors;
- Focuses on one to two behaviors at a time; and
- Has an intensive intervention schedule, with an emphasis on addressing parent/caregiver education and involvement whenever possible.

If you have services that you believe are TBS-equivalent, that would assist your MHP in reaching the 4% benchmark, please contact the *Emily Q v. Bonta* Special Master Rick Saletta at [rsalpham@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rsalpham@sbcglobal.net).

For technical assistance or information regarding TBS or the *Emily Q v. Bonta* Court Orders, please visit [http://www.dmh.ca.gov/Services\\_and\\_Programs/Children\\_and\\_Youth/EPSTDT.asp](http://www.dmh.ca.gov/Services_and_Programs/Children_and_Youth/EPSTDT.asp).