

Association of



*Professional
Behavior Analysts*

Annual Report to Members

Presented at the APBA virtual convention -- April 8, 2021

Thank
You!

Agenda

- Overview of the organization
 - Strategic plan, structure, governance, operations
- Membership updates
 - Benefits
 - Special offers on memberships
- Activities to fulfill the mission
 - Outreach and education
 - Public policy advocacy
- Suggestions for other member services

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.

Structure, governance, and operations

- **Nonprofit** 501(c)(6) professional organization, incorporated in District of Columbia
- Memberships for professionals in behavior analysis and other fields, consumers, students, Registered Behavior Technicians
- Affiliates – 57 nonprofit behavior analysis, scholarly/scientific, and advocacy organizations that partner with APBA

Structure, governance, and operations

Board of Directors

- Volunteers; nominated and elected by BACB-certified members or nominated by Affiliates and appointed by current Board:
 - Dawn Bailey, Oregon Institute of Technology [Oregon]
 - Louis Busch, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health [Ontario, Canada]
 - Bryan Davey, Highland Behavioral (Past President) [Arizona]
 - Gina Green, APBA (CEO; non-voting) [California]
 - Selene Johnson, ABC of NC Child Development Center [North Carolina]
 - Charna Mintz, Action Behavior Centers (President) [Texas]
 - Allyson Moore, Therapeutic Pathways (President Elect) [California]
 - Mahin Para-Cremer, Caravel Autism Health (Secretary) [Wisconsin]
 - Jonathan Pool, CPA (Treasurer; non-voting) [California]
 - Mawule Sevon, The Key Consulting Firm [Pennsylvania]
 - Traci Shinabarger, AWARE [Montana]
 - Clint Trusty, Trusty Behavioral Services [Georgia]
 - Rebecca Womack, Blue Sprig Pediatrics [Oklahoma]

Structure, governance, and operations

- **Staff:**
 - Gina Green, Chief Executive Officer
 - Dennis Mozingo, Director of Operations
 - Kiel Scates, Director of Member Services
- **Purchased services:**
 - Tech support, Your Membership association management platform: k2 Information Services
 - Accounting: Jonathan Pool, CPA
 - Legal: Webster, Chamberlain, & Bean

Structure, governance, and operations

Committees

- Standing
 - Executive (Board officers and CEO)
 - Membership & Marketing
 - Fundraising
 - Awards
 - Nominating
 - Advisory Board
 - CEO Compensation
- Ad Hoc (current)
 - Autism Assessment Guidelines Project
 - Convention
 - Diversity & Inclusion
 - Provider Agencies Standards



Member benefits

- Discounts on
 - Professional liability insurance from CPH & Associates
 - Subscription to *Current Contents in ABA* (25% off)
 - Online subscriptions to *Child & Family Behavior Therapy*, *Journal of Organizational Behavior Management*, and *Journal of Mental Health Research in Intellectual Disabilities* (\$20/year/journal)
 - Books from Springer Publishing Company (25% off)
 - Job ads and other products from APBA Career Center
 - Registration, workshop, and CEU fees at annual APBA convention
 - Registration fees for APBA webinars (some are free)

Member benefits

- Resources, Members Only section of www.apbahome.net
 - Archives of *APBA Reporter* and news articles
 - Reports of APBA surveys
 - Guidelines on avoiding antitrust liabilities
 - Information on health insurance coverage of ABA services (including Nov 2018 *CPT Assistant* article about 2019 CPT codes)
 - Articles and guidelines on professional credentialing of ABA practitioners
 - Templates for contracts, consent forms, session notes, etc.
 - Bibliographies of applied research (currently **31** topics)
 - Recent additions: Adults with Autism and Related Disorders, Pediatric Feeding Disorders, Supervision Resources, Fitness in ASD, Telepractice of ABA

Special offers on memberships

- Any BCBA, BCaBA, other professional, or consumer member: 5% discount on annual dues if select automatic renewal
 - Ex: BCBA - \$85.50 vs. \$90/year; BCaBA - \$66.50 vs. \$70
- Individuals who achieve BCBA, BCaBA, or RBT certification for the first time in 2021 can get 30% discount on first-year dues
 - BCBA - \$63 vs. \$90; BCaBA - \$49 vs. \$70; RBT - \$24.50 vs. \$35
- See Membership at www.apbahome.net for details
- ***Please encourage your colleagues, employees, students, supervisees, consumers to join!***

