



LICENSURE FOR BEHAVIOR ANALYSTS

Everything you wanted to know, but were afraid to ask!
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LICENSURE FOR THE FIELD OF BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS: HISTORY

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- 2009 TABA: Gerry Shook, Mike Dorsey, Nea Houchins-Juarez
- January 2010: ABAI State Affiliates meeting (lessons learned)
- May 2010: The Alamo Meeting (California, Connecticut, Massachusetts)
- APBA and ABAI from (at least 2010 to present) meetings on Public Policy to include licensure for Behavior Analysts
- Survey of TABA membership and we chose to pursue licensure on behalf of Behavior Analysts in the State of Tennessee. Spoiler Alert: Our licensure bill passed in April 2014.



SC AND TN: SIMILARITIES

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- Red States with majority of Legislators and Governor are Republicans
- Regulations and increased costs to State Government are barriers (false barriers)
- Number of BCBA's is smaller to the number of licensed allied and mental health providers
- Behavior Analysts that don't see the need; don't care or don't want changes to the status quo
- Perception/reality that licensure will decrease the number of providers of ABA services
- Behavior Analysts that are active, inactive and /or apathetic



WHY LICENSURE?

- All the cool kids are doing it!
- 30 States with licensure laws
- 2009: Nevada and Oklahoma
- 2010: Arizona, Kentucky, Missouri, Wisconsin (title act)
- 2011: North Dakota
- 2012: Virginia (Medical Board)
- 2013: Louisiana, Massachusetts (Ombudsman), Ohio (certificate), Oregon
- 2014: Alabama, Tennessee, Alaska, Kansas, Maryland, New York (Autism only)
- 2015: Hawaii, Mississippi, Utah, Washington
- 2016: Michigan, South Dakota
- 2017: Connecticut, Montana, Texas
- 2018: Iowa



WHY LICENSURE?

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- Protections for your livelihood
- History with the APA and the field of Psychology
- Increases professionalism for our field-even playing field with with Psychologists, LCSW, Counselors, SLP, OT and other Master's level practitioners (independent practice)
- Consumer protections



LICENSURE BILL: CONSIDERATIONS

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- Support and collaboration with the APBA and BACB(TN experience)
- Gina Green ROCKS!!!
- Scope of Practice (use of BACB Scope of Practice is recommended)
- Exemptions (who in SC has behavior management in their Scope of Practice in their licensure law). Why?
- Who can call themselves a Licensed Behavior Analyst
- Use of BACB certification as basis for who qualifies (cost savings, helpful to applicants, etc)
- Emergency regulations (we missed this one!)





LICENSURE BILL: CONSIDERATIONS

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- Fees
- Non-certified providers and those that have taken the exam multiple times and not passed. TN DIDD approved providers
- Board: Independent; collaborate with an existing board; Consent agendas





LICENSURE: YOUR JOB

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- Have a set message and talking points
- Reach out to your legislator in the House and Senate
- Be Visible!! Have a primary point person (practical reasons; Tony Dabbs)
- Build support from colleagues across fields both within and outside of the field of Behavior Analysis
- Families
- Work with a lobbyist (rules of State legislative bodies takes time to learn; calendar; off calendar; rules are suspended; who

I ALWAYS
WONDERED WHY
SOMEBODY DID'NT