

MABA Summer Symposium (2019)

Pathways to Practical Behavior Analysis in Maryland: Recommendations from the Front Line



June 28, 2019: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
UMBC Technology Center
1450 S. Rolling Road, Baltimore, MD 21227

8:00 am **Registration and Check-in**

9:00 am - 10:00 am **Jane Barbin, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA; Behavioral Directions, LLC**
Collaborating for Success: Behavioral Consultation in School Settings

As behavior analysts, it can be challenging to build rapport and effectively collaborate with behavioral and non-behavioral providers in educational environments. Effective collaboration, however is a requirement of behavior analytic service delivery, per our Ethics code. With the rapid growth of our field and potential of our profession to influence educational outcomes, we must strengthen collaboration with members of school teams in order to enhance those outcomes and promote our science. Additional topics will include: (1) Necessary behavior analytic principles (e.g., shaping, reinforcement) and specific communication skills (e.g., shared goals, translational language, open communication) when working within school settings; (2) Necessary professional behaviors that can improve outcomes in interdisciplinary collaboration; and (3) Critical system components that support collaboration within educational environments.

Learning Objectives: Participants will

- Describe strategies to effectively interact with administrators, related service providers, educators, and parents who present challenges to “buy-in” and the proper implementation of behavior analysis in educational settings;
- Review case scenarios involving challenges to collaboration; and
- Utilize a decision-making paradigm to determine how to proceed ethically and professionally in interdisciplinary relationships

Dr. Barbin founded Behavioral Directions, LLC in 2001 and serves as Executive Director consulting to parents, educators, and public-school districts while collaborating across disciplines to promote successful outcomes for those with autism, behavior disorders, and related disabilities. She has trained and supervised behavior analytic staff to implement high integrity services. Upon completion of her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at Louisiana State University, she trained in Behavioral Psychology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Kennedy Krieger Institute. She is a member of the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) and ABAI state chapters (Maryland, Virginia). She is currently on the Board of Directors of the Association of Professional Behavior Analysts (APBA). She was also one of the founding directors of the Iyymount School Autism Program, a model center-based ABA program in Rockville, MD and has practiced for over 20 years. In her leadership experience, Dr. Barbin is past-president of the

Maryland Association for Behavior Analysis, is a grant reviewer for the Organization for Autism Research, and previously served on the Boards of the Virginia Statewide Autism Planning Council and the Association for Science in Autism Treatment. She has integrated her background in clinical psychology and behavior analysis as an effective means for treatment and was recently recognized by Children's National Medical Center, Center for Autism Spectrum Disorder for contributions to the field. Through her work, she advocates for disability awareness and provides training to parent and professional groups at the local and national level. Her interests include factors related to effective behavioral consultation, improving ethical and professional practice, assessment and treatment of behavior disorders, and quality indicators in autism intervention.

10:00 am -11:00 am Christine Accardo, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA; Shafer Center

Behavior Analysis in the Real World: Working in the Home and School Settings

The purpose of this presentation is to explore how behavior analysts work in home and school setting. As behavior analysts, we are clinicians and scientists. When working in the home and school setting it is easy to forget that both these important roles are essential to our work. In this presentation, we will talk about how a clinician can apply research to the messy environment of the home and school and also how we can be true to our science by making data based decisions to guide our clients' programs. Acquisition of skills, reducing problem behaviors and generalization and maintenance of skills will be discussed. Soft skills and working with other professionals and the ethical challenges that we often encounter will be a focus as well.

Dr. Accardo is the Director of Clinical Programs for The Shafer Center for Early Intervention and is an Adjunct Faculty member at the Johns Hopkins school of education. Dr. Accardo is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst- Doctoral a licensed psychologist and received her Ph.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She completed her pre-doctoral internship at the Kennedy Krieger Institute and Johns Hopkins Medical Center. For over 20 years, Dr. Accardo has developed and provided clinical consultation services for in-home and in-school autism programs for children and young adults. Her other professional experience includes providing psychological, educational, and cognitive assessments to teenagers with cognitive and learning disabilities, and providing counseling and therapy services to adolescents and young adults.

Learning Objectives: Participants will

- Discuss the impact of working in a home and school setting and the challenges that are part of those settings.
- Describe how research and data based decision making is essential to practice in the home and school setting.
- The ethical and logical challenges to working with other professionals in a specialized setting.

