

THE MISSISSIPPI BEHAVIOR ANALYST

Volume 4/ Issue 2



2018 BAAMS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

UPCOMING EVENTS

*ABAI 2018 Annual convention
May 24-28 San Diego*

*ABAI 10th International
Conference September 29-30, 2019
Stockholm, Sweden*

**Alabama ABA Conference
October 3-5
Birmingham, AL**

**Louisiana ABA Conference
October 12-13
New Orleans, LA**

**WIBA 2019
February 28-March 2
Nashville, TN**

President: Dannell Roberts

President-Elect: Breanna Newborne

Secretary - Dorothy Scattone

Treasurer - Jannelle Upthegrove

APBA Representative - Kimberly Bellipanni Hargrove

ABAI Representative - Kyle Rowsey

Region 1 Representative - Bailey King

Region 2 Representative - Brittany Bell

Region 3 Representative - Katie Boozer

Region 4 Representative - Kelly Walker

Past President - Neelima Duncan

ABA DAY AT THE CAPITOL EVENT

The Mississippi Autism Board and the Behavior Analyst Association of Mississippi hosted a successful day at the Capitol on January 16, 2018 as three insurance companies, BCBS, Magnolia, and United will increase their age cap from 8 to 21 years!

The Day at the Capitol event is a way for BAAMS and other stakeholders to promote ABA and allows for ABA providers to network with statewide legislators and other elected officials. It gives us a great opportunity to share information about the current state of behavior analytic services in Mississippi as well as engage in discussions with our legislators to help our profession grow. Planning for next year's Day at the Capitol is underway.

Mississippi State Capitol (Jackson, MS)
400 High Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201

HIGHLIGHTS FROM BAAMS CONFERENCE MARCH 1-2, 2018

BAAMS 2nd annual conference was held at the Hollywood Casino in Bay St. Louis, MS.

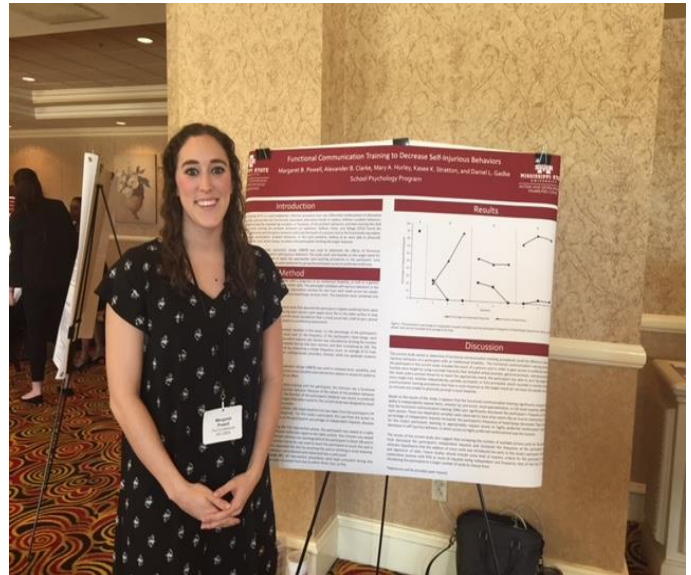


Dr. Elizabeth Selinger OBM Workshop



Keynote Speaker: Dr. Mark Sundberg & VB-MAPP Workshop

POSTER SESSION





BEHAVIOR ANALYST SPOTLIGHT



Derrence Allen is the Clinical Director of Behavioral Services for Mississippi Behavior Services. His educational background includes a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a Master of Science with an emphasis in behavior analysis from the University of Memphis. He is a sustaining member of the Tennessee Association of Behavior Analysis. He is also a Board Certified Behavior Analyst with 8 years of experience providing services across North Mississippi and Tennessee.

MEET THE PRESIDENTS!

FIRST BAAMS PRESIDENT: DANIEL GADKE, PH.D., LP, BCBA-D, NCSP



Dan earned his Ph.D. in School Psychology from Illinois State University and completed his pre-doctoral and post-doctoral work at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and the Kennedy Krieger Institute. Currently, Dan is an assistant professor of School Psychology at Mississippi State University where he started and runs the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Clinic, helps run the Autism Liaison Program, and serves on the executive board for the ACCESS program. Specializing in behavior difficulties and skill acquisition, Dan is a Licensed Psychologist, Board Certified Behavior Analyst, and a Nationally Certified School Psychologist. When he is not working, he enjoys spending time traveling with his wife, Kasee, and his daughter, Aviana (Avi).

