



► CONFERENCE INFORMATION..	1-2
► CALL FOR BOARD NOMINATIONS	2
► REGISTRATION FORM.....	3
► BEHAVEN DAY ARTICLE.....	4

HLABA

Heartland Association for Behavior Analysis

VOLUME 5 / ISSUE 1 / YEAR 2011

HLABA Conference Rapidly Approaching

Tiffany Kodak
Munroe-Meyer Institute, UNMC

Our conference is quickly approaching, and we are excited about our presenters this year. Mark Sundberg, one of the leading experts on applications of Skinner's theory of verbal behavior to teaching verbal behavior to individuals with developmental disabilities, is conducting a full-day workshop on March 3rd, 2011. Dr. Sundberg is the founder and previous editor of *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior*. He co-authored *Teaching Language to Children with Autism or Other Developmental Disabilities* and *The Assessment of Basic Language and Learning Skills: The ABLLS*. Both texts are frequently used as curriculum guides with individuals with developmental disabilities. Dr. Sundberg's workshop title is "Designing and implementing a behavioral language intervention program based on the VB-MAPP". We are in the process of obtaining approval

to allow attendees to obtain both BCBA CEs as well as APA CEs for individuals who also require licensure CE units. In addition, Dr. Sundberg will present a 1-hour keynote address titled "Future directions in Skinner's analysis of verbal behavior: Ten thematic lines of research".

Our second invited conference presenter is Dr. Cynthia Ellis, a developmental behavioral pediatrician and Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Dr. Ellis has extensive experience working with individuals with developmental disabilities who engage in severe problem behavior. The title of Dr. Ellis's presentation is "Psychopharmacological Interventions in Children with Developmental Disabilities".

Dr. Mark Shriver is our third invited conference presenter. Dr. Shriver is the Director of the Academic Evaluation and Intervention clinic at the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Munroe-Meyer Institute. Dr. Shriver is an expert in the assessment and treatment of school-related problems and child noncompliance. The title of his presentation is "

The fourth invited conference presenter is Dr. Pamela Neidert. Dr. Neidert is an Assistant Professor at the University of Kansas. Her research focuses on strategies to facilitate development of critical skills in very young children and evaluate the effects of proactive approaches to prevent the emergence of problem behavior. The title of Dr. Neidert's presentation is

Continued on p.2



**Get up to 11 BCBA CEU's FREE
(included for free in your conference
registration)**

Please visit our website (www.hlab.org).

HLABA Conference Rapidly Approaching

continued from p. 1

"Assessing Stimulus Control:
Behavioral Maintenance Under
Conditions of Extinction".

Conference attendees will have the opportunity to vote for open positions on the HLABA Executive Board. In order to ensure that the people you would like to see on the board are on the ballot, please submit nominations for the board to info@hlaba.org or vvolkert@unmc.edu.

The conference registration form is on page 3 of this newsletter. Submit completed registration forms to info@hlaba.org by the early registration date to receive a discount on your registration for the workshop and/or conference.

Call for Nominations for HLABA Executive Board



We are seeking nominations for several positions on the HLABA Executive Board. The following positions require nominations:

President

Vice President

Secretary-Treasurer

Representative-at-Large

Student Representative

Please submit nominations to our website at info@hlaba.org or vvolkert@unmc.edu by February 1, 2011

Steve Taylor Award Call for Nominations



Nominees should be individuals who have been crucial to the development and ongoing success of ABA in the Heartland area. The recipient will be honored at this year's HLABA conference. Please send nominations to vvolkert@unmc.edu by January 15, 2011

2011 HLABA Registration and Membership Form

Phone: 402-559-8863

Fax: 402-559-5004

Conference dates are March 3-4, 2011.

Conference Registration includes membership in HLABA through March 2012 and any BCBA and APA CE fees.

