



Maryland Association for Behavior Analysis

May 2017

Volume 2, Number 2

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For more information about MABA:

<http://www.mdaba.org/>

MABA is an affiliated chapter of ABAI and APBA.

Contact Us

<http://www.mdaba.org/#!contact-us/ccqg>

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attention: Carrie Borrero or Nicole Hausman

Sponsorship opportunities for our 2017 conference are available!

Please check out our website for details or contact Nicole Hausman at:
info@marylandaba.org

Letter from the President

This year marks the MABA's 20th year. We are very excited to welcome our invited speakers to mark this important milestone: Pat Friman, SungWoo Kahng, Tiffany Kodak, Cynthia Pietras, and Al Poling. We will also be holding two preconference workshops presented by Tiffany Kodak and Jane Barbin, and Stacey McIntyre. Please mark your calendars for December 14-15, 2017!

This year has also brought important changes to regulations pertaining to behavior analysts in Maryland. SB786 on Restraint and Seclusion in schools is undergoing revisions, and a task force is being assembled to inform lawmakers on important aspects of this bill. Additionally, changes to Maryland Medicaid coverage of behavior analytic services and reimbursement rates were made, affecting many providers in our state. MABA has provided commentary on these and other regulatory matters, and is in the process of developing a committee to stay apprised of changes that may affect our members. We encourage all MABA members to stay informed by subscribing to professional listservs that disseminate this information and participating in public comment periods.

As we enter MABA's 20th year, we look forward to continued growth and change. We look forward to seeing everyone in December.

Louis Hagopian, Ph.D., BCBA-D
President
Maryland Association for Behavior Analysis

2016 Annual Conference Review

Our 19th Annual Meeting and Pre-Conference Workshop which was held at the Hilton Baltimore, December 15 and 16, 2016 had an exciting turn out and we hosted many dignified speakers. The depth and breadth of topics was a true credit to the strength, innovation, and diversity of our field.

During this event, we had the honor of learning about a variety of research topics from our diverse and esteemed speakers. The conference began with Dr. LeBlanc describing the process for developing clinical standards across several domains, including assessment, data collection, client relationships, and protection and supervision. The conference continued with Dr. Piazza's presentation which compared the effects of modified Sequential Oral Sensory (M-SOS) and applied behavioral analysis-based treatment on food refusal with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. We even gained a general understanding about the "-ism", including monism, dualism, reductionism, selectionism and pragmatism, that helped build the foundation of behavior analysis from Dr. Lattal. Dr. Hughes presented data which examined the potential aversive aspects of various schedules of positive reinforcement. The presentations ended with Dr. Dallery's data on how new technology combined with behavioral interventions can be used decrease unwanted behaviors such

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as smoking. He went on to speak about how, through the use of technology, these interventions were able to reach individuals on a national level.

Throughout these presentations, we also had the pleasure of hearing various students, including Allen Porter, Samantha Young, and Jessica Becraft, speak about their thesis and capstone research projects. The day ended with a poster session which displayed exciting research currently being conducted in our field.

We are pleased to announce that our 20th!! Annual conference and preconference workshop will be held on December 14th and 15th. We have an exciting line up of speakers for 2017 including Al Poling, Sung Woo Kahng, Pat Friman, Tiffany Kodak and more! Please join us not only to learn about the exciting new research occurring within our field but also to gain your BCBA Type II Continuing Education credits. We look forward to seeing you there!

Research Spotlight: Jennifer Zarcone



Throughout Dr. Zarcone's career she has conducted research on the assessment and treatment of self-injurious behavior (SIB) and other severe problem behavior in children and adults with autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities. Specifically, her work in functional assessment has focused on using it as a methodology for identifying the function or conditions under which problem behavior is most likely to

occur. These data in turn led to identifying treatment options based on modifying those conditions that precede problem behavior. In her early research, she was particularly interested in evaluating how problem behavior can serve an escape and/or avoidance function. At the University of Kansas, she obtained funding to assess the function of problem behavior during the course of a clinical trial of the psychotropic, risperidone, which surprisingly also seemed to affect escape-maintained problem behavior differentially from other behavioral functions. She then conducted a series of studies evaluating the behavioral effects of medication and was NIH-supported for several years both at the University of Kansas and then at the University of Rochester.

At the Kennedy Krieger Institute, she is currently conducting research with colleagues Louis Hagopian and Griffin Rooker on automatically maintained self-injury. This project involves characterizing automatic self-injury into subtypes that can be defined by the forcefulness of the behavior, its persistence when blocked, and its resistance to treatment. Data collected from inpatients on the Neurobehavioral Unit match data that are described in the behavioral literature in terms of how difficult it is to treat certain subtypes of automatic SIB. Additional research on the number of medication trials and types of medications needed to treat each subtype of self-injury is currently in development.