11:00 am – 12:00 pm **Josh Carlson, M.S., BCBA; Sara Daugherty, M.S., BCBA, LBA;**
Panelist: James Craig, VP Autism Services
Beacon Health Options

Putting the Pieces Together: A Payer's Perspective

Many BCBA's are finding that managed health care has an entirely different vocabulary when speaking about Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services. Terms such as medical necessity criteria and level of care are frequently used by managed care when discussing the appropriateness of treatment. Furthermore, it is important for BCBA's to be aware of HOW a managed healthcare entity is managing care for the members. Are they using a benefits management approach or is it a care management approach? This talk will help BCBA's understand the language managed care uses when considering cases for authorization and denial. Also BCBA's will be better able to facilitate treatment for their clients based on an understanding of how different managed care companies approach managing care for members with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). We will address common mistakes and misconceptions that surround insurance funded ABA services, and how these mistakes can be avoided. This presentation will include professionals from a managed care organization that will define and outline how to differentiate between managed care models and understand common terminology as it relates to medical necessity for ABA treatment to address the core deficits of autism.

Learning Objectives: Participants will

- Be able to differentiate managed care models
- Define key terms as they related to medical necessity for ABA treatment
- Be able to furnish critical medical necessity components within individualized treatment plans
- Understand how the clinical information provided drives determinations regarding ABA treatment
- Be able to adopt effective strategies within their organization to promote best treatment outcomes while satisfying the requirements of a managed care organization

Josh Carlson is the Provider Quality Manager for BHO, overseeing the Maryland Medicaid ABA Benefit. As part of his responsibilities in this role, he provides both clinical and operational guidance to providers rendering ABA services to Medicaid members across the state of Maryland. He has filled this role since February 2017, shortly after the ABA benefit began for Medicaid recipients. Prior to this role, Josh also served as the Behavior Specialist for the Forbush School at Hunt Valley. While at Forbush, he was instrumental in their successful transition from a small pre-school/primary education program to the elementary through 21-year old program serving students with severe behaviors in Maryland. Josh worked with his wife building their own ABA practice, Behavior Training Consultants, serving families of children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder around the country. He consulted on a variety of cases for Anne Arundel County Public Schools, overseeing

a program designed to promote the inclusion of children with disruptive behaviors in the public school general education setting.

Sara Daugherty is the Clinical Supervisor for ABA Services in Maryland for BHO. In her role, she is primarily responsible for providing direct clinical oversight to a team of Board Certified Behavior Analysts and administrative oversight to a team of care coordinators. Together, the team aims to educate and support Maryland Medicaid families to gain a better understanding of what ABA is and how their family can access it. Additionally, the clinical team conducts ongoing training and case shaping with BCBAs whom are providing direct oversight for the members in care. The Maryland ABA team embodies Beacon Health Options aim to promote quality of care through provider collaboration and coordination. Sara has just over two years' experience working directly with managed behavioral health care. Prior to taking on her current role, Sara worked in a private practice providing direct oversight of individual ABA programs across various stages of a child's development. Sara has gained international experience, disseminating the principles of ABA via her role as both direct instructor and team lead at a specialized school for children on the Autism Spectrum located in the Gulf region of the Middle East. In this role, Sara developed a passion for educating families and promoting best outcomes through their active participation in their child's program. Through her experience working with a large-scale organization, Sara has a strong interest in understanding how government policy impacts the overall access to care for individuals on the Autism Spectrum. Sara has developed and implemented, in partnership with Maryland Department of Health, a state-wide system which streamlines processes for families to better understand how ABA can benefit their family. Additionally, with a focus on promoting best outcomes, the clinical oversight of the ABA benefit has allowed for checks and balances ensuring each and every member can successfully gain access to quality ABA treatment.

James Craig is the Corporate Vice President from Autism Solutions at BHO, the largest autism services managed care provider in the US with over 14,000 cases in service covering over 14 million lives. In this role, he is responsible for Beacon's product strategy and the ongoing development and continuous improvement of clinical services delivered to children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder and their families and supports the Beacon autism clinical teams throughout the US. James has held numerous positions in managed behavioral health care most recently as the Director of Behavioral Operations at Accolade, a start-up built for purpose company specializing in integrated approaches to support medical and behavioral health decision making for consumers. Prior to that, he served as General Manager for Behavioral Health at Aetna for the Eastern US where he was responsible for health plans and self-insured customers. In this capacity, James developed the first Autism Case Management program incorporating a case coordination and utilization management model in fulfillment of the emerging state mandates. James has developed a wide range of behavioral health programs designed to improve quality and effectiveness that have led to behavior change for those with medical and behavioral health issues. These have included telehealth coaching, online social media resources, and member and provider engagement strategies.