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## **FAQ's Regarding Licensure of Behavior Analysts**

### **What is Applied Behavior Analysis or ABA?**

ABA is a well-established discipline with an extensive body of scientific research validating efficacy. Professionals working in the field of ABA design methods of changing behavior to accelerate learning all kinds of new skills. Behavior Analysts utilize evidence-based principals of learning to address the needs of a wide variety of people including but not limited to children and adults with autism and other developmental disabilities.

### **Why do we need state licensure of BCBA's?**

The most important reason to license Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA's) is to increase consumer protection. BCBA's often work with very young children and other vulnerable populations such as those with autism or traumatic brain injury. Licensure will provide families, public school districts, DDS, private insurance providers, and Medicaid providers a means of regulating the practice of ABA. Currently, schools, families, hospitals, DDS, and others must spend time and money conducting their own assessments to identify qualified practitioners because there is no clearly defined standard acknowledged by the state. Current laws do not protect all consumers of behavior analytic services equally. For example, there is no requirement that a person providing ABA services for a child with an intellectual disability instead of autism be a BCBA. And, in the event that a parent privately hires someone they incorrectly believe to be a Behavior Analyst, there is no recourse for that parent unless the individual also fraudulently claims to be "Board Certified."

### **How would licensure of Behavior Analysts impact other professionals who have ABA within their own scope of practice?**

Licensure of Behavior Analysts will not impact other professionals' scope of practice at all. The proposed licensure bill includes language that specifically protects the rights of other professionals who have behavior analysis within their scope of practice, such as psychologists and school psychologists.

### **Are there any other states that license Behavior Analysts?**

Yes. At the present time there are 24 states, which have licensure of Behavior Analysts, including New York, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. There are at least 8 other states that have licensure legislation pending.

**How are Behavior Analysts trained?**

There are clearly defined experience and educational requirements for practice, and CT-based colleges and universities providing the requisite education including ECSU, WCSU, SCSU, and the University of St. Joseph.

**How are Behavior Analysts credentialed?**

Behavior Analyst practitioners are currently credentialed via a certificate program administered by an international organization, the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, or BACB. The BACB credentials professionals with a minimum of a master's degree as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), and for those with a minimum of a bachelor's degree as a Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA) who requires ongoing supervision by a BCBA.

**Does CT recognize the BACB credentialing process?**

Yes, BCBA's and BCaBA's are recognized in a number of CT Public Acts including (PA 09-115) an act requiring insurance coverage for Autism therapies; (PA 10-175) an act requiring special education programs for individuals with autism; and (PA 11-228) which makes it a felony to claim to be a BCBA or BCaBA without proper credentials.

**How many BCBA's are practicing in the state?**

As of January 2016, there are 489 certified BCBA's who are listed as residing in CT. Many other professionals who live out of state do work within CT's borders. The exact number of professionals is not known, but it has been estimated that there are over 600 BCBA's currently practicing in this state, and the annual increase in the number of certificants continues to grow at a rate of approximately 25% each year.

For additional information please contact:

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