



BALC
Presenter
Bios 2017

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Name	Biography
<p>Janelle Allison, Ph.D., BCBA-D <i>Behavior Development Solutions (BDS)</i></p>	<p>Dr. Janelle Allison received her M.S. in applied behavior analysis from Florida Institute of Technology in 2010. She received her Ph.D in behavior analysis at Florida Institute of Technology in 2015. Dr. Allison has more than 15 years of experience in the field of behavior analysis and has worked in the areas of online behavior analytic curriculum development and supervision since 2008. Her professional experience includes autism early intervention program case management, as well as the assessment and treatment of early childhood compliance problems, severe behavior, and pediatric mealtime related problem behavior. Dr. Allison’s professional interests include online curriculum development, instruction, and supervision, relational frame theory and its application to complex human behavior. Dr. Allison’s research interests include the assessment and treatment of pediatric feeding disorders, severe behavior disorders, and child compliance, as well as the use of the Implicit Relational Assessment Procedure to examine complex human behavior.</p>
<p>Emily Callahan, Ph.D., BCBA-D <i>Council of Autism Service Providers (CASP)</i></p>	<p>Dr. Emily Callahan is currently the Executive Director of the Council of Autism Service Providers (CASP). She received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Binghamton and is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA-D) licensed in Virginia. Prior to joining CASP, Dr. Callahan was the Director of Outpatient Behavioral Services at the Virginia Institute of Autism. Emily has presented research related to applied behavior analysis and autism at numerous local, national and international conferences and meetings. She has been published in peer-reviewed journals and books and has been the Co-Principle Investigator on numerous grants focused on improving the lives of those diagnosed with autism. She is a member of the Media Watch Review Committee for the Association for Science in Autism Treatment, is the Conference Co-Chair for the Virginia Association for Behavior Analysis and is the past Co-President for the Developmental Disabilities Special Interest Group of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies.</p>
<p>David Celeberti, Ph.D., BCBA-D <i>ASAT</i></p>	<p>David Celeberti, PhD, BCBA-D, is the Executive Director of the Association for Science in Autism Treatment (ASAT) and Past-President of the Board of Directors, a role he held from 2006 and 2012. He is the Co-Editor of ASAT’s newsletter, <i>Science in Autism Treatment</i>. He received his PhD in clinical psychology from Rutgers University in 1993. Dr. Celeberti has served on a number of advisory boards and special interest groups in the field of autism, applied behavior analysis, and early childhood education, and been an active participant in local fundraising initiatives to support after school programming for economically disadvantaged children. He works in private practice and provides consultation to public and private schools and agencies in underserved areas. He has authored several articles in professional journals and presents frequently at regional, national, and international conferences. In prior positions, Dr. Celeberti taught courses related to applied behavior analysis (ABA) at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, supervised individuals pursuing BCBA certifications, and conducted research in the areas of ABA, family intervention, and autism.</p>