Personal Information (Please Print):

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Fax Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

BCBA or BCABA Number: _____

Position Title (Please check the box that most closely describes your job title):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 01 Administrator | <input type="checkbox"/> 07 School Teacher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 02 Consultant/Trainer | <input type="checkbox"/> 08 Student |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 03 Psychologist | <input type="checkbox"/> 09 Professor/Academic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 04 Therapist | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Researcher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 05 Behavior Analyst | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 Speech/Language |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 06 Parent | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Guardian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13 Other: _____ | |

Membership Categories and Fees:

- ☐ 01 Full Member
☐ 02 Affiliate Member
☐ 03 Student Member

Requirements for Membership Categories:

Full Member- must hold at least a masters degree in experimental or applied behavior analysis (ABA), be a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, have made contributions to the field of applied behavior analysis (e.g., professional publications), or hold a full time professional position that includes teaching, research and/or practice in ABA.

Affiliate Member- Anyone who has an interest in Applied Behavior Analysis but does not meet the requirements of a Full Member.

Student Member- Anyone who has an interest in Applied Behavior Analysis and is a student on at least a half-time basis. Student applications must be accompanied by an endorsement from a Full Member certifying the applicant's student status or by other documentation certifying such.



Degree Information:

Most Recent Degree: _____

Year Received: _____

Conferring Institution: _____

Verification of Student Status:

I, _____

certify that _____

is a full-time student at _____

Faculty/Full Member/Affiliate Member Sign & Date

Conference Registration Information:

Pre-conference Workshops (Mar. 3):

Dr. Sundberg. Topic TBA \$150*

Conference Registration/Membership (Mar. 4):

(includes lunch and snacks at the conference and CEs):

Full Members	\$80
Affiliate Members	\$50
Student Members	\$30

*Workshop and conference registrations received on or before January 1, 2011 may deduct \$10.00 from the registration fees listed above and \$25 from the pre-conference workshop.

Payment:

_____ Pre-conference Workshop: Mark Sundberg

_____ Conference Registration/Membership Fee

_____ Donation

_____ Total

Please make checks payable to HLABA

Mail completed form and payment to:

HLABA
P.O. Box 31631
Omaha, NE 68131-0631

Increasing Treatment Opportunities for Young Children with Behavior Problems

Jane L. Peterson
Behaven Kids

I recently was talking with a parent of a young child with special needs who was lamenting about the school's inability to implement her child's treatment plan. She was frustrated – as was the child's teacher – with the lack of effective resources for children with behavior disorders. I assured her that she wasn't alone. Recent studies indicate that nationally, the preschool expulsion rate is more than three times the rate found among K-12 students (Gilliam, 2005) with some individual states reporting preschool expulsion rates that are more than 13 times K-12 rates (Gilliam & Shahar, 2006). What she needed isn't available at most schools – an abundance of well-trained staff who can work effectively with young children with behavior disorders.

You might have similar feelings if you have written your share of treatment plans that don't get implemented fully or if you know of a parent who is at wit's end dealing with a behaviorally challenging child. If you have your BCBA licensure or a background in the behavioral sciences and are looking for a novel way to use your talents to help children and families, a Behaven Kids franchise may be for you.

This past November, Behaven Kids celebrated its 10-year anniversary of providing effective early childhood mental health services for children in Omaha and Lincoln communities. Over the past 10 years, Behaven Kids has developed programs and services, like our day treatment center, that have helped thousands of children and parents make the changes necessary to be successful at home and in school. Behaven Kids currently operates three programs – two in Omaha and one in Lincoln.

Each focuses on building positive behaviors in children who have mild to chronic behavior problems. In an effort to meet expanding needs, Behaven Kids has started offering franchise opportunities to help as many children and families as possible throughout the country.

Despite an expanding research base, parents of young children with severe emotional and behavior problems have few clinical services from which to choose once their child is expelled from preschool for aggressive and disruptive behavior (Powell, Fixsen, & Dunlap, 2003). It is estimated that only one-third to one-half of children identified with emotional and behavior disorders receive services (Kazdin, 1990; U. S. Public Health Service, 2000). Lack of services can result in a loss of parent employment and increased financial stress, social and emotional isolation for parents and children, and an increased risk for child physical abuse and neglect (Taylor-Richardson, Heflinger, & Brown, 2006).

The Behaven Kids Program

Behaven Kids provides treatment to children who have been removed from or deemed inappropriate for other home day cares, child care centers, day treatment programs, pre-schools, and schools due to chronic or serious behavior and/or mental health problems. The average length of treatment at the day treatment center is slightly less than 57 days.

