

Annual Report:

Principal Activities March 2016 – March 2017

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CEO

Association of



*Professional
Behavior Analysts*

www.apbahome.net

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Topics

- ▶ About APBA
- ▶ Strategic planning
- ▶ Activities to fulfill the mission – March 2016 to date
 - Outreach and education
 - Practice guidelines
 - Position statements
 - Public policy advocacy
 - Organizational structure and operations

About APBA

- ▶ Nonprofit 501(c)6 organization
- ▶ Mission: promote and advance the science-based practice of behavior analysis
- ▶ Memberships for professionals in behavior analysis and other fields, consumers, students, Registered Behavior Technicians
 - Total # members as of 3/17: 6555 (can change daily because memberships are for 1 yr from date of dues payment)

About APBA

- ▶ Affiliates -- behavior analysis organizations, other scholarly/scientific organizations that partner with APBA
 - Currently 50
 - 42 U. S. state and regional behavior analysis associations
 - 6 non-U.S. associations
 - 2 scholarly/scientific organizations
- ▶ Sponsors -- agencies and companies that sell services or products and support APBA financially
 - Currently 20
- ▶ **8th annual convention: April 19 – 21, St. Louis**
- ▶ See www.apbahome.net

About APBA

- ▶ Board of Directors (see www.apbahome.net):
 - Volunteers
 - Nominated and elected by BACB–certified members or nominated by Affiliates and appointed by current Board
 - Liaison to BACB is appointed
- ▶ Staff:
 - Gina Green, Chief Executive Officer (1.0 FTE)
- ▶ Purchased services:
 - Tech support and design: Cuneo Creative, Tallahassee, FL
 - Accounting: Jonathan Pool, CPA, San Diego, CA
 - Legal: Webster, Chamberlain, & Bean, Washington, DC

About APBA

- ▶ Advisory Board:
 - Volunteers
 - Professionals from several fields and consumers
- ▶ *APBA Reporter* (electronic members newsletter)
 - Editor: Bill Ahearn, New England Center for Children

Strategic planning

- ▶ Committee worked with expert consultant to develop 3-year strategic plan (building on existing 1-year plan)
 - Approved by Board of Directors in November
 - Summary posted on website:
 - About APBA
 - Strategic Plan 2017

Strategic Plan 2017 summary

Our Mission

APBA promotes and advances the science-based practice of behavior analysis by advocating for public policies and informing, supporting, and protecting practitioners and consumers.

Our Goals

1. Members and consumers are well informed about the professional practice of behavior analysis
2. Public policies are in place to support and advance the professional practice of behavior analysis
3. Organizational structure, staff, and expertise are sufficient to support and manage growth
4. Board and committee operations are efficient and effective
5. The organization has sufficient resources to carry out its mission

Our Vision

APBA will be the leading source of information and guidance on the science-based practice of behavior analysis worldwide.

Our Core Values

Members of APBA:

- Act in accordance with the highest standards of our profession.
- Put the interests of consumers and the profession above self-interests.
- Use and advocate for services based on the best available scientific evidence.
- Participate actively in the larger profession.
- Collaborate with practitioners and scientists in related fields.

Fulfilling the mission: Outreach and education

- ▶ 2017 annual convention – New Orleans
- ▶ Presentations at other conferences
 - Autism Speaks Autism Law Summit
 - Council of Autism Service Providers
 - ABAI
 - BABAT
 - TABA
 - ABA Today, Austin, TX
 - IABA
 - Latino ABA
 - Behavior Analyst Leadership Council
- ▶ Co-sponsored “Business Bootcamp” with CalABA

Outreach and education

- ▶ *APBA Reporter*
- ▶ Website
 - Public sections -- Practice Guidelines, Laws & Regulations
 - Resources for Members – info on professional credentialing, antitrust guidelines, health insurance coverage, surveys, bibliographies, etc.
- ▶ Blast emails
- ▶ Scores of posts on multiple Facebook and LinkedIn pages, some listservs
- ▶ Hundreds of communications with behavior analysts, consumers, attorneys, policymakers, regulators, media, others

Fulfilling the mission: Practice guidelines

- ▶ **Avoiding antitrust liability**
 - In Resources for Members section of www.apbahome.net
 - APBA attorney Dave Goch giving tutorials on antitrust laws at this convention – Friday
 - 10:10 am – practitioners
 - 11:10 am – professional organizations

Practice guidelines

- ▶ Assessing clients with autism spectrum disorders for ABA treatment planning and progress reporting
 - Using protocol for developing evidence-based practice guidelines adapted from Institute of Medicine
 - Developed criteria for members of Guidelines Development Group, general parameters and procedures
 - Secured some resources
 - Will recruit Guidelines Development Group this spring