<p>Courtney Cotter, Ph.D., BCBA-D CCSN</p>	<p>Courtney Cotter is a psychologist and Board Certified Behavior Analyst. She currently serves as the Director of Consultation Services at The Center for Children with Special Needs. Courtney received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Western Michigan University. She completed her internship at the Child Development Center of Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Westerville, Ohio. She completed a LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disorders) Fellowship at the Munroe-Meyer Institute in Omaha, Nebraska.</p>
<p>Elizabeth Cranmer, MS, BCBA <i>Connecticut Center for Child Development</i></p>	<p>Liz holds a Master of Science Degree in Behavior Analysis, is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, and has been in the field of autism treatment since 2001, providing services for children with autism in private school, home, and community settings. She is currently a Clinical Director at the Wolf Harbor Campus. During her time at CCCD, she has also served as Clinical Director of Outreach Services, providing in-home consultation, professional trainings, as well as mentorship for candidates pursuing their BCBA certification. In addition to her responsibilities in and around CCCD, Liz has presented lectures and workshops on autism and ABA at local and national conferences.</p>
<p>Rebecca Crowe, M.A., BCBA <i>Connecticut Center for Child Development</i></p>	<p>Rebecca Crowe is Board Certified Behavior Analyst with a Masters of Arts in Special Education. She has been a Special Education Teacher in a transition classroom for 4 years and has had the opportunity to help assist students and families’ transition from a school setting to adult day programs and living facilities. In her role as a transition coordinator, she has also facilitated Future’s planning with families, school districts, and CCCD school personnel to assist in creating a transition plans that specifically target skills areas needed to transition into adult life.</p>
<p>Iser “Willie” DeLeon Ph.D., BCBA-D <i>University of Florida & Behavior Analyst Certification Board</i></p>	<p>Iser DeLeon earned his Ph.D. at the University of Florida, where he is now Professor in the Department of Psychology. Recent prior positions include Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Director of Research Development for the Department of Behavioral Psychology at the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, MD. Dr. DeLeon also currently serves as President of the Board of Directors of the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, Editor for Translational Research for the <i>Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior</i>, and member of several other journal editorial boards including <i>Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis</i>, <i>Behavior and Philosophy</i>, and <i>Behavior Analysis: Research and Practice</i>. His research has focused on assessment and treatment of behavior disorders in persons with neurodevelopmental disorders, identification of preferences and determinants of choice, and translation of basic behavioral processes towards enhancing therapeutic and instructional outcomes</p>
<p>Steve Eversole, Ed.D., BCBA-D <i>Behavior Development Solutions (BDS)</i></p>	<p>Dr. Stephen Eversole received his MA in Applied Behavior Analysis from Western Michigan University in 1983 and his doctorate in Special Education from the University of Kentucky in 1994. He has over 30 years experience in applied settings and in recent years, he has conducted research in instructional design and has created several computer-based training programs for training M.A. and Ph.D. level individuals. These programs serve the foundation of his full-time business of providing exam preparation materials and distance continuing education products. Dr. Eversole’s current primary research interest is in improving the Behavior Development Solutions instructional platform.</p>

**Richard Fleming, Ph.D.**

*University of Massachusetts Boston;
Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center, University
of Massachusetts Medical School*

Dr. Fleming teaches and conducts research on lifestyle change to prevent and treat childhood obesity, and increase physical activity and fitness, with special emphasis on adolescents with intellectual and developmental disabilities. His recent NIH-funded research projects have included an investigation of the effects of family-based behavior analytic intervention to promote weight loss and weight maintenance in adolescents with Down syndrome (DS), a community-based participatory research study to increase moderate-to-vigorous intensity physical activity in adolescents with autism spectrum disorder, and a comprehensive YMCA-based exercise program to increase fitness in adolescents with DS. In addition, he also conducts research and development on distance learning options for oral health professionals seeking to learn more about serving patients with developmental disabilities using behavioral methods. He has served on numerous national advisory boards and research consensus panels in the areas of childhood health and intellectual disabilities and is an associate editor for the *Translational Journal of the American College of Sports Medicine (TJACSM)*. Dr. Fleming and colleagues at the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center at UMass Medical School are nearing completion of a 4-year randomized control trial that comprehensively tests the short and long-term effects of a family-based behavioral weight loss intervention with adolescents and young adults with intellectual disabilities, including some participants with autism spectrum disorder. His talk today will draw from both studies on family-based behavioral intervention.

Solandy Forte, LCSW, BCBA

Center for Children with Special Needs

Solandy Forte is the Assistant Director of Consultative Services at CCSN: Center for Independence. She is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who provides school consultative services to children with complex learning needs. In addition to providing direct consultation to children within the public school setting she also assists with program development initiatives that promote building capacity within schools for educating complex learners within the least restrictive educational setting.

Solandy received her Masters Degree in Social Work and obtained a Certificate for Specialization in Children and Families from Fordham University. She has experience working with children and young adults with special needs in their home, school, and community settings. She is also an adjunct professor for the Institute of Autism and Behavioral Studies at the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford, Connecticut.

Previously she has worked at the Connecticut Center for Child Development as an Associate Behavior Analyst developing academic and behavior programs for children with autism and related neuro developmental disorders. Solandy also has experience providing parent training, staff training, social skills training, and in home behavior analytic services to children living in therapeutic foster homes with a wide range of developmental disabilities, mental illness, autism, and related disorders. She has been an active member of local organizations advocating for the advancement of the behavior analytic profession through her role on the Executive Council for the Connecticut Association for Behavior Analysis and as a member of the National Association of Social Workers and the Behavior Analyst Leadership Council.