Children are referred from child care programs, psychologists, friends of prior participants, the state department of health and human services, physicians, schools, and the phone book or internet.

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On average, two-thirds of referred children are Caucasian, one in five are African American, and one in ten are Latino. Three-fourths of participants have a mental health diagnosis with Oppositional Defiant Disorder, Disruptive Behavior Disorder – NOS, and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder being the most prevalent diagnoses. Approximately, one-third of referred children have pre-natal exposure to alcohol, drugs, or tobacco; one-third have a history of exposure to one or more types of maltreatment; and three-fourths of parents report a family history of substance abuse. Prior to day treatment referral, more than half of the children have participated in treatment with a psychiatrist or therapist, while one in ten have had multiple home placements and have been prescribed psychotropic medication.

The Behaven Kids Program includes family therapy and a day treatment center with emphasis on three key program components: (a) behaviorally focused interventions, (b) staff training and data driven implementation of the intervention, and (c) direct training of parents in the intervention with the opportunity to practice learned skills in the child care setting. Proximal and distal program goals are to eliminate presenting problem behaviors and increase social competencies, and to reintegrate children back to their school, preschool, or child care center.

We provide individualized, structured, skill-based interventions for children and their families. Staff members work to ensure that families remain involved in treatment and collaborate with mental health professionals who were involved with the child at admission.

Behaven Kids programs focus on building social competencies through the use of evidence-based practices such as verbal reinforcement (Maag, 2001), modeling (Bandura & McDonald, 1963), problem solving and social skill instruction (Gresham, Sugai, Horner, 2001), and a contingency based point system (Axelrod, 1971; Christophersen, Arnold, Hill, & Quilitch 1972; Wolf, Giles, & Hall, 1968).

Recently published and completed studies indicate that

- Parents of children who complete the program report, on average, significant improvements in child behavior problems from pre- to post-treatment (Burke, Kuhn, Peterson, Peterson, & Badura Brock, 2010)
- Parent-reported Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL; Achenbach & Rescorla, 2000) scores from two-thirds of children who complete the program indicate clinically significant improvements in behavior problems after program graduation (Burke, Kuhn, Peterson, Peterson, & Badura Brock, 2010)
- Parents of children with a diagnosis of bipolar disorder who complete the program have significantly fewer behavior problems at program graduation (McTate, Unpublished Master's Thesis, 2010)
- Parents of young children (2- and 3-year-olds) report clinically significant behavior problems at admission – similar in severity to behavior problems of older children (4- to 5-year-olds; unpublished results, 2010)
- Children without significant behavior problems who attended the program also improved from pre- to post-treatment, a finding that is contrary to studies reporting a “contamination” effect when typically developing children are placed with children with more severe behavior problems (unpublished results, 2010).

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In summary, Behaven Kids is a novel day treatment program that serves at-risk children and families by infusing behaviorally focused interventions, staff training and a data-driven approach to implementing those interventions, and parent training and family therapy in the use of interventions so that the child can be reintegrated back into the home, school, or community child care center. Preliminary outcome data confirm that the treatment center has been successful and highly sought after by parents and referring professionals in the community. However, in most communities, there is limited access to and availability of these services (Powell et al., 2003).

In order to best introduce Behaven Kids to other communities, our franchise model includes extensive training and support for the day treatment program and related services. One of the most critical factors in the successful replication of the Behaven Kids program is the involvement of individuals with a major emphasis in behavioral psychology, and where possible, involvement of an individual with Board Certified Behavior Analyst's (BCBA) credentials. The advantage of involvement with a Behaven Kids franchise is that BCBAs can go into business for themselves – but not by themselves. Whereas BCBAs and others trained in behavioral principles typically have a solid foundation in the practical application of theories that support the Behaven Kids model, they often lack the business acumen needed to operate a successful business. As such, the Behaven Kids franchise offers training and support in business practices that have resulted in the success of Behaven Kids as a business model for the past 10 years.

If you share our passion for helping children and families, and possess a strong entrepreneurial spirit, you might consider owning your own Behaven Kids franchise. For more information or if you are interested in a Clinical Director position at a new franchise, please stop by the Behaven Kids booth at the HLABA conference or contact Jane Peterson at 402.926.4373.

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