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Champa, Heidi

From: Sheila Mooney <SheliaM@cbhsinc.com>
Sent: Monday, August 27, 2018 9:16 AM
To: PW, IBHS
Cc: Susan Hurd
Subject: FW: response to IBHS regulations proposal



I am a licensed psychologist who has been completing psychological evaluations and prescribing Behavioral Health Rehabilitative Services at Children's Behavioral Health Services for over 18 years. Many of those services have been prescribed for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. We have seen significant progress with the strategies included in our treatment plans. In addition, in each evaluation, I ask family members for feedback on the services we provide, and the overwhelming response has been that they are happy with the services and the progress their child has made. We are not, however, providing ABA. We use behavior modification and behavior shaping techniques that have been in use for decades and are clearly evidence based. While there are some components in common with ABA, it is not ABA. I challenge the idea that there can only be one approach to treat an individual with a particular diagnosis. Different strategies work better for certain individuals and in particular environments. Most of our services are provided in school, where ABA may not be appropriate.

After having read the proposed regulations, my fear is that requiring all ASD children to receive ABA takes choice away from families. Some agencies will not be able to provide ABA as specified in the regulations, and, therefore, fewer children will ultimately be receiving needed services.

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