**Joanne Gerenser, Ph.D., CCC-SLP***Eden II Programs*

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Organization for Autism Research (OAR)

Joanne Gerenser is the Executive Director of the Eden II Programs. She received her Master's Degree at the Ohio State University and her Ph.D. in Speech and Hearing Science at the City University of New York Graduate Center. Joanne is a past-president of the New York State Association for Behaviour Analysis and a member of the Scientific Advisory Council for the Organization for Autism Research. She is the President of the Board of the Interagency Council for Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities as well as the Council of Autism Services. She is an adjunct Associate Professor at Brooklyn College as well as Penn State University. She has authored several book chapters and articles on speech language disorders in autism and developmental disabilities. Joanne sits on the advisory boards of several schools and programs for individuals with autism throughout the United States and abroad. In addition, she has presented nationally and internationally on autism and related topics.

William Heward, Ed.D. BCBA-D*The Ohio State University*

William L. Heward, Ed.D., BCBA-D, is Professor Emeritus in the College of Education and Human Ecology at The Ohio State University. Bill has been a Senior Fulbright Scholar in Portugal, Visiting Scholar at the National Institute of Education in Singapore, Visiting Professor of Psychology at Keio University in Tokyo and the University of São Paulo. His many publications include the textbooks, *Applied Behavior Analysis* (co-authored with John Cooper and Tim Heron) and *Exceptional Children: An Introduction to Special Education*, which have been translated into several foreign languages. Awards recognizing Dr. Heward's contributions to behavior analysis and education include the Ellen P. Reese Award for Communication of Behavioral Concepts from the Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies, the Fred S. Keller Behavioral Education Award from the American Psychological Association's Division 25, the John W. Jacobson Award for Contributions to Behavior Analysis from the New York State Association for Behavior Analysis, and the Distinguished Psychology Department Alumnus Award from Western Michigan University. A Past President and Fellow of the Association for Behavior Analysis International, Bill's research interests include "low-tech" methods for increasing the effectiveness of group instruction in inclusive classrooms.

**Jane Howard, Ph.D., BCBA-D***Therapeutic Pathways and The Kendall Centers*

Jane Howard, Ph.D., is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst–doctoral level (BCBA-D) and a licensed psychologist (California).

In 1996 Dr. Howard co-founded Therapeutic Pathways and The Kendall Centers and currently serves as their Chief Executive Officer. Located in California, these agencies currently provide behavior analytic treatment to pediatric and adolescent populations, including comprehensive, intensive intervention to more than 400 individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.

Dr. Howard is *Professor Emeritus* (Psychology) at California State University, Stanislaus in Turlock, California, where she taught graduate courses in behavior analysis and child clinical psychology. While at the University she founded The Center for Direct Instruction, an on-campus clinic for children with a range of behavioral and academic needs.

Dr. Howard co-authored the textbook *Human Behavior: Analysis and Application* with Ellen Reese. Her research been published in peer-reviewed journals such as *The Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior*, *Research in Developmental Disabilities*, and *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders*. She is lead author on two widely cited outcome studies comparing different treatments for autism. Dr. Howard has made numerous presentations at international conferences in China, Italy, Sweden, Ireland, South Korea, Japan, Russia, Latvia, Romania, and Poland.

Dr. Howard also served on the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) and is the Past President of its Board of Directors.

David Kuhn, Ph.D., BCBA-D*Intensive Behavior Treatment Services*

Dr. Kuhn received his B.A. from Johns Hopkins University and Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Louisiana State University with a specialization in intellectual and developmental disabilities. Subsequently, Dr. Kuhn was a Senior Behavior Analyst at Kennedy Krieger Institute and Assistant Professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in the department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences; co-director of the Behavioral Psychology Program at the Westchester Institute for Human Development and Assistant Professor in the School of Public Health at the New York Medical College; and Clinical Director of the Center for Autism and the Developing Brain at New York-Presbyterian Hospital and Associate Professor at Columbia University and Assistant Professor at Weill Cornell Medical College. Dr. Kuhn is currently the Director of the Intensive Behavior Treatment Services at the Connecticut Center for Child Development, in Milford, CT. He is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst-D and Licensed Psychologist in New York and Connecticut. Dr. Kuhn is a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, and has served as a guest reviewer for numerous journals. He was President of the Maryland Association for Behavior Analysis 2007-2008. Dr. Kuhn has published over 20 research articles and book chapters. His current research interests focus on the assessment and treatment of severe problem behavior as well as increasing appropriate behavioral repertoires (e.g., toy play and social skills) among individuals diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder or other developmental disabilities as an approach to both increase adaptive behavior and decrease problem behavior.



