

## Test Items for Penn State's National Autism Conference

### Presentation on Ethics & Professional Behavior by Jose Martinez-Diaz – 8/1/2012

1. An agency begins to provide many hours of in-home intensive behavioral services to a young man who engages in severe self-injurious behavior. It is imperative that the behavior analyst on charge of the case:
  - A. Advocate for the young man to be placed in a residential program that specializes in the treatment of severe self-injury.
  - B. Refer the young man to a physician for ongoing medication management.
  - C. Systematically evaluate the effectiveness of the treatment plan by, at the very minimum, collecting data and graphing data on a frequent basis.
  - D. Use reversal or withdrawal design to determine functional relations between the treatment and improvements in behavior.
  
2. A 25-year-old individual, who is in danger of being evicted from his second-floor apartment due to his loud stomping on the floor at night and to his kicking the walls and banging on windows, has consented to the implementation of behavioral interventions to reduce these behaviors so that he can keep his apartment. He has voluntarily given you all his tapes to hold and has agreed that he will earn them back one at a time for each day in which he does not engage in any of the above inappropriate behaviors. After two days of cooperating with the intervention, he asks for all the tapes back, as he does not want to participate in the program anymore. A behavior analyst should:
  - A. Give them back, but tell him that his landlord will be informed that he has refused to cooperate.
  - B. Give them back and explore other ways in which he can be helped to better manage his behavior.
  - C. Tell him that he should think about the implications of his withdrawing consent for a few days. Then, if he still wants the tapes back, he will be given them back at that time.
  - D. Politely but firmly refuse to give them back, reminding him that he consented to this program for his own benefit.
  
3. Peter has been implementing a home-based program about 20 hours per week with a 7-year old boy. Sally, a BCBA, provides one hour per week of behavior analysis services and supervises Peter. Peter and Sally both work for an agency receiving third-party payment for these services from the State. Peter receives news he has passed the certification exam at the Assistant-level and persuades boy's mother to request funding so he can continue working with the boy 20 hours per week and be paid at the higher BCABA rate, telling the mother that he will no longer be able to work with her son if he is only paid at the direct-care staff rate. The mother agrees and somehow persuades the State service coordinator to approve the funding. What would be the right thing for Sally to do?
  - A. Ask her boss and the boy's mother if she should take herself off the case. After all, Peter is now qualified to manage the case by himself.
  - B. Continue with the case as she has, not concerning herself with how much Peter is getting paid. After all, it is none of her business.
  - C. Go to her boss and strongly object to what has been agreed to. After all, Peter is not doing BCaBA-level work 20-hours a week if he is just implementing a program.
  - D. Report Peter to the Behavior Analyst Certification Board for violating the BACB's Disciplinary Standards.

4. You are asked to do an assessment and develop a plan for Cara, a 32-year-old client who resides in a group home. She is refusing to comply with the following house rules: "All residents will go to their own bedrooms by no later than 8:00 PM and stay in their room until 6:30 AM except to use the bathroom. By 9:15 PM all lights, TV's, and stereos will be turned off." You:
- A. Begin a behavioral assessment immediately, as Cara's behavior problem will need to be treated before it generalizes to non-compliance with all rules and staff requests.
  - B. Inform the group home operator that his group home may have unreasonable house rules for adults. You offer your services to develop more reasonable house rules.
  - C. Offer to immediately begin generalized compliance training using discrete trials and incidental training, as this is the protocol of choice for compliance problems.
  - D. Tell the group home operator that this is not the kind of problem you deal with. After you hang up you report him to the Abuse registry and the Human Rights Advocacy Committee, as he is violating the Clients' Bill of Rights.
5. In order to ethically evaluate an intervention, a behavior analyst should, **at the very least**:
- A. Ask the consumer and/or significant other what improvements, if any, the client has made since the last session.
  - B. Collect data during every session.
  - C. Collect data; graph the data at least about every other week, but more frequently depending on the individual case.
  - D. Use systematic manipulations, such as the reversal or alternating treatment designs, to determine functional relationships between the treatment and improvements in behavior.

KEY:

- 1 = C
- 2 = B
- 3 = C
- 4 = B
- 5 = C