

Cody Cook, Nisonger Behavior Support Specialist



1. How long have you been with Nisonger Behavior Support Services?

I have been with Nisonger since 6/26/2017. (4+ years)

2. What is your degree/licensure?

I have my Master of Science in Special Education with a focus on Emotional Disturbances and a BA in Psychology.

3. Can you offer a couple sentences about the positive aspects of the interdisciplinary team approach to supporting individuals with complex needs?

One of the most positive aspects of the interdisciplinary team approach is allowing all members to be heard and validated, especially our clients. When all members are free to express concerns, suggestions, and their personal experiences; the team and client are able to create the best supports for those we serve. When working with team members, I am able to hear and celebrate their success' and brainstorm solutions to struggles. What I find most

critical is creating an environment where my clients feel safe being honest. When my clients feel free to express themselves openly, we are able to tackle greater issues while taking steps forward. When a team acts as one, our clients are offered security, support, reassurance and guidance to achieve their goals.

4. What kind of impact do you hope NBSS has on the community?

It is my goal to offer support to those we serve on a day-to-day basis in some capacity. Be it training staff to best work and understand our clients with unique needs, teaching and instilling progressive behaviors with clients who are struggling; and channeling frustrations to something positive, and offering support and guidance to my clients who have had a traumatic past. By doing so, we are setting up our clients for productive interactions with the community and the tools they need to achieve their ultimate goals. It is my professional goal to arm and educate those I serve with these abilities where my services are no longer needed.

5. What do you like most about your position?

I really enjoy working with a diverse population with their own struggles and backgrounds and offering them support. Every day is different. For those we serve, I've often seen trust issues with staff members; and I appreciate being a positive and consist presence in their homes, day programing and socially for clients. I've seen immense progress when a client feels they can trust their NBSS and team to offer support and guidance, while listening to their frustrations, acknowledging their feelings, and collectively developing a plan moving forward.

6. What is unique about working with NBSS?

Every day is unique. The clients we serve are no different than anyone in that we all face daily challenges. I am honored to be part of their support system and a trusted ally. From a department point of view, what makes NBSS so unique is the level of support I am offered by my colleagues. I have never worked in a more supportive and collaborative environment. When I am faced with challenges that I am unsure how to handle, I know I have a co-worker that can offer me advice and guidance. The level of support offered in the NBSS family is unparalleled.