Stephanie Contrucci Kuhn, Ph.D., BCBA-D
Western Connecticut State University

Dr. Stephanie Kuhn, PhD, BCBA-D has over 20 years of experience in the field of Behavioral Psychology. She is a licensed psychologist in New York and Connecticut and is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst at the Doctorate level. She currently holds a faculty appointment and teaches full time in the ABA program at Western Connecticut State University. In the past, she had held faculty appointments at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and New York Medical College.

Along with having multiple publications in peer reviewed journals, she has extensive clinical experience in both an inpatient and outpatient setting. She has provided school consultation and school based assessment treatment services for many years as well as home based individual services including program supervision and parent counseling and training.

Suzanne Letso, MA, BCBA
Connecticut Center for Child Development

Suzanne Letso is the co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Connecticut Center for Child Development. Mrs. Letso currently serves as the founding President of the Behavior Analyst Leadership Council, as a member of the Board of Directors of the Council of Autism Service Providers, on the Association for Professional Behavior Analysts' Advisory Board, the Scientific Advisory Board for the Organization for Autism Research, and as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for Marrakech, Inc. Mrs. Letso has also served as the Treasurer and member of the Board of Directors for the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, and has participated in the establishment and management of a number of other service organizations, autism-related initiatives, and state task forces. Mrs. Letso was the recipient of the Association for Professional Behavior Analysts' 2016 Jerry Shook Award that honors individuals whose achievements have enhanced the value of sound professional credentials in the practice of applied behavior analysis.

Mrs. Letso is a registered lobbyist for the Connecticut General Assembly, and has worked as an advocate on a number of legislative issues in the states of Connecticut and Alaska. She is a Board Certified Behavior Analysis, and licensed as a Behavior Analyst in New York and Massachusetts.

She is also the parent of son with autism.

Kristine Marino-Hartmann, MS, BCBA
Connecticut Center for Child Development

Kristine L. Marino-Hartmann, M.S., BCBA: Kristine is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and NY Licensed Behavior Analyst, with a Master's degree in Behavior Analysis from the University of North Texas. She has worked in the field of Autism and ABA since 2000. Throughout her career, Kristine has worked with children, adolescents and young adults in private school, public school, home and community settings. She assisted in the start-up of the Boston Post Road campus in 2007, and currently serves as the Clinical Director of this campus. Kristine has presented at local and national conferences, has been on the Executive Council of the Connecticut Association of Behavior Analysis, and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Behavior Analyst Leadership Council.



Megan McCarron , MS, BCBA

Connecticut Center for Child Development

Megan holds a Master of Science Degree in Child Development, is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, and has been in the field of autism treatment since 1992. Megan has experience providing services for children with autism in private school, home and community settings and in new program start-up.

Megan joined CCCD in 1999. During her time at CCCD, she has served as an Assistant Director in what is now the Wolf Harbor Campus, the Clinical Director at the Bridgeport Ave. Campus and is currently overseeing the RBT training program across campuses.

In addition to her responsibilities in and around CCCD, Megan presents lectures and workshops on autism and Behavior Analysis at local and national conferences and served as a subject matter expert at the Behavior Analysis Certification Board.

Cresse Morrell, M.S. BCBA

The Connecticut Center for Child Development (CCCD)

Cresse Morrell holds a Master's Degree of Science from the University of North Texas and is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). She has delivered multiple research based presentations at national and international conferences and served as a board member and co-conference planning committee member for the Virginia Association of Behavior Analysis. Cresse began working with students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at CCCD when the school opened in 1997 serving first as an Instructional Assistant, Behavior Analyst and finally, Assistant Clinical Director. While at CCCD, she participated in the launching of a school in New Hampshire, ultimately taking the role of Clinical Director and serving as part of a leadership team as the school grew from 3 to 19 students. Prior to returning to CCCD, Cresse held multiple positions leading teams of professionals in developing and implementing evidence based intervention for students with ASD as well as developing agency-wide protocols and procedures for large scale change, and training systems for parents and staff. Cresse has also worked directly with public school administration at building and district levels to coordinate and implement appropriate and effective educational services.

