

Mental Health Behavioral Aide (MHBA) Helping Kids Master Their Emotions & Behavior

Children's Therapeutic Services and Supports (CTSS) is a flexible package of mental health services provided by the Minnesota Department of Health (DHS) for children who require varying therapeutic and rehabilitative levels of intervention for emotional disturbances that impair and interfere with an individual's ability to function independently.

A **Mental Health Behavioral Aide (MHBA)** is a paraprofessional member of the CTSS team that provides support for that child.

Working under the clinical supervision of mental health professionals, students may be called upon to:

- Provide cues or prompts in skill-building peer-to-peer or parent-child interactions so that the child progressively recognizes and responds to the cues independently
- Perform as a practice partner or role-play partner
- Reinforce the child's accomplishments
- Generalize skill-building activities in the child's multiple natural settings
- Intervene as necessary to redirect the child's target behavior and to de-escalate behavior that puts the child or other person at risk of injury.

Qualifications

An MHBA may be a Level I or Level II, and supervised by a mental health professional/practitioner. Here are the educational requirements for the two different levels.

A **Level I** mental health behavioral aide must:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Have a high school diploma or general equivalency diploma (GED) or two years of experience as a primary caregiver to a child with severe emotional disturbance within the previous ten years
- Meet orientation and training requirements

A **Level II** mental health behavioral aide must:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Have an associate or bachelor's degree or 4,000 hours of experience in delivering clinical services in the treatment of mental illness concerning children/adolescents
- Meet orientation and training requirements

Regardless of level, MHBAs are required to complete 30 hours of pre-service training. This training must include:

- 15 hours of face-to-face training in mental health services delivery
- 8 hours of parent teaming training
- Remaining 7 hours may include one-to-one time with a mental health professional/practitioner

[Learn More](#) at the MHBA section of the DHS website.

Psychiatric Tech Assisting Patients & Clinicians

Psychiatric Technicians work under the supervision of a mental health professional in out-patient and in-patient settings, with adults and children. The MN Dept of Labor and Industry's Pipeline project has grant funding available for dual training of psychiatric technicians. [Learn more](#)