

Amy Purkis, M.Ed., BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst), is Cushing's new Coordinator of Behavioral Services. Amy brings a wealth of experiences and knowledge to Cushing, having worked in public school systems both as a BCBA and a special education teacher. Purkis has held positions at Vinfen and the May Institute. Prior to coming to Cushing, Purkis worked for Abington Public Schools, providing consultation to general and special education teachers, working with students with a variety of disabilities including Autism Spectrum Disorders, ADHD, and emotional/behavioral disorders. Her responsibilities included development and training of behavior management treatment plans, collection and maintenance of data, and working with families within the school setting.

As Coordinator of Behavioral Services, Amy will provide behavioral consultation as needed to all students at Cushing. Consultative services include: staff training, modeling of interventions/teaching techniques, data analysis, site observation, consultation on general household/classroom management, school-wide incentive programs, crisis management, individualized behavior plans and functional behavior assessments. Ongoing consultation and oversight, including data analysis, is provided for students with individualized behavior management treatment plans. Members of the behavioral services team regularly attend staff meetings of the educational, vocational, and residential teams as well as TEAM meetings for individual students.