**Daniel Openden, Ph.D., BCBA-D**

Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center (SARRC)

Daniel Openden, Ph.D., BCBA-D is President and CEO of the Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center (SARRC) in Phoenix, Arizona. Since joining SARRC in 2007, Dr. Openden has advanced the center's clinical research, programs, and services. In 2009, Dr. Openden and Dr. Christopher J. Smith, SARRC's VP & Research Director, received funding to initiate and research SARRC's Remote Telemedicine Program to provide follow up access to services via the internet for families living in rural/remote areas. In 2011, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) identified SARRC's innovative, cutting edge inclusive preschool among the most promising practices in autism services to influence the development of effective care systems in other states.

Dr. Openden is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst—Doctoral (BCBA-D) and is licensed as a behavior analyst in Arizona. He has expertise in Pivotal Response Treatment (PRT), a comprehensive, evidence-based treatment model for children with ASD; presented research at regional, state, national and international conventions; served as Associate Editor for the *Journal of Positive Behavior Interventions (JPBI)* from 2008-2013; and been published in several peer reviewed journals and book chapters in the field.

Dr. Openden is also an adjunct professor at Arizona State University (ASU) and serves on the Autism Speaks Family Services Committee; Scientific Council of the Organization for Autism Research (OAR); Arizona State University President's Advisory Community Council; Feeding Matters Medical Professional Council; and the Arizona Autism Coalition Advisory Committee. Further, he is a founding member of the Council on Autism Services (CAS), a networking organization that brings together Presidents, CEOs, Executive Directors, Clinical Directors, and Program Directors to share high level information and identify gaps facing autism service delivery organizations Dr. Openden was honored as one of the *Phoenix Business Journal's* "Forty Under 40" up-and-coming community leaders in 2011 and in 2015 he was honored as one of the "Most Inspired Leaders."

**Judith Palazzo, MS, BCBA***Connecticut Center for Child Development*

Judith Palazzo is the Director of Behavioral Services for the Connecticut Center for Child Development (CCCD), a private, non-profit, Connecticut state-approved special education setting that provides services and support to individuals with autism and their families. She is responsible for supervising and supporting CCCD's Clinical Directors in ensuring high quality services for all CCCD students and families including student program development (i.e. skill acquisition/behavior intervention), staff/parent training, mentorship in behavior analysis, and systems to support such services. Ms. Palazzo directs and provides ABA consultative outreach services in public school, home, and community settings, and provides mentorship and supervision to individuals pursuing national certification in behavior analysis.

Ms. Palazzo holds a Master of Science Degree in Special Education, is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, and has been in the field of autism treatment since 1990, providing services for children with autism across public and private schools as well as home and community settings. She joined CCCD in 1999 and helped develop the CCCD Outreach Program for which she continues to oversee. Through CCCD, she has consulted to various schools and agencies in the start-up of new programs as well as in the improvement of existing services for people with autism. In 2013, Ms. Palazzo helped start the first ABA school program in the state of Alaska.

Ms. Palazzo was a founding member and served on the Executive Council of the Connecticut State Chapter of the Association for Behavior Analysis (CTABA) for two years and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Behavior Analyst Leadership Council (BALC).

In 2000, Ms. Palazzo published "Daniel's Mom," an article depicting her personal struggles with her own son's challenging behavior, in *Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities*. She has presented various lectures and workshops on autism and applied behavior analysis at local, national and international conferences (e.g. Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI), Association for Professional Behavior Analysts (APBA), Organization for Autism Research (OAR), and other local ABA chapter organizations) over the last 20 years.

**Mark Palmieri, Psy.D., BCBA-D***Center for Children with Special Needs*

Dr. Mark Palmieri is a licensed psychologist, Board Certified Behavior Analyst, and the Assistant Director of Center for Children with Special Needs (CCSN). He provides psychological evaluations, co-directs the Feeding Clinic and the Behavioral Sleep Clinic, and supports program development for clinical and school consultation services. He leads capacity development initiatives which establish sustainable educational programs for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other complex neurodevelopmental disabilities. Additionally, he is currently leading project development throughout CCSN to expand clinical services to increase access to high quality evidence-based practices throughout the community. Dr. Palmieri is also an Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychology at the Yale Child Study Center, Yale University School of Medicine. Along with Ms. Kristen Powers, Dr. Palmieri is the co-author of the book, *Feeding Your Child with Autism: A Family-Centered Guide to Meeting the Challenges*. He has lectured both nationally and internationally on topics such as behavioral assessment and treatment planning, consultation and program development, and the treatment of feeding and other complex behavioral disorders. He received his doctoral degree from the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology at Rutgers University.

