

## **Preliminary Risk Screening Consultation Process**

### ***Goals and Rationale***

The Preliminary Risk Screening Consultation (PRSC) process is a service provided by the Bureau of Behavioral Supports (BBS) to assist Interdisciplinary Teams (IDTs) in managing risk for problematic sexual behavior by the individuals they support. *This service is a collaborative process between individual, team members and BBS Consultants.* **The following are the goals and rationale for the Preliminary Risk Screening Consultation process:**

1. Identifies the areas of sexual risk that the individual may present to others in the general community, other individuals and support persons. *We have an obligation to the individual and the community to use best practice methods to provide safety from sexual harm.*
  - Requires trained sexual risk management consultants. *The team's ability to identify sexual risk requires specific knowledge and training in risk management. General clinical knowledge is not adequate for effective sexual risk identification and management.*
  - Screening tools (ARMIDILO-S, RRASOR) are used to improve the ability to identify sexual risk. *Clinical judgment must be grounded with risk assessment and management tools to be affective.*
  
2. Provides individual and support persons the strategies to manage risk. *Knowing what risk exists and what risk indicators are present allows the team to better develop wrap around supports and strategies to manage the risk.*
  - Decrease the risk for persons in the community to be sexually victimized by the individual. *Teams may unwittingly place an individual in a situation where they cannot manage their sexual urges and, therefore, reoffend.*
  - Decrease the risk for sexual victimization of other individuals in community activities where the individuals are segregated (day habilitation, outings, etc.) *Most offending takes place against other individuals or staff in environments where we have brought them together; therefore, we have an added responsibility to manage risk in those environments.*
  - Make the home living environment safe. *Most offending happens in the homes of the individuals against housemates, staff, family and visitors.*
  - Risk screenings help to avoid offending and, therefore, significant consequences for the individual. *An individual's re-offense will likely affect them for a lifetime.*
    - ✓ *Retaliation by others (victim, parent, bystander, etc.).*
    - ✓ *Increased levels of supervision.*
    - ✓ *Increased restrictions.*
  
3. Provides a method to monitor and evaluate ongoing changes of risk by the individual and environment – risk is a constant changing state. *Team members are*

*able to make timely interventions when it is aware of what specific behaviors are indicating increased risk.*

4. Develops a process to reduce supervision and/or restrictions of individual when appropriate. *Individuals will likely not be over-contained if there is a process that provides IDTs a way to make informed decisions on how and when to modify supervision levels and restrictions. Levels of supervision and restrictions should match the risk for sexually inappropriate behavior presented by the individual. There is a cost associated with supervision – financial, quality of life and it may actually increase risk for re-offense, therefore:*
  - *Support the concept of ‘dignity of risk’. It is not realistic or appropriate to have expectations of eliminating all possibilities for a re-offense by the individual.*
  - *Be pro-active in assuring that over containment is not being used. Natural barriers exist that discourage the reduction of supervision even when appropriate.*
  - *We need to use a supervision reduction process when it is available. This requires knowing what the risk is; how it is changing; and a ‘best practice’ approach when reducing supervision and/or restrictions.*
5. Provides team members training on how to manage sexual risk. *IDT members receive training in the literature and research of risk management. The screening process informs team members how to identify and intervene regarding sexual risk management concerns.*
6. Gives specific attention to encouraging individuals to use healthy expression of sexuality. *Individuals need options for healthy sexual expression and opportunities for developing friendships including intimate relationships. This is a risk relevant issue as well as a quality-of-life issue.*
7. Provides IDT members with an additional perspective when they have differing views on how to manage the individual’s risk. *Potential sexual risk by an individual can engender strong competing emotions among team members that can adversely affect the problem solving of such issues.*
8. Utilizing ‘best practice’ risk management approaches and expanding the decision-making process reduces liability. *A significant concern of teams is the legal ramifications of a re-offense by an individual, which can affect the team’s willingness to make appropriate decisions regarding risk and freedom.*
9. **A major misperception of the PRSC process is that it is only needed when the individual is demonstrating risk behavior. *The PRSC is a prevention process to identify subtle indications of potential risk and/or how to continue maintaining and increasing the current level of progress that has been achieved.***