Key citations:

Zarcone, J. R., Lindauer, S. E., Morse, P. S., Crosland, K. A., Valdovinos, M. G., McKerchar, T. L., Reese, R. M., Hellings, J. A., & Schroeder, S. R. (2004).

Effects of risperidone on destructive behavior of persons with developmental disabilities: III. Functional analysis. *American Journal on Mental Retardation*, 109, 310-321.

Hagopian, L. P., Rooker, G. R., & Zarcone, J. R. (2015). Delineating subtypes of self-injurious behavior maintained by automatic reinforcement. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 48, 523-543.

Zarcone, J. R., Hagopian, L. P., Ninci, J., McKay, C., Bonner, A., Dillon, C., & Hausman, N. (2016). Measuring the complexity of treatment for challenging behavior using the treatment intensity rating form. *International Journal of Developmental Disabilities (Special Issue)*, 62, 183-191.

Hagopian, L.P., Rooker, G.W., Zarcone, J. R., Bonner, A., & Arevalo, A. R. (2017). Further analysis of subtypes of automatically reinforced self-injurious behavior: A replication and quantitative analysis of published data. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 50, 48-66

Update from the Maryland Behavior Analyst Advisory Committee

Current figures show that we have 298 Licensed Behavior Analysts in Maryland. For licenses granted in 2015, the renewal process was initiated in January of 2017. Also in January of 2017, the Behavior Analyst Advisory Committee (BAAC) announced the publication of regulations to govern the practice of behavior analysts in Maryland. The comment period remained open until late February of 2017, and the Executive Director of the Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists, in collaboration the BAAC, will be responding to comments.

What is going on: Spring 2017

As you know, continuing education is an important part of our development and maintenance of skills as behavior analysts. Below are some CE opportunities in our area during the next few months. Please note that this list is not meant to be exhaustive of all CE opportunities, as this list changes daily. We hope this will be a starting point as you explore the CE landscape.

Massachusetts ABA Annual Conference
May 4. Marlborough, MA

ABAI 43rd Annual Convention
May 25-29. Denver, CO

Florida ABA 37th Annual Conference
October 4-7. Daytona Beach, FL

Alabama ABA 26th Annual Convention
October 18-20. Birmingham, AL

Maryland Association for Behavior Analysts 11th Annual Convention
December 14-15. Baltimore MD

Program Spotlights

We are lucky to have a large number of wonderful Behavior Analytic programs that sponsored MABA in 2016. Below are some of the program and a highlight of the important work they do.

The **ACE® ABA Software System** is the premier, educational software system for learners with autism. The ACE® is a cloud based teaching system that includes more than 1900 customizable lesson plans, the ability to go paperless by teaching and collecting data from your mobile device, multiple

assessments, and automated graphing features. The ACE utilizes the principals of applied behavior analysis (ABA) to help you ensure maximum progress. This all in one solution for autism education was designed by BCBA's at the world-renowned New England Center for Children®. Build your successful, progress focused classroom or program around the ACE. <http://www.acenec.org/>

Connec-to-Talk has been privately owned since 2003. Our name reflects our commitment to providing comprehensive, evidence-based treatment to clients. Overall, providing a casual and team-oriented work environment in which families can feel comfortable. Connec-to-Talk Pikesville, services both clinic and home based families located in Baltimore, Baltimore City, Montgomery, Carroll, Howard, Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties. We are a pediatric clinic specializing in transdisciplinary programming for children with various needs and abilities. Our team of BCBA's, Speech and Occupational Therapists work collaboratively to provide play based instruction promoting development of receptive and expressive language, motor planning, skill acquisition, as well as addressing any behavioral or social challenges. Together, the team works using a transdisciplinary model to treat the whole child. Each program is individually tailored, in order to capitalize on what is most functional for the child to successfully navigate their world. <http://connec-to-talk.com/>

The goal of **Family Insight's** applied behavior analysis (ABA) program is to improve socially significant behaviors to a meaningful degree, and to demonstrate, through data collection, that the interventions implemented are responsible for the change in behavior. Socially significant behaviors include targeting: social skills, adaptive functioning (toileting, dressing, eating, vocational work, etc.), and communication. Parents, caregivers, and paraprofessionals involved with the client are trained in the basic principles of ABA for the continuation of treatment outside of direct behavioral therapy. Services are available through Medicaid and private insurances (Aetna, Anthem, Optima Health, and Tricare). Individuals 2-21 are eligible for ABA therapy. Individual's seeking behavioral treatment require a letter of medical necessity from his/her physician or psychiatrist indicating the need for behavioral treatment services. Family Insight's ABA services are provided by Registered Behavior Technicians under the direct supervision of a Board Certified (assistant) Behavior Analyst licensed in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Our services are provided throughout the state of Virginia in Danville, Manassas, Richmond, Roanoke, Winchester, Virginia Beach and surrounding areas. <http://www.familyinsight.net/services/>