Joshua K. Pritchard, Ph.D., BCBA-D*Florida Institute of Technology (FIT)*

Dr. Joshua K. Pritchard is an assistant professor in applied behavior analysis at the Florida Institute of Technology. He received bachelor's and master's degrees from the Florida Institute of Technology. He earned his Ph.D. in behavior analysis from the University of Nevada, Reno. His professional experience includes providing direct consultation services for wide range of ages and populations in behavior acceleration and deceleration. Pritchard has served as a consultant with state facilities under review by the Department of Justice, done international consultation on behavioral programs and practicum experience, and conducted remote supervision of international students desiring certification in behavior analysis. Pritchard's research focuses on utilizing IRAP and Q Sort to examine complex human behavior, discovering and creating less expensive alternatives to traditional animal laboratories, transferring behavioral principles into marketable goods to better quality of life and environmental behavior, and global dissemination of behavior analysis. He has proposed an ethical framework for the OBM consultant world and highlighted the differences between it and clinical services. Recently he has been presenting an approach to ethics which jives with a functional contextualistic worldview and hopes to help behavior analysts find their own ethical philosophy.

Tracy Sanford, MS*Connect Center for Child Development*

Tracy has completed her advanced studies degree and 092 certification in Educational Leadership and holds a Master's of Science in Special Education. She is also a certified Special Education Teacher. Tracy has worked in the field of autism treatment since 2002, providing services for individuals with autism in both the private school setting and in home and community settings through her work at the Connecticut Center for Child Development. She has played different roles within the facilitation of transition planning for students, including working directly with classroom teachers, families and districts to create a cohesive transition plan. She has experience with both assessing students on an individual level within many skill areas, as well as working collaboratively to develop different assessment tools for the education team to utilize when looking at transition skills for students.

**Christina Thivierge***Thivierge & Rothberg, P.C.*

Christina D. Thivierge is a co-founding partner and principal of Thivierge & Rothberg, P.C., a private law firm founded in 2008 in New York City that handles exclusively special education matters. Thivierge & Rothberg, PC has offices in New York City and Long Island, New York. From 2000 through 2008, Christina was the Senior Associate at a Mayerson & Associates, where she handled special education matters (primarily for children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders and related disabilities). Christina is a step-parent to a young man with an autism spectrum disorder.

Christina received her Juris Doctorate from the City University of New York School of Law and her Bachelors degree from Central Connecticut State University. She is admitted to practice law in the state and federal courts of New York and New Jersey, as well as a number of federal Courts of Appeal. In addition to litigating due process matters in New York, New Jersey, Indiana and Alaska, Christina has extensive federal court experience and has argued and presented dispositive motions and matters of first impression.

Christina is an award-winning member of the New York State Association for Behavior Analysis, Inc. (NYSABA). She is a board member of the Eden II/Genesis Schools and Programs. Christina is also on the Board of Autism Speaks the Long Island Chapter and the Behavioral Analyst Leadership Counsel. She also belongs to the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA) and the New York County Lawyers Association (NYCLA).

Additionally, she has presented on IDEA/IDEIA and other special education law topics for a number of organizations in the Tri-State area. Prior to attending law school, Christina worked for nine years with adults diagnosed with autism and other disabilities through the Central Connecticut ARC. While working at Central Connecticut ARC Christina was a job coach and a group home manager. Christina also served in the Peace Corps in Guatemala.

Debora Thivierge, BCaBA, CBAA*The ELIJA School and Foundation*

Debora received her BA in Sociology from Hofstra University and is a Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst. She serves as the Executive Director and Founder of The ELIJA School and Founder of The ELIJA Foundation. Debora has volunteered her time to numerous Autism groups such as Nassau County's Department of Health Early Intervention Coordinating Council, New York State Association of Behavior Analysis, Nassau County Autism Coalition run by the County Executive and for the last 5 years served as a board member of The Behavior Analyst Certification Board® (BACB®). Recently, she was appointed to the New York State Licensure Board for Applied Behavior Analysis. For the past 16 years, she has been providing advocacy to families and conducted training workshops to promote evidence based instruction for families and educators who have been touched by Autism. She has an 18 year old son with Autism.

