Unit 8 Learning Activity:

Ethics in Behavior Analyst Supervision

Mary Davis is a BCaBA who works with Brighter Days Behavioral Services. Mary has been working with

Brighter Days for approximately 6 months and was about to have her second supervision meeting with Peter King, her BCBA supervisor. Mary had previously discussed a challenging case with Peter during their prior supervision approximately 3 months ago. Peter has previously recommended some interventions that might be useful in addressing some of the behavioral concerns that the client had in this previous supervision session. Please listen to the following exchange and answer the questions based on your readings on Guideline 5 from the Bailey and Burch text:

**Mary:** Hello Peter. Thank you for meeting with me today. It certainly has been some time since our last supervision meeting.

**Peter:** Hello Mary. You are correct, it has been some time. Things have been so busy around here that I barely have enough time in the day to get things done. In fact, we may have to limit this meeting to about 30 minutes so let’s get going.

**Mary:** Okay Peter. Well, I want to discuss a case that we discussed in our prior supervision meeting 3 months ago. The child’s name is David Anderson. He is a 10-year-old child who lives with his mother and two older brothers who are 17 and 18 years of age.

**Peter: (***Looking through his prior supervision notes*) Oh yes, this is the child who was eloping from home. It appears that I recommended that you do a functional behavioral assessment to determine the function of elopement behavior. How did that go?

**Mary:** Well Peter, I did an interview with the mother and completed the Motivational Assessment Scale with her. It was kind of difficult to determine the function of elopement based on her responses. I don’t have a lot of experience administering this instrument.

**Peter:** It’s okay Mary. This is a very easy instrument to administer and complete. Are you sure the mother understood the questions?

**Mary:** I thought that she did. Is there something that I should have done to evaluate her ability to understand? I am so lost with this case. This child’s most recent incident of elopement resulted in police intervention, and the other is currently in trouble with the Department of Social Services.

**Peter:** Just make sure that you have recommended an intervention and that you are training the parent on consistent implementation. We want to make sure that we are addressing the issue, especially since the Department of Social Services is involved.

**Mary:** Is it possible to develop an emergency plan or some plan of action now? I really don’t know how I should address the issue. I would like to develop an intervention plan but I just need some direction on what to do.

**Peter:** I would love to address this matter with you further Mary, but I have another appointment in about 5 minutes. Why don’t we sit down together to figure out a course of action this Friday?

**Mary:** Okay, but I am supposed to meet with the family tomorrow. What should I tell them?

Answer the following questions based on your readings from the Bailey and Burch text and Guideline 5 of the BACB Guidelines for Responsible Conduct for Behavior Analysts:

1. Discuss at least two ethical responsibilities of the behavior analyst supervisor discussed in Guideline 5 in the Bailey and Burch text. Provide details on why it is important for the behavior analyst supervisor to uphold these responsibilities.
2. Based on your readings, discuss at least two ethical standards that are being compromised in the current scenario. Include in your discussion why you think that the BCBA is not behaving in an ethical manner.

1. What actions do you think that the BCBA supervisor need to take in order to remain in compliance with Guideline 5, based on your readings?

Reference

Bailey, J., & Burch, M. (2011). *Ethics for Behavior Analysts* (2nd ed.). London: Routledge.