SECOND PRESIDENT: NEELIMA DUNCAN, PH.D., BCBA-D



Dr. Duncan was first introduced to the field of Applied Behavior Analysis and Autism Spectrum Disorder in 2003 while completing her undergraduate degree in Psychology at Millsaps College. Dr. Duncan was compelled to continue in the field following that experience. Therefore, she completed her doctorate in School Psychology at the University of Southern Mississippi. Her pre-doctoral internship was at the May Institute in Randolph, MA where she completed rotations in the Neurobehavioral and Autism units



THIRD & CURRENT PRESIDENT: DANNEL ROBERTS, PH.D., BCBA-D

Dr. Dannel Speights Roberts is the Program Director and co-founder of Will's Way, LLC in Hattiesburg, MS. She is a licensed psychologist and a licensed Behavior Analyst in the state of Mississippi. She specializes in providing behavioral assessments and therapies to individuals, families and local school districts. Dr. Roberts' primary clinical interests include the assessment and behavioral treatment of children and adolescents diagnosed with developmental disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorders, and other mental health problems. Dr. Roberts also contracts as a licensed psychologist at the Children's Center for Communication and Development at The University of Southern Mississippi. Dr. Roberts received her doctorate training from the University of Southern Mississippi's School Psychology Program in 2005. She completed an internship at the May Institute in Randolph, Massachusetts specializing in children and adolescents with pervasive developmental disorders and traumatic brain injuries. Dr. Roberts is a member of the American Psychological Association (APA), the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI), and the Association of Professional Behavior Analysts. She is also a member of the Hattiesburg Chapter of Junior Auxiliary. Dr. Roberts and her family are active members of Parkway Heights United Methodist Church where she teaches Sunday School for 3rd and 4th grade girls.

FOURTH AND PRESIDENT ELECT: BREANNA NEWBORNE, M.A., BCBA-D



BreAnna Newborne is a Natchez, Mississippi native whom is a Board Certified and Licensed Behavior Analyst. She is currently a Senior Behavior Interventionist II for Canopy Children's Solution's Early Intervention Autism Clinic. Breanna is a graduate from the University of Southern Mississippi's Applied Behavior Analysis Master's Program. Her practicum included a variety of experiences working with kids with Autism and Emotional Disturbance in schools and clinic settings. Breanna's research while in school focused on the feasibility of Trial-Based Functional Analysis and Interview-Informed Synthesized Contingency Analysis in special education classrooms. Breanna started her journey in the field of Applied Behavior Analysis in 2013 working for a private agency providing ABA services in homes and residential facilities. She also worked as a Registered Behavior Technician for Will's Way Behavioral Clinic before starting graduate school. Alongside BAAMS, Breanna

is also a member of the Association for Behavior Analysis International, Association of Professional Behavior Analysts, and Alabama Association for Behavior Analysis. She takes great joy in providing service to children and families in Mississippi.

LOCAL BUSINESSES

Blue Sky Therapy, LLC opened its door on October 2, 2017 in Ridgeland, MS. Blue Sky provides outpatient therapy for children and adolescents in the Jackson metro area. Our mission is to promote the development of social skills and functional communication for individuals who have a diagnosis of Autism and other related disorders. All services are designed and implemented by licensed specialists to meet the individual needs of the client and the family. Parent training also plays a critical part of ABA therapy and parents are encouraged to participate to help their child generalize skills taught in the clinic setting to home and community settings.

In addition to Clinic Based Services, Blue Sky Behavior Therapy is also provides consultative services to school districts near the Jackson area. Our staff works with school staff to coordinate and enhance educational and behavioral services for children and adolescents with Autism, developmental disabilities and other behavior disorders. We carefully tailor our services to the needs and concerns of each individual, classroom, and school/district to assess educate and treat.

Dr. Neelima Duncan, founder of Blue Sky, is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst - Doctoral (BCBA-D) and a Licensed School Psychologist through the MS Department of Education. She has experience in behavior assessment, intervention and consultation, staff/in service training, and conducting educational eligibility assessments.

The Spectrum Academy is part of New Summit School and serves children with Autism ages 4 to 9. The Spectrum Academy has 3 classrooms, each with 1 teacher, 2 RBTs, and 2 overseeing BCBA's. Brittany Bell is the Director of the Spectrum Academy and Lakeisha Winston is the overseeing BCBA.

Each child has an individualized treatment program that is tailored to meet their personal academic, language, social, and self-help needs based on their ABLLS and VB MAPP assessments. As students progress from Level 1 to Level 3, they grow in school readiness with the possibility of transitioning into New Summit School classrooms with the support of RBTs and BCBA's. During the day students have access to Beyond Therapy occupational therapists and speech pathologists.