Fulfilling the mission: Outreach and education

- **Webinars**

- Telepractice of ABA During the Pandemic (3/15/20; 1st webinar on this topic)
- COVID-19, Employment Law, and Essential Business Risk Management (4/16/20)
- Qs & As About Reporting Telepractice Delivery of ABA Services to Health Plans (5/7/20)
- Behavior Analysts and Racism: A Frank Discussion (6/15/20)
- ABA Coding Coalition Model Coverage Policy for Adaptive Behavior Services – introductions for payers, billers and billing software platforms, providers (with Council of Autism Service Providers; September 2020)
 - *All FREE for APBA members*
- Webinars on regulation of practice for multiple Affiliate organizations

Fulfilling the mission: Outreach and education

- **Recorded Webinars – www.apbahome.net > Events**
 - COVID-19 – 3 webinars; FREE for members
 - Health Insurance Providers – 8 webinars; \$7.50 - \$15.00 each for members
 - Various Topics
 - Behavior Analysts and Racism – FREE for members

Outreach and education

- www.apbahome.net
 - Public sections – About Behavior Analysis, Practice Guidelines, Laws & Regulations
 - Members Only section
- Bulk emails
- Scores of posts on multiple social media sites, some listservs
- Hundreds of communications with behavior analysts, consumers, attorneys, policymakers, regulators, media, others

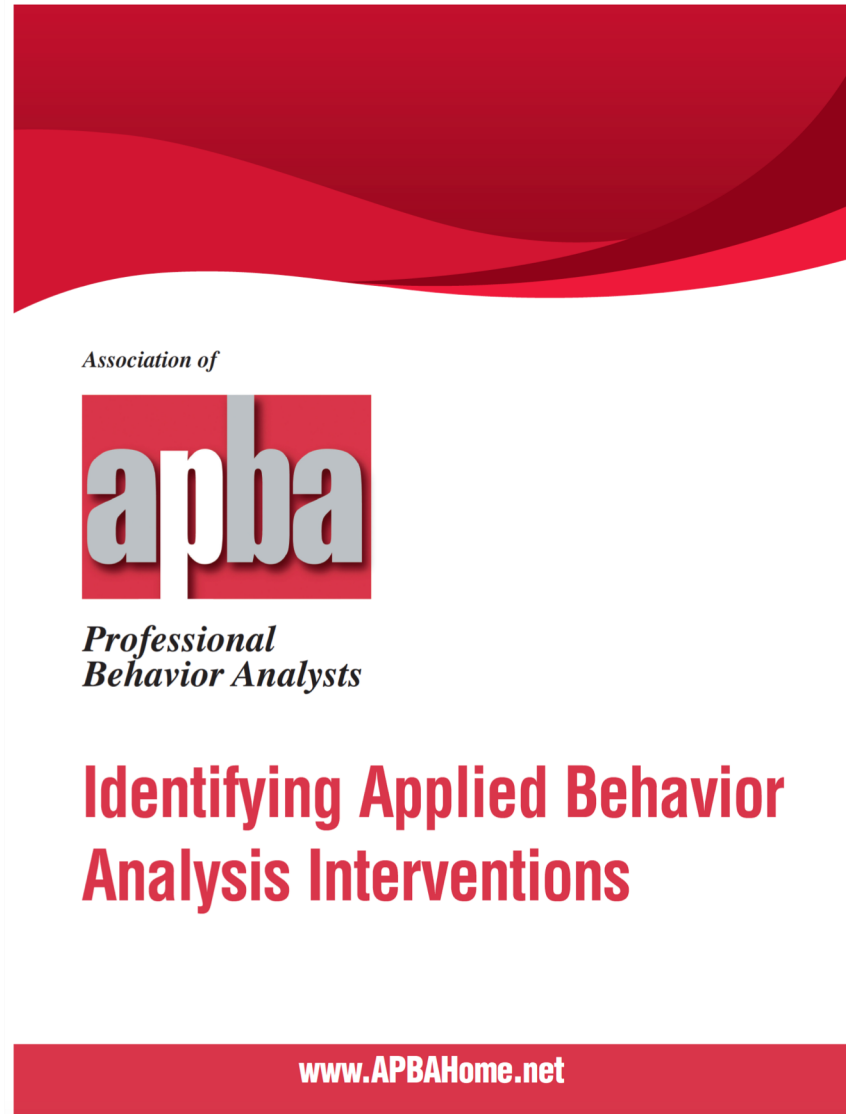
Practice Guidelines, www.apbahome.net

▶ Recent additions:

- *Guidelines for Practicing Applied Behavior Analysis During the COVID-19 Pandemic* (April 2020)
- *Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Social Justice* (June 2020)
- Links, PDFs for many other COVID-19-related resources
- *ABA Coding Coalition Model Coverage Policy* (April 2020)

▶ Coming soon:

- Tips for responding to purchase or investment offers
- Guidelines for using social media
- Guidelines for assessing clients with ASD



- ▶ White paper designed to serve as a resource on the science and practice of behavior analysis for the general public
- ▶ English and French versions
- ▶ Available to anyone at www.apbahome.net, Practice Guidelines

World Behavior Analysis Day

- Initiated by Elizabeth Drago, NYSABA
- Many behavior analysis organizations collaborated
- APBA participated on planning team, helped develop application to National Archives
- “Day” is to be celebrated annually on March 20 (Skinner’s birthday)
- Info and resources at <http://behavioranalysisday.com>



Fulfilling the mission: Public policy advocacy

- ▶ APBA collaborates with behavior analysts, consumers, and policymakers; 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, rules/regulations, sunrise applications, etc.
 - 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 governmental regulation of ABA practitioners

- Since 2008, provided input on licensure bills, laws, rules, other forms of regulation in
 - > 45 U.S. states
 - Several other jurisdictions – Australia, Canada, India, Israel
- Publish model licensure act



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**Model Behavior Analyst
Licensure Act**

ADOPTED AUGUST 2018

Resources on licensure

- ▶ www.apbahome.net > Laws & Regulations > Licensure/Reg. of ABA Practitioners
 - APBA Model Licensure Act
 - Summary of current licensure laws
 - Info on relicensing cost reimbursement for military spouses
 - Links to websites of regulatory bodies that manage licensure programs in all states with behavior analyst licensure laws implemented
 - Also links to behavior analysis organization(s) in each state

Health insurance coverage of ABA services

▶ Autism insurance laws

- Laws or bulletins now mandate coverage of ABA services in all 50 U.S. states.
- APBA provides input on bills or rules, advocates for amendments to remove age caps, other restrictions

▶ Medicaid

- With Autism Legal Resource Center, developed model language for State Plan Amendments (SPAs) or rules re: EPSDT coverage of ABA services; disseminated to many states
- Provide input on proposed Medicaid SPAs or rules

Health insurance coverage of ABA services

- ▶ TRICARE Autism Care Demonstration
 - Continuing advocacy for coverage of ABA services that started in 2008
 - Provide feedback on policies and reports
 - Will host a meeting of TRICARE providers in this convention – Saturday, 4:30 pm **Central** time
- CHAMP VA (healthcare program for military veterans)
 - Collaborated with veterans' families, several organizations to advocate successfully for coverage of ABA services for beneficiaries with ASD starting this year



ABBA



CODING COALITION

www.abacodes.org



ABA Coding Coalition





- ▶ www.abacodes.org
 - Resources
 - FAQs
 - Advocacy efforts
 - Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs)
 - Payer and provider education
 - Other outreach to payers



Model Coverage Policy

for Adaptive Behavior Services

Available under
Resources at
www.abacodes.org
and Practice
Guidelines at
www.apbahome.net

Model Coverage Policies

- Outline optimal coverage parameters related to medical procedures or therapies that may be new or unfamiliar to a health plan for payers, providers, and billers.
- Are often developed by national specialty societies in the absence of a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services local or national coverage policy, or in response to wide variance in payer coverage policies for a specific service or specialization.

The ABA Coding Coalition's Model Coverage Policy

- ▶ Designed to guide providers, billers, and payers in working with the 2019 CPT® codes for adaptive behavior/ABA services to develop appropriate coverage policies and monitor utilization in US systems.
 - *But could be used to advocate for coverage of ABA services by any healthcare systems.*
- ▶ Includes:
 - indications
 - limitations
 - billing codes
 - provider qualifications
 - documentation requirements
 - other general information
 - a bibliography of research on the efficacy of ABA services for several patient populations.

Expanded collaboration with nonprofit Council of Autism Service Providers (CASP; www.casproviders.org)

- ▶ *Practice Parameters for Telehealth Implementation of Applied Behavior Analysis*
- ▶ Organization Guidelines
 - Steering Committee for overall project
 - Development of chapter on “Organizational Support for Clinical Excellence”
 - APBA Board members serving as SMEs, committee members

Suggestions for other member benefits, services, etc.?

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