

Community Behavioral Health: Provider Notification

Change in Behavioral Specialist License (BSL) Application Process

August 2, 2017

In July, 2017, the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) announced a change to the Behavioral Specialist License (BSL) application process via the OMHSAS General List Serve. The direct update is included below. Please direct all questions regarding BCBA and BSL credentialing to Lauren DellaCava at Lauren.DellaCava@phila.gov or 215-413-8583 or to the CBH Compliance Department at CBH.ComplianceContact@phila.gov.

The departments of Human Services and State have received numerous requests from stakeholders and individual professionals to simplify the Behavioral Specialist License (BSL) application for professionals who can verify the educational and experience requirements for the credential through existing certifications.

Based on these requests and further review, the Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine (Board) voted on May 16, 2017, to accept changes to the BSL application, which will streamline the process for professionals who hold the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) or Board Certified Behavior Analyst- Doctoral (BCBA-D) credentials.

The Board will now accept BCBA and BCBA-D Certification in lieu of the following items:

- Form 2 – Verification of Education and transcripts
- Form 5 – Verification of 90 hours of Evidence Based Coursework
- Form 6 – Verification of Master's Degree/Post Master's Certificate in a Related Field

BCBAs and BCBA-Ds will still be required to submit the following forms to the Board in order to complete the BSL application:

- Form 1 – Application for a Behavior Specialist License
- Form 3 – Verification of Functional Behavior Assessment Experience
- Form 4 – Verification of Clinical In-Person Experience

Please note, in addition to the above listed forms, additional supporting documents are required by the Board for all applicants. These additional requirements are outlined in the application instructions.

The Board has updated the paper application based on these changes and posted it online on May 22, 2017. However, the online application will not be available immediately. The Board will add the application to the online Pennsylvania Licensing System (PALS) schedule for updates as soon as possible. Individuals wishing to take advantage of the streamlined process will need to apply using the downloadable paper application.

The Board will apply this new evaluation process (accepting the BCBA and BCBA-D certifications) to all pending applications, whenever possible.

If you have questions about the BSL application or changes that have been made to streamline the process for BCBAs and BCBA-Ds, please contact (717) 783-1400. The application can be downloaded [here](#).