Applied Behavior Analysis Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes

September 7, 2018
10:00AM

GoToMeeting

Committee members present via phone:
Nancy Rosenberg, PhD, LBA, BCBA-D, Chair
Romilla (Mimi) Dasgupta, M.Ed, LBA, BCBA, Vice-Chair
Ralph Pampino, LBA, BCBA
Launi Whedon, BS, Public Member

Staff members present:
Brett Lorentson, Program Manager
Jeff Wise, Policy Analyst
Jeff Orwig, Budget Specialist
James Chaney, Executive Director
Ted Dale, Program Manager

Assistant Attorney General:
Luke Eaton, AAG

The Applied Behavior Analysis Advisory Committee met (GoToMeeting) on September 7, 2018. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the meeting agenda was sent to members of the Applied Behavior Analysis Advisory Committee, GovDelivery, and posted to the program’s website.
1. **Call to Order Chair**  
   **1.1 Introductions**  
   Committee members, staff members, and public members introduced themselves and their area of practice.

   **1.2 Approval of September 7, 2018 Agenda**  
   The meeting agenda was approved and accepted as written.

   **1.3 Approval of June 8, 2018 Meeting Minutes**  
   The June 8, 2018 meeting minutes were approved and accepted as written.

2. **Credentialing Report**  
   Credentialing staff present license statistics. Ms. Miller provided a statistical report.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>Active Status Counts</th>
<th>Pending Status Counts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certified Behavior Technician (CBT)</td>
<td>1,748</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Behavior Analyst (LBA)</td>
<td>582</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Assistants Behavior Analyst</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand total for licensed ABA</td>
<td>2,387</td>
<td>278</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

   Ms. Miller also provided information on the timeframe for processing applications. DOH has a standard of 14 days to process applications, but is currently running a 28-39 day range. The ABA applications are coming in cleaner than they were early on, however she noted things specific to ABA that could speed up the process: ensure the supervisor forms come separately from the supervisor, however don’t wait until you see it pending online. RBT applicants not appearing online yet, causing a delay. Also seeing CBT forms that were not completed in the required 180 days. Additional questions on staff levels, Ms. Miller noted she has 5 staff and one dedicated to just ABA. Other agency staff do the initial input, background checks, etc.

3. **Program Updates**

   **3.1 Financial Update**  
   Mr. Orwig provided a line-item list current through July 2018. He provided a general overview of the budget process and went through the line item list.

   **3.2 ABA Complaints**  
   Mr. Lorentson gave a high-level overview of the complaints against ABA professionals. There has been a total of 21 complaints, however we don’t know if all will be investigated. The bi-annual Uniform Disciplinary Act (UDA) report will have more in-depth information on the complaints and investigations for the program.
4. **General Discussion**  
Ms. Rosenberg attended the WABA Conference and noted a speech from the national president James Carr who spoke about growth in the profession. There are currently 29,000 licensed Behavioral Analysts in the US, an increase of 1/3 since 2016 and an increase of 2/3 since 2011. Most of these individuals are new to the profession.

5. **Rules and Policy Discussion**  
DOH released an interpretive statement in Oct/Nov that it is in a Psychologists scope of practice to provide ABA services and to supervise staff. There is still an issue about a psychologist being eligible to provide the initial 40-hour training for BCBA staff. The current rules state that it must be done by a licensed LBA, not another profession who has this in their scope.

Question was raised if a psychologist could apply for the national certification. Answer is no, they would still need to take the courses and pass the tests. Noted there are two types of supervision being discussed – Clinical supervision of ABA by psychologists, which is in their scope of practice; and training supervision for the ABA which they do not meet the national standards for. When establishing the profession in Washington State the committee initially felt there should be a higher standard to teach/train than to just supervise. Still feel that way now. Experience is also important, you can’t take a course then turn around and teach it.

A caller noted she is a psychologist and has been doing this work for a long time, before there was a license in WA. Psychologists shouldn’t have to get additional training to do the work they already know how to do. It requires a significant amount of time and money, plus the additional costs to their practice to close during the times they are training.

This issue was raised during the formation of the ABA licenses, being forced to get an additional license to do the work they were already doing. In this instance it isn’t about still doing the work, which is allowed, it is about supervising the initial training/national certification standards.

The Committee has reviewed this before and feels comfortable keeping the standards where they are. They do not want to deviate from the national requirements. The requirement in law is that they are an LBA or a BCBA that meets the supervisor requirements of a BACB. Would a psychologist with a BCBA meet the requirements? Committee felt that they would, as it is a higher level requirement and would meet the standards.

Credentialing noted they have received applications from people not licensed in WA who think they qualify to provide the training based on their own interpretation of the rule. No license gives us less authority over the individual and no recourse if something happens. Just unlicensed practice violations.

We need to compare the national standards vs. Washington law and see what we want the profession to look like. Interpretive statements generally leads to a rule revision down the line.

6. **Public Comment**  
First question was on the scope of practice. The AAG stated that this was not an appropriate venue to address this and they should communicate with the program manager for an answer.

A second question was more of a statement that they should make changes to the application to make it clearer how to apply for people with a BCAT instead of an RBC.
8. **Future Business**  
Mr. Chaney shared that he has been asked to be involved in a school counselor training program. This is for all counselor programs and includes ABA. School staff have not been required to get a DOH license – they just have to meet school training requirements. They are looking to change this and require the DOH license. Behavior Analysts are currently classified as an ESA to allow schools to hire them.

9. **Adjournment**  

12:10 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Brett Lorentson, Program Manager  
Applied Behavior Analysis  
Advisory Committee  

Approved by:  
Nancy Rosenberg, PhD, LBA, BCBA-D - Chair  
Applied Behavior Analysis  
Advisory Committee