Lorri Shealy Unumb, JD
Autism Speaks

Lorri Shealy Unumb is a lawyer, professor, and the mother of three children – Ryan (15), who has classic autism; Christopher (12); and Jonathan (9), who has Asperger's. In 2005, she wrote ground-breaking autism insurance legislation for South Carolina ("Ryan's Law") that passed in 2007 and served as the catalyst for the national movement toward autism insurance reform.

Lorri began her work in autism advocacy as a volunteer. In 2008, she was recruited by the New York-based non-profit **Autism Speaks**, where she now advocates full-time on behalf of individuals with autism. As head of state government affairs, she has testified more than 100 times on health insurance issues in legislatures around the country.

For her advocacy efforts, Lorri has been recognized with:

- the Jefferson Award for Public Service;
- the Autism Society of America 2008 "Parents of the Year" award (along with her husband Dan);
- the Behavior Analyst Certification Board's Michael Hemingway Award;
- the California Association of Behavior Analysts 2012 "Leadership in Law" Award;
- the Miss South Carolina Pageant 2012 "Woman of Achievement" Award;
- the Association of Professional Behavior Analysts 2013 "Jerry Shook" Award;
- the NASCAR Foundation's Betty Jane France Humanitarian Award;
- the Professional Women in Advocacy "Excellence in a State Campaign" 2014 Award; and
- the New York State Association of Behavior Analysts 2016 Legislative Leadership Award.

Lorri's work has been profiled on CNN, on NPR's "Morning Edition," and in *Town&Country* magazine, from whom she received one of three 2009 "Women Who Make a Difference" awards. She is profiled in the American Academy of Pediatrics 2013 book "Autism Spectrum Disorders: What Every Parent Needs to Know."

Following law school, Lorri spent two years clerking for a United State District Judge and then enjoyed a fulfilling career as an appellate litigator with the United States Department of Justice, Civil Division. She left DOJ to become a law professor at George Washington University Law School and later served as an inaugural faculty member at the Charleston School of Law. While in Charleston, she hosted a weekly TV show called "The Law with Professor Lorri." In 2008, Lorri served as Assistant Director in the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Legal Education, running training programs at the National Advocacy Center.

A frequent keynote speaker, Lorri still teaches a health law course at George Washington University Law School called "Autism and the Law." She and her husband Dan wrote the first-ever comprehensive textbook on legal issues related to autism, also called "Autism and the Law."



Julie Vargas, Ph.D., BCBA-D
B.F. Skinner Foundation

Dr. Vargas is a behaviorologist and President of the B. F. Skinner Foundation. She began her career as a third and fourth grade teacher. She worked as an instructional designer, developing programmed instruction in reading and math for at-risk youth. Dr. Vargas taught at West Virginia University for 37 years where she worked mainly with practicing teachers and undergraduate education majors. She has authored four books on how to apply Skinnerian science to the shaping of behavior, including *Behavior Analysis for Effective Teaching*. She continues to promote behavioral science through the B. F. Skinner Foundation and through articles and talks. During her three dozen years at West Virginia University, and her eleven “retirement” years, Dr. Vargas has given talks or workshops in 19 states and 12 countries.

Giacoma Venditti, MA, BCBA
Connecticut Center for Child Development

Giacoma is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst with a Masters of Arts in Professional Behavior Analysis from Florida Institute of Technology. She joined CCCD in 2002 as an instructional assistant and has had the opportunity to work with a wide range of students and provide training and supervision to many employees as she has grown and advanced both within the organization and within the field of Behavior Analysis. In her current role as an RBT Trainer, Giacoma helped to create and execute the implementation of the RBT credential at CCCD. Additionally, she has served as a subject matter expert on RBT related topics at the BACB.

Tania Vidosevic, MS, BCBA
Institute for Educational Planning

Ms. Vidosevic is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and holds a Masters of Science in Behavior Analysis from the University of North Texas and a Bachelors of Arts in Psychology from Rutgers University. Ms. Vidosevic has worked in the field of autism treatment since 2002, providing services for individuals with autism in both private and public schools and in home and community settings through her work at the Connecticut Center for Child Development. She has also presented at local and national conferences on autism and Applied Behavior Analysis. Currently, Ms. Vidosevic is a Senior Behavior Analyst at the Institute for Educational Planning.