Fulfilling the mission: Position statements

- ▶ Identifying ABA interventions
 - Approved by Board of Directors
 - Being polished for dissemination
- ▶ Medical necessity of ABA interventions for people with autism spectrum disorders
 - Being drafted for Board review

Fulfilling the mission: Public policy advocacy

- APBA collaborates with behavior analysts, consumers, and policymakers in the jurisdiction; BACB (where applicable); advocacy organizations
- Provides
 - Consultation and information via meetings, phone and video conferences, webinars, email, posts on social media
 - Model language for legislation and rules/regulations
 - Analyses of proposed legislation and rules/regs
 - Tips about likely pitfalls and opposition and how to avoid or counter them
 - Testimony and/or help in preparing testimony
 - Supporting resources (talking points, research summaries, etc.)
 - Letters of support
 - Written comments to legislators, regulators
 - Cheerleading

Licensure and other regulation of ABA practitioners

- ▶ Provided
 - information via emails, webinars, phone or video conferences to behavior analysis organizations in
 - 15 U.S. states (CA, CT, GA, IL, IN, IA, MN, MT, NE, NH, NM, NC, SD, TX, WV)
 - Ontario, Canada
 - Israel
 - input on licensure laws and/or rules in 13 states (AZ, HI, KS, LA, MI, MD, NV, NY, OR, SD, TN, WA, VA)
 - input on other types of laws/rules (e.g., education, early intervention) in LA, VA, and Ontario

Health insurance coverage of ABA services

▶ Medicaid

- Disseminated model language for State Plan Amendments (SPAs) or rules re: EPSDT coverage of ABA services for beneficiaries with autism to multiple states (with Autism Speaks Legal Resource Center and stakeholders within each state)
- Provided input on proposed Medicaid SPAs or rules in 15 states (AL, AZ, FL, NC, ND, MD, NC, NJ, OH, OR, RI, TN, TX, WI, WV)

Health insurance coverage of ABA services

▶ TRICARE

- Participated in provider “roundtable” meetings – April, October, March
- Developed and disseminated tips on medical necessity via a provider network
- Submitted comments on latest iteration of policies, including proposed treatment outcome measures, to Defense Health Agency
 - Discussed with staffer for U. S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

Health insurance coverage of ABA services

- ▶ Healthcare provider taxonomy codes
 - With BACB, successfully applied to National Uniform Claim Committee (American Medical Association) for updated taxonomy code for Behavior Analyst and new codes for Assistant Behavior Analyst and Behavior Technician
 - Needed to obtain NPI numbers and for credentialing of providers by some health plans
 - Enhances recognition of the profession within healthcare systems
 - <http://www.nucc.org/index.php/code-sets-mainmenu-41/provider-taxonomy-mainmenu-40>

Health insurance coverage of ABA services

- ▶ Collaborated on development of Code Change Proposal re: Category III CPT codes for “adaptive behavior” services (with ABAI, BACB, and Autism Speaks; CPT consultants; work group of providers, health plan reps, consumer advocates; other stakeholder organizations)
 - Conducted survey to collect information from providers on usage of Category III and other codes to bill for ABA services
 - Developed and disseminated “crosswalk” to show correspondence (or lack thereof) among essential ABA services, Category III CPT codes, other codes
 - Sent letter to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services about “medically unlikely edits” (MUEs) to some Category III CPT Codes that affected reimbursements to some ABA providers

CPT Code Project (cont'd)

- ▶ Code Change Proposal submitted to American Medical Association CPT Editorial Panel early November; presented to Panel at meeting in early February. Included
 - Revised code set
 - Rationale for proposed revisions
 - Vignettes and descriptions of work
 - Evidence review
 - Policy statements, guidelines from professional societies and payers
 - Providers
- ▶ Awaiting publication of Panel's decision
- ▶ Jenna Minton, consultant to our project, giving tutorial on CPT codes at this convention – Saturday, 10:00 am

Education policy

- ▶ Provided material and supporting research on ABA interventions for students with special needs to attorney who wrote part of amicus brief in legal case on Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) standard heard recently by the U.S. Supreme Court

Fulfilling the mission: Organizational structure and operations

- ▶ Board of Directors approved new organization chart
- ▶ Developing or clarifying roles and responsibilities – Directors, officers, committees, staff
- ▶ Will be recruiting full-time Director of Operations this spring
 - San Diego area
 - Master's degree and experience in business
 - Familiarity with ABA
 - Proficiency with Office 365 for Business

Organizational structure and operations

- ▶ Adopting Office 365 for internal management (Board and committee activities, record storage, etc.)
- ▶ Moving to Your Membership association management platform, including website

Thanks for your support!

Association of



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