Spectrum Academy is currently conducting observations for prospective students for the 2018-2019 school year. Students are accepted based on openings and criteria set for each classroom. Spectrum Academy accepts private tuition as well as ESA grant money.

As research is an important part of every ABA program, it is ongoing and critical to the success of Spectrum Academy students. ABA programs and procedures are based on the research of staff and USM interns. Spectrum Academy has had the honor of working with USM interns to conduct various research throughout the year.

We are excited to announce that this upcoming school year we are adding another classroom to Spectrum Academy as well as a transition classroom to New Summit School, which will provide the support of RBTs and BCBA's. The goal of this classroom is to help students transition from Spectrum Academy into the general classroom environment. It is amazing to see students progress from individual instruction to classroom and group instruction. Spectrum Academy accepts private pay tuition, ESA grant money, and welcome donations. We are currently accepting applications for RBT's! Contact Brittany Bell for more information!

Behavior Train's Husband and wife team, DeAnna Morrow, BCBA, LBA and Dan Morrow, MBA attended the BAAMS conference! They are owners, operators, and conductors of Behavior Train "an Engine of Change" in West Monroe, Louisiana providing ABA services to Ouachita Parrish and the surrounding areas.

Deanna@behaviortrain.com

The Growing Tree in Flowood provides ABA services to children ages 2 years to 10 years. The owner of Growing Tree is Brittany Bell and Karlie Robinson is the overseeing BCBA. RBT's please apply!

Will's Way opened in August 2008 in downtown Hattiesburg, MS. Our mission is to provide behavioral solutions for at-risk children and their families throughout the state of Mississippi. Currently we have three clinic locations including our main facility in Hattiesburg, MS and satellite clinics in Gulfport, MS and Summit, MS. Will's Way has two licensed psychologists, one licensed school psychologist, three licensed behavior analysts, one licensed assistant behavior analyst, and ten RBTs on staff.

We provide a range of psychological services including comprehensive evaluations, individual and family therapy, school consultation, special education eligibility rulings, ABA therapy, and professional development and trainings for school districts. We serve a variety of populations and problem areas including Autism Spectrum Disorder, ADHD, self-injurious behaviors, aggression, toilet training, feeding disorders, typically developing individuals, young adults with developmental disabilities, and adult ADHD assessments.

Will's Way was co-founded by Kimberly Bellipanni Hargrove, Ph.D., BCBA-D and Dannell Speights Roberts, Ph.D., BCBA-D in hopes of providing quality, behaviorally based interventions and therapy for families in South Mississippi. Visit us at www.willswaybehavioral.com or call 601-255-5264 for more information.

STUDENT RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS FROM MISSISSIPPI STATE:

Exploring the Function of Scripting in Autism Using Traditional Functional Analysis Procedures

Emily Mathis & Daniel L. Gadke

Individuals with Autism often engage in restrictive, repetitive patterns of behavior, such as delayed echolalia, also known as scripting or stereotypic vocalizations. While the literature contains little explanation of the function of this unique behavior, it is even more limited in the use of functional analyses to examine environmental factors maintaining scripting. This study sought to further explore this phenomenon by using a multi-element design to determine the function(s) of scripting through a functional analysis (FA). The participant in this study was a 16-year-old female with Autism Spectrum Disorder who primarily communicated through scripting behaviors. The scripting behaviors were operationally defined per Prizant and Rydell's (1984) definition, which included fourteen typographies of delayed echolalia and two typographies of immediate echolalia. Each were analyzed through traditional FA conditions. Overall, there was clear differentiation among functions of various scripts, which may provide insight to treatment implications for increasing functional communication in individuals who engage in scripts.

Comparing Contingent and Non-contingent Reinforcement Schedules to Increase Mands in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Alexander B. Clarke, Amanda M. Cosgriff, Daniel L. Gadke, & Margaret B. Powell

Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) often experience delays in expressive communication. Unfortunately, children who have expressive communication deficits have a high probability of engaging in problem behaviors, making it essential to teach these children how to appropriately communicate their wants and needs. The current study aimed to compare the effects of using contingent reinforcement (CR) and non-contingent reinforcement (NCR) to increase appropriate vocal mands. This study included three children between the ages of four and seven all diagnosed with ASD and communication deficits. An alternating treatments design was used to compare the effects of CR, NCR, and control conditions on the number of independent vocal mands each child engaged in. Based on the results of the study, there was no significant difference between CR and NCR, however there was an overall increase in number of independent mands each child engaged in over time.

