

ADDING CERTIFIED OHIO BEHAVIOR ANALYSTS AS TELEMEDICINE PRACTITIONERS



HB 679 Telehealth Service Requirements

EXPANSION OF PROVIDERS

Per LSC's Bill Analysis, HB 679 looks to expand upon existing law regarding telemedicine (i.e. telehealth). The breadth of behavioral health and rehabilitative therapy practitioners would be expanded. A broader availability of service provision would benefit consumers navigating the current health climate, through both public and private insurers.

PROVISION OF CARE

- **Currently under the emergency declaration, Behavior Analysts are successfully providing telehealth delivery of adaptive behavior services.**
- **Consumers and interdisciplinary partners alike have relied on the provision of these services to facilitate choice and ease of access to care.**
- **The ability to continue to provide access and choice can be taken away at any time.**
- **Including COBAs on this bill and putting the bill into law will protect the consumers' right to telehealth services.**

PLEASE SUPPORT ADDING CERTIFIED OHIO BEHAVIOR ANALYST (COBA) TO THE EXPANDED LIST OF HEALTHCARE PRACTITIONERS WHO CAN PROVIDE TELEHEALTH DELIVERY OF TREATMENT SERVICES.

BEHAVIOR ANALYSTS IN OHIO LAW

A Certified Ohio Behavior Analyst (COBA) is an individual holding a current, valid certificate issued under section 4783.04 of the Revised Code from the Ohio Board of Psychology.

Behavior Analysts are approved Medicaid providers of Functional Behavior Assessment Service in accordance with Administrative Code rule 5160-1-17 within the Developmental Disability Medicaid Waiver program.

Medicaid Managed Care Plans contract with Behavior Analysts to provide Adaptive Behavior Treatment to Medicaid eligible children with ASD in accordance with Chapter 5160-26 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

The Ohio Department of Education engages Behavior Analysts as Scholarship providers in accordance with Section 3310.41 of the Revised Code.

The American Medical Association (AMA) recognizes Behavior Analysts as the main practitioner for CPT coding of Adaptive Behavior Assessment and Treatment Services. Adaptive Behavior Services is an evidence-based treatment currently funded by private and public health insurers. Rooted in the science of behavior and the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), these services afford intensive and highly efficacious treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and other mental health conditions.

CONTACT US

**The Ohio Association
for Behavior Analysis**
Public Policy Contact: Jen Gonda
publicpolicy@ohaba.org
www.ohaba.org

CONSUMERS RISK LOSS OF ACCESS TO TREATMENT AND FLEXIBILITY OF CHOICE

Extensive peer-review research identifies **timeliness**, **intensity**, and **access** as critical to adaptive behavior services.

- Early childhood, when skills are naturally acquired at an exponential rate, is a *key window* to see enhanced magnitude of positive outcomes.
- *Consistency of application* across providers, caregivers, and environment is critical to create sustainable and stable behavioral patterns.
- Access to stabilizing services is *protective to vulnerable populations* and can reduce risk of maltreatment, neglect, and removal from the home.

TELEHEALTH INTERVENTIONS PROVIDED BY BEHAVIOR ANALYSTS DURING THE EMERGENCY DECLARATION PERIOD HAVE ALLOWED FOR CONTINUED ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL CARE.

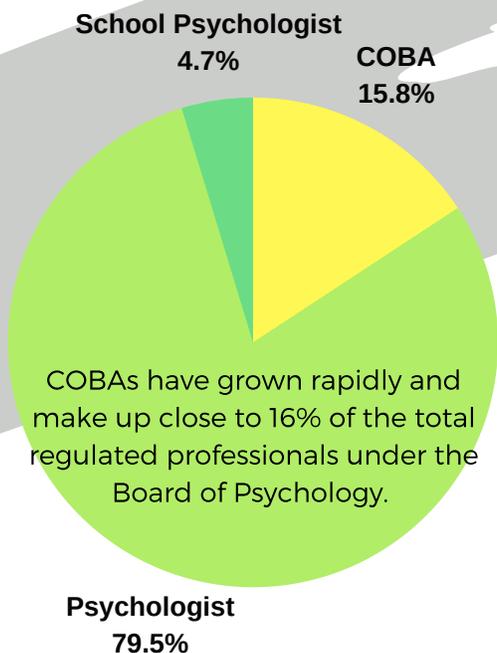
By providing adaptive behavior services remotely, behavior analysts can support parents in real-life situations and provide real-time interventions and training. ABA via telehealth allows for in-the-moment stabilization to improve sustainable outcomes and reduce the need for a more costly higher level of care.

-ABA PROVIDER ON AVOIDING CRISIS

Telehealth has allowed for continuity of care. Families have told us that the services they have received, which often include ABA practices, allowed them to feel more settled and less anxious. I would go so far to say that because of telehealth we have been able to maintain many families intact, preventing the need for foster care and other more intrusive expensive services.

-CEO OF TREATMENT FOSTER CARE AND CHILD WELFARE AGENCY

OUR NUMBERS



OUR SUPPORTERS

The **Ohio Psychological Association (OPA)** is the state organization for practicing psychologists. The **Board of Psychology** regulates our practice. They are each in support of COBA inclusion.