Verbal Beginnings is a fast-paced, continuously growing company, providing in-home and center-based ABA therapy throughout Maryland, Pennsylvania, DC, Delaware, and Virginia. Always finding new and innovative ways to provide services, Verbal Beginnings, prides itself with high caliber professional talent. Our RBTs, BCaBAs, SLPs and BCBA's receive ongoing professional development that insures quality services that are inline with the exceptional standards of the BACB. Our rapidly growing team provides continuous job opportunities and increased services to families across Maryland and surrounding states. <http://verbalbeginnings.com/>

Achieve Beyond provides pediatric therapy and educational services to children, students and families throughout the United States including the greater Los Angeles, California (CA) area, Virginia (VA)/Maryland (MD)/DC area, the greater Dallas, Texas (TX) area and the entire New York (NY) metropolitan area. We offer coordination in initial evaluations, as well as follow-up sessions and provide services in the predominant language of the patients in both home and community settings. Achieve Beyond's team of highly qualified health care professionals includes: Speech Language


Pathologists, Special Educators, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Psychologists, Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA), Behavior Therapists and more. We are committed to staff development through supervision and training opportunities. Our staff is trained to offer culturally sensitive evaluations and services in numerous languages including: *English, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Hindi, Urdu, Russian, Polish, Creole, Korean, Arabic, Farsi, Tagalog, Greek, French, Hebrew, but not limited to.*
<http://www.achievebeyondusa.com/>

Little Leaves is dedicated to helping people with social, communication, and behavioral challenges grow and succeed so that they can participate as fully as possible in their families and communities. Using evidenced-based practices based on the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), our professionals partner with each family to develop and implement an individualized therapeutic plan. We also help families coordinate the logistics of therapy so that they can focus their time on what really matters - caring for their children. Our team is staff by professionals who are passionate about working with children. Our program is supervised by master's and doctoral level Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) and delivered by highly-trained therapists. We believe that our children's families and caregivers are integral members of the treatment team and we treat them that way. We serve the DC-NoVa- Baltimore area. <http://www.littleleaves.org/>

The Children's SPOT offers Speech, Occupational and ABA therapy programming for children with a variety of cognitive disorders and developmental delays, including Autism Spectrum Disorder. Our therapists have a proven track record and extensive experience working with children in need of early intervention services through to young adulthood in the areas of augmentative and alternative communication, apraxia, articulation, receptive and expressive language disorders, gross and fine motor delays, handwriting, auditory processing, sensory dysfunction, behavior modification, academic instruction, vocational training and more. Our therapy center is located at 8815 Columbia 100 parkway, Columbia MD 21045. Our space is designed to have both individual and group sessions. We have 4 themed treatment rooms, a gym, multi-sensory room and kitchen, ready to meet the needs of clients of varying ages and needs. <https://spotofmd.com/>

Mid-Atlantic Human Service Corporation, a division of The Institute of Professional Practice, Inc., is a private, non-profit human service and educational organization. We provide residential, day, vocational and academic services to individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities in Maryland, Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. In addition we offer training and consultation services to families, schools, human service organizations, and governmental agencies. Our approach to services begins with a commitment to the individual. Our values reflect our respect and compassion for people with special needs. We are committed to providing evidence based treatment and employ the proven methods of Applied Behavior Analysis. www.ippi.org

The Shafer Center is committed to providing services to children and young adults on the autism spectrum in our school, your school, your home, and the community. We develop individualized programming using evidence-based interventions and interdisciplinary education for every aspect of a person's life. Services Include- Classrooms: Preschool -5th Grade, ABA Therapy, Assessments, Behavioral Consultation, Bridge Blackboard, IEP Consultation, Occupational Therapy, Parent Consultations, Speech Language Therapy and more. <http://theshafcenter.com/>



Established in the Baltimore area in 2008, **Little Red Car ABA Services LLC** is a small, clinician run company providing quality in-home and community-based ABA services for children and young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their families. We specialize in delivering ABA based skill acquisition programs including communication, play, social skills, leisure skills, academics, self-help, and independence, while addressing challenging behaviors functionally using positive behavioral supports. We believe in using the research-based practices of Applied Behavior Analysis to promote personal growth, encourage positive, meaningful relationships and create the foundation for future success across all facets of life (home, school and community). Our client-centered approach ensures that programs are designed to meet the individual needs of each student. <http://www.littleredcaraba.com/>

Behavior Development Solutions makes available the premium BCBA curriculum supplement and exam prep resource--the CBA Learning Module Series. In a recent survey, users of the CBA Learning Module Series who completed the entire program and were first time BCBA exam takers had a 97% pass rate. We also have CE courses for BCBAs/BCaBAs and Psychologists. In addition, our online "Books for Behavior Analysts" store boasts over 150 titles. behaviordevelopmentsolutions.com.