ABA for ASD at school

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Behavioral Pediatrics

• Diagnosing and treating problems in the brain that impact behavior
  • Anxiety
  • ADHD
  • Autism Spectrum
  • Chronic lack of sleep

• I collaborate with anyone who can help my patients
  (schools, therapists, universities, daycares, BCW, PIP, families)
Counties Served

Yellow=my county
Blue=metro areas
Green=patient counties
Autism Spectrum Disorder Simplified

*Ineffective social communication* (tone, body language, jokes, eye contact)

*Impaired relationships* (no friends, loner, bullying)

-Restricted interests* (video games, arithmetic, sports scores)
-Repetitive behaviors* (phrases, routines)

-Inflexibility* (avoids anything new, schedule-driven)

-Sensory issues* (sound, food texture, temperature, fabric)

*required
Applied Behavior Analysis (treatment for ASD)

- Using what happens right before and right after to help change behavior
- Creates motivation for a desirable behavior
- Requires thorough understanding of autism spectrum
- BCBA is the certification needed to develop an ABA treatment plan
- Trained individuals (like paraprofessionals in a classroom) then implement the plan
- Georgia has only 333 BCBA*s*
- Georgia has 17,000 children receiving Medicaid with ASD*

* per multiagency state autism collaborative
ABS Providers

Capacity limitations based on already employed workforce

Behavioral analysts
- BCBA-D: doctoral level
- BCBA: masters/graduate level
- BCaBA: bachelor’s level; requires supervision

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certification</th>
<th>Statewide Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BCBA-D</td>
<td>49</td>
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<tr>
<td>BCBA</td>
<td>284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCaBA</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>359</td>
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Additional 323 Registered Behavior Technicians

Recommendations of the multi-agency state autism collaborative
Bring ABA to rural schools

• Only a few schools offer ABA (5 of my 30 counties)
• Could be regional at first (like GNET schools are regional)
• Schools already provide Speech, Occupational and Physical therapy
Who pays for this ABA?

• Medicaid!
• There is already $71M of funding in place
• DCH is working hard to find providers of ABA
How is this a rural development issue?

Rural colleges and universities should offer BCBA certification

• Most graduates settle within 100 miles of where they train
• Easier to attract qualified masters-level trained SpEd teachers, STs, OTs, MSWs and counsellors if they train near where they live

Encourage rural academic institutions to start programs!