Myra Watnick, M.S. C.C.C.
Rehabilitation Associates of CT

Myra Watnick, M.S. C.C.C., is the executive director of Rehabilitation Associates of Connecticut, Inc. She was originally trained as a Speech Language Pathologist and is presently the administrator of programs that provide services to both children and adults. She manages a staff of Speech Language Pathologists, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Board Certified Behavior Analysts, and Special Education Teachers that provide services to individuals of all ages. She has specialized in providing services to children and families in the Birth to Three program working with toddlers in the general program as well as the autism specific program. She was appointed by the governor to serve on the State Interagency Coordinating Council and serves as Fiscal Co-chair for the committee.

Rehabilitation Associates of Connecticut, Inc. and ABC Intervention serve children using evidence based practices in an interdisciplinary framework.



Nicholas Weatherly, Ph.D., BCBA-D
*Association for Professional Behavior
Analysts (APBA)*

Dr. Nicholas Weatherly is a consultant with Aubrey Daniels International where he leads their instructional systems projects and consults in a number of areas of business and industry, including banking, manufacturing, sales, and clinical services. Dr. Weatherly is President of the Association of Professional Behavior Analysts and Past-President of both the Georgia Association for Behavior Analysis and the Kentucky Association for Behavior Analysis. He received his Ph.D. from Western Michigan University's Applied Behavior Analysis Program where his research and studies centered on performance management interventions, behavior-based safety, behavioral systems analysis, and programmed instruction. Prior to joining ADI, Dr. Weatherly spent 5 years as a university professor, conducting research and teaching courses across a variety of areas of experimental and applied behavior analysis. He specializes in coaching systems, organizational assessments, training systems, and performance measurement systems. Over the years, Dr. Weatherly has held advisory roles and served on the board of directors for a number of professional associations, advocacy groups, and service facilities including the New York State Association for Behavior Analysis, the Minnesota Northland Association for Behavior Analysis, and the Autism Treatment Association of Minnesota. He serves on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Organizational Behavior Management and has worked actively over the years on numerous BACB ethics workgroups and committees. Dr. Weatherly was the inaugural chair of the Kentucky Applied Behavior Analyst Licensing Board, one of the first stand-alone licensing boards for behavior analysis in the country, and continues to stay active in public policy efforts. Dr. Weatherly lives in Michigan with his wife and daughter.

Joel Weik
Behavior Development Solutions (BDS)

Joel Weik is the Director of Business Development at Behavior Development Solutions. Throughout Joel's career, he has authored an award-winning business plan and provided sustainability and operational efficiency consulting to the University of Hartford and the Southington, CT public school system. He wears many hats at BDS, but some of his favorite are as an instructional designer, content writer and editor, and data analysis strategist. Other accomplishments include overseeing the release of the Global History Proficiency & Prep Course, an exam prep and curriculum supplement for students in New York preparing for the NY Regents exam, as well as several Continuing Education courses for behavior analysts.

Byron Wine, Ph.D., BCBA-D
*The Faison Center
and
Florida Institute of Technology (FIT)*

Dr. Wine earned his B.A. in psychology and M. S. in applied behavior analysis from the Florida Institute of Technology. He then received his Ph.D. in educational psychology from Temple University. Dr. Wine's experience is primarily with adults diagnosed with developmental disabilities, curriculum development, and organizational behavior management. He has published over 20 articles and book chapter in behavior analysis. Currently, he is the vice president of operations at the Faison Center and holds a faculty appointment at the Florida Institute of Technology.



Erin Richard White, Ph.D., BCBA
Alpine Learning Group

Erin Richard White has specialized in working with adolescents and adults with autism spectrum disorders in employment, educational, community and home settings for 15 years. She is a board certified behavior analyst and holds both teacher of the handicapped and elementary teacher certifications in New Jersey. Dr. White completed her doctorate and master's degree in applied behavior analysis from Caldwell University. She has published articles in the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis and Behavior Analysis in Practice. She regularly serves as a guest review of the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis. Dr. White has presented at many local and national conferences on a variety of topics including preparing learners for adulthood, assessing and reducing problem behavior, and ethics.

Alexandra Zhestkova, BCaBA

I hold a Master of Arts in Civil Law from Nayanova Samara District National University; and I am a BCaBA since February, 2015. I have experience providing ABA in community, camp and home settings. I work in Moscow Centre of Psychology and Pedagogy since October 2015 (since the day it was founded). During my time in MCPP, I work with kids and their parents: I make an initial assessment, set IEP goals, create protocols for these goals, and provide additional training in implementing these IEP protocols. I also attend Russian ABA conferences by RusABA as a translator for foreign speakers.