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COABA
Colorado Association for Behavior Analysis

"Unnamed" Newsletter

Upcoming Events

- Using Parent-Mediated Matrix Training to Teach Tacting with a Speech Generating Device (SGD)
  - 3/5/2024
  - 12-1:30pm
  - 1.5 learning CEUs
  - Register on BehaviorLive.com

- Collaboration in the CO School Districts & HB 1260
  - 3/14/2024
  - 11-12:30pm
  - 1.5 learning CEs
  - Register on BehaviorLive.com

Help us name our newsletter!

Newsletter Pre-Cue

Welcome to the very first ever COABA Newsletter! Our goal is to support COABA's Mission by providing information that is important to you as part of Colorado's ABA community. The newsletter will provide quarterly updates on COABA and the work of the COABA Committees, vital information about the "state of the state" as it relates to ABA services, resources, and upcoming events. This first issue introduces you to the members of the Executive COABA Board and COABA Committee Chairs.

We also want you to get involved! You will find information on volunteering for committees (we have some exciting new sub-committees), submitting talks for our online seminar series, and for contributions to this newsletter. We also need a name for the newsletter. Please cast your vote above!

We hope you enjoy your newsletter. We have some great installments planned for the coming year. If you like what you see here, let us know. Have some suggestions? Let us know that too. We appreciate your feedback on this new endeavor!

Sincerely, The Soon to Be Re-Named COABA Newsletter Committee (Bryan Tanner, Amy Crye, Matt Bond, & Samantha Smalley)

Public Policy Committee

The Public Policy Committee aims to advocate for and establish robust governmental relations to enhance policies ensuring quality care throughout Colorado. Through strategic collaboration and advocacy, we work to foster positive changes for all individuals accessing applied behavior analysis in our state.

Dissemination Committee

The COABA Dissemination Committee is growing! We have committed to diversifying our field through the DEIA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility) subcommittee, producing a quarterly newsletter, and continuing to disseminate the science of behavior analysis through attendance at important state meetings among other initiatives. We hope you'll join us at our monthly meeting, typically the first Tuesday of the month at 6pm!

Professional Development Committee

The Professional Development Committee is made up of committed individuals focused on bringing excellent events to the COABA community. We put on monthly webinars, bi-annual workshops, and our biggest event – the annual conference! This group is incredible, and truly makes COABA events the best events to attend. Looking forward to 2024!

Interested in joining one of these committees?

Public Policy:
COABApublicpolicy@gmail.com

Dissemination:
COABAdissemination@gmail.com

***Professional Development*:**
COABAconference@gmail.com

https://forms.gle/mkWjqTVRcTLwsVMH8

Current Efforts

A Message from Your President...

Greetings everyone –I'm Rebecca Urbano Powell, your newly minted President of the Colorado Association for Behavior Analysis (COABA). I've been navigating the thrilling labyrinth of Applied Behavior Analysis for 23 glorious years which, in behavior analyst time, is practically a few lifetimes.

In my tenure as COABA's Treasurer since 2022, I've managed our finances with such precision that even my cats envy my budgeting skills. Picture this: Public Policy Committee Co-Chair, Professional Development Committee Co-Chair – it's like having a double-shot espresso of advocacy and career growth.

I'm not just passionate; I'm the Beyoncé of quality care, the Da Vinci of best practice guidelines, and the Shakespeare of advocating for families and providers. At least that's what my mom says. Remember that legislation for Medically Necessary Treatment in schools in Colorado? Yeah, I was the secret sauce in that recipe. Ok, not really. That honor goes to our lobbyist, Emma Hudson. I was more like the garnish on the plate. But I did once help to facilitate the creation of an ABA department in a California school district, complete with specialized paraeducators.

So, fasten your seatbelts, COABA, for under my leadership, we're not merely breaking molds; we're crafting entirely new ones. Let's embark on this journey of weaving behavioral magic together, where professionalism meets a touch of humor, creating an atmosphere of innovation and progress.

Rebecca Urbano Powell

Meet the Board!

Bryan Tanner

Bryan was born at an early age. He became a behavior analyst almost by chance, as the groups he hung around seemed to really like data and drinking heavily. In all seriousness, my commitment to the Colorado Association for Behavior Analysis comes through shared values. As I sunset my 20-year career I've come to realize the importance of committing to doing the thing that will help people who are uncomfortable in this world live more comfortably in it, to steal a phrase from my friend Susan. I'm honored to continue as a director and continue to provide your voice (perhaps the lighter side of it, at least) to our mission. Despite having important commitments already, I am sure, I encourage you all to get involved somehow. I have felt a lightness, joy, and pride in the accomplishments of this group of dedicated scientists and want you to experience that also. Hope to see you at the next meeting!

Alex Tomei

Hi, I'm Alex, one of your COABA board members! While I am a BCBA and love my professional role, I'm going to introduce myself outside of my professional roles. I'm a mom of 3 strong-willed little women, and a proud military spouse. I am a peanut allergy expert, having mastered the art of the epi-pen with three real-life experiences! I have broken bones not once, not twice, but three times – all in my feet! Now, let's talk fur babies. Enter the scene-stealer – a mini sheepadoodle weighing in at 25 pounds of pure, unbridled excitement and love. We love our derpy Oreo-girl! My favorite guilty pleasure: reality TV. I'm currently hooked on the rollercoaster that is "Married at First Sight" in Denver. I'm a not-so-secret Canadian? If you catch me talking at lightning speed, you might just hear a hint of that Canadian accent slipping through. In all seriousness, I'm so excited to get to work with CO providers and stakeholders to make CO the place to be for ABA services!

Bethany Coop

Celebrating a quarter-century of marital bliss, Bethany Coop is a devoted wife and mother of two. Along with her pets, Bethany finds joy in activities such as paddleboarding and camping. As the owner of Over the Rainbow Behavioral Consulting since 2009, Bethany has cultivated excellence, earning accreditation as a BHCOE Training Site. She is also a founding member of the Public Policy Posse, whose mission is to bring fun to advocacy education. Bethany has published a white paper with this group and graced national conferences with her insights. Her commitment extends to roles on the COABA Public Policy Committee and various HCPF Advisory Committees. Bethany has received numerous honors, including recognition from her local CCB for community service. Bethany's core passion is ensuring individuals with profound developmental delays access the services they need to develop independence and self-advocacy skills. One of her initial advocacy efforts included petitioning for the ADA of 1990. She continues her work, contributing to various initiatives for legislative and Medicaid reform.

JJ Tomash

Dr. J.J. Tomash received his PhD from Swansea University, in the UK. He researched novel interpretations of B.F. Skinner's work and applicability to the traditionally mentalistic field of polygraph testing. He has studied behavioral science for 25 years, devoting the last decade specifically to Applied Behavior Analysis as a BCBA-D. His focus is on severe behavior, early intervention, verbal behavior, and social behavior. In 2015, along with his wife Nicole, he founded BehaviorSpan, one of the first center-based Early Intervention programs in Denver. It has grown to over 50 employees across three centers. He spends his free time on other projects to advance ABA in Colorado and in general. He chaired the DHS Mill Levy Advisory Council from 2018-2021, and recommended millions of dollars in plans that benefit the IDD population in Denver. More recently he founded an ABA technology company (Acquire Learning), and a Colorado nonprofit (CASC)- which fights to improve access to high quality ABA treatment in Colorado.

Emily Ice

Dr. Emily Ice, a seasoned professional with two decades in behavior analysis, co-founded and directs the triumphs of Step-In Autism Services for 13 years. As Executive Director, she excels in specialized applied behavior analysis (ABA) for sleep treatment, seamlessly blending science with practical application. Beyond her clinical expertise, Dr. Ice is an advocate of public policy in Colorado through COABA and Alaska for over five years. She currently chairs your COABA Public Policy Committee, leading transformative changes.
This isn't just a biography; it's an invitation for COABA members to connect with Dr. Ice's introverted charm at face-to-face conferences. Seek her out, share a laugh, and become part of the harmonious melody she orchestrates. Your support and contributions compose the notes for a brighter future in behavior analysis. COABA members, don't miss the chance to connect with Dr. Emily Ice and contribute to the transformative journey ahead.

Interested in contributing to future newsletters?