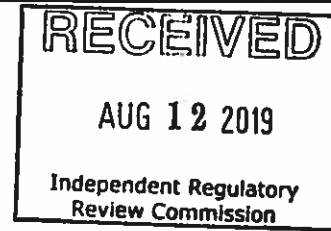


3209

Kathy Cooper

From: Brittany Martinez <bmart03@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 12, 2019 4:14 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Rejecting IBHS proposal



To Whom It May Concern,

I am currently a Program Coordinator and Licensed Behavior Specialist for BHRS. I began my career in ABA working for Lovaas Institute in Philadelphia. It was the structure, consistency, and dedication to each client that drew me into the field. I knew right away as an ABA Therapist that I needed to pursue my BCBA. I immediately enrolled into a Psychology/ABA Master's program, working fulltime and taking classes at night. Within the last 7 years, I have gained extensive experience, knowledge, and precision in implementing programs such as Lovaas Method, Skills Global, VB-MAPP, ABLLS, PECS, etc. It has been nothing but joy in helping all of my clients reach their maximum potential, guiding the non-verbal to successfully communicating with their families, friends, teachers, and support systems.

Unfortunately, the consistent challenge I personally and professionally face is having the BCBA credential behind my name. I have without a doubt worked to the best of my ability, and know every learned system forwards and backwards. I can recite any definition. I can successfully implement a discrete trial system without any flaws or hiccups. But I cannot pass that BCBA exam. It is the flawed and unreliable system of grading that hinders my name from having the credential. However, it does not discredit my ability to provide effective ABA services.

The proposed legislation of No. 3209 Department of Human Services #14-546: Intensive Behavioral Health Services is a disservice to the population of children with Autism. The pass rate of the BCBA continues to slope downwards, as the need for services continues to soar higher each year. Requiring only a BCBA to provide services is not only going to hurt BHRS agencies, but the families that are relying on us for help. No, I do not have my BCBA, but I am more than qualified as a Licensed Behavior Specialist to assist these children and families in behavior modification. There are not enough BCBA's to provide services for all of these children. The proposal will negatively impact the families, children, clinicians, and all of the field staff.

Additionally, children and parents need psychological evaluations with qualified psychologists to properly diagnose and recommend treatment. It is not our, Licensed Behavior Specialists, scope of work to do that casually or take that task on lightly.

The families utilizing BHRS need help, and modifying the system to make it more difficult to get it is not the way to help.

Thank you,

Brittany Meckler MS, LBS