Improving Conversation Skills in an Individual with Autism Spectrum Disorder Using Video-Self Modeling and Social Stories

Jordan Parker, Daniel L. Gadke, & Melanie Eisenbroek

Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder have difficulty with conversation skills, which often persists into adolescents. This can make developing and maintaining peer relationships difficult. Video modeling and social stories are two strategies that have been used to help improve social skills (e.g., Scattone, 2006); however, video self-modeling has yet to be explored for these same purposes. The current study hopes to replicate and extend Scattone (2006) by using video self-modeling and social stories to improve social skills in a 14-year-old male with Autism. A single subject multiple baseline design was used across three target conversational skills. The participant read a social story, watched a standardized taped video of himself appropriately engaging in the target skill, and was then observed during a 5-minute test trial. Visual analysis indicated an increase in all three target behaviors following implementation of the intervention. Additionally, there were large effects across all three behaviors, further suggesting the intervention was effective. Overall, the finding support those of Scattone (2006) and provide evidence to support the use of video self-modeling as a tool to improve social skills.

BOOK REVIEW

The Rubi Autism Network's: Parent Training for Disruptive Behavior Bearss, Johnson, Handen, Butter, & Lecavalier (2015)

The RUBI Autism Network's Parent Training Program provides a structured Parent Training Program for preschoolers through school age children with ASD for reducing disruptive behavior. The manual has 10 Core Sessions and several Supplemental Sessions that include Behavioral Principles, Prevention Strategies, Daily Schedules, Reinforcement, Planned Ignoring, Compliance Training, Functional Communication Training, and Teaching Skills that may be incorporated over time into an individualized Behavior Support Plan. Four Supplemental sessions are also included for Token Economy Systems, Feeding Problems, Imitation Skills, and Toileting. A Therapist Manual provided structured sessions that may be used as a guide for the therapist. The Parent Workbook provides protocols and activity sheets along with a video demonstrating skills in each of the core sessions. Treatment fidelity checklists are also provided and information regarding research that was used with the Manual.

JOB POSTINGS

Will's Way, LLC
PEDIATRIC BEHAVIORAL
PSYCHOLOGY

WE NEED YOU!

Now hiring Behavior Analysts
or Assistant Behavior Analysts
for our Hattiesburg Clinic.
Apply Today!

Competitive Salaries

Visit our website for more info:
WWW.WILLSWAYBEHAVIORAL.COM
601-255-5264

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello fellow BAAMS members,

What a great start to 2018! Capitol Day in January was a huge success and such an amazing day ABA and families affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders. Three insurance companies (BCBS, Magnolia, and United Healthcare) voluntarily lifted the age cap on providing services to children beyond age 8. Although this was a great step for families and individuals on the Autism Spectrum, there are many more policy areas that we need to continue to work toward. I would like to see Medicaid rates approach commercial rates so coverage is offered by more providers.

Our 2nd annual BAAMS conference was held in Bay St. Louis on March 1-2, 2018 at the Hollywood Casino. We had 134 registered attendees this year as compared to 89 registered attendees last year! That is a 33% increase. I feel strongly that this number will continue to grow as our field expands in the state. On Thursday, we had two 4-hour workshops featuring Dr. Mark Sundberg presenting on “A Behavioral Approach to Language Assessment for Children with Autism” and Dr. Elizabeth Sellinger presenting on “Learning in the Workplace: Using performance diagnostics to improve staff performance.” Dr. Mark Sundberg was also our Keynote Speaker on Friday presenting on “Teaching Conversational Skills to Children with Autism.” The conference hosted 11 posters and 4 invited presentations from Dr. Valerie Volkert, Mrs. Julie Riley, Dr. Amanda Kelly, and Dr. Shelia Williamson.

We are currently in the process of planning the 2019 BAAMS conference so be on the look out for Save the Dates, Call for Proposals, and Sponsorship information. The conference planning committee includes: Kyle Rowsey, ABAI Representative, Kimberly Bellipanni, APBA Representative, Dannell Roberts, President, and Breanna Newborne, President-Elect along with all members of the Executive Committee. Please contact the committee members if you would like to assist in next year’s conference or if you have any suggestions.

Finally, I am trying to coordinate additional workshops and trainings throughout the year to help promote continuing education here “at home.” If you have any specific training topics you would like to see offered, please email me at info@baams.org.

Sincerely,
Dannell Roberts, Ph.D., BCBA-D
President – BAAMS

ADVERTISE OR SHARE WITH US

If you would like to advertise your business, post job listings, write an article, share a recent publication, share research endeavors or have something you’d like to share in the next Newsletter, contact Dorothy Scattone at info@baams.org