Due to the variety of behavior and crisis intervention programs and their terminology, it’s important to provide definition of selected terms used throughout this program.

**Antecedent:** An antecedent is the event, activity or discussion that took place just prior to a behavioral incident. The antecedent may also be referred to as the trigger, stimulus or catalyst that leads to the escalation of a behavioral incident.

**Behavioral Incident:** Following the antecedent, the behavioral incident is the observable aggressive actions of the individual served. Physical or verbal aggression may be directed at others or themselves as the result of some trigger causing the escalation of a personal crisis.

**Debriefing:** The process of reviewing the behavioral incident information with staff. Taking information gathered from the incident investigation, management reviews the facts of the incident, evaluates the data and summarizes the information. The findings of the incident report and evaluation process are then shared with staff during a debriefing meeting.

**Individual:** The individual person receiving services from the organization. The individual may also be referred to as client, patient, resident, care receiver, consumer or individual served.

**Mechanical Restraint:** The use of devices as a means of restricting an individual’s freedom of movement. It does not include devices prescribed to achieve functional body position, balance or prevent injury due to involuntary movement.

**Physical Escort:** The temporary touching or holding of the hand, wrist, arm, shoulder, hip or back for the purpose of inducing an individual who is acting out to walk to a safe location.

**Physical Restraint:** Any manual method that restricts freedom of movement or normal access to one’s body, including hand- or arm-holding to escort an individual over his or her resistance. Physical restraint does not include brief, limited and isolated use of:

- Physical guidance, positioning or prompting techniques used to redirect an individual or assist, support or protect the individual during a functional therapeutic or physical exercise activity.
- Response blocking and brief redirection used to interrupt an individual’s limbs or body without the use of force so the occurrence of challenging behavior is prevented.
- Holding an individual, without the use of force, to calm or comfort, or hand-holding to escort an individual from one area to another.
- Response interruption used to stop an individual’s behavior, using agency-approved techniques.

**Seclusion:** The involuntary confinement of an individual in an area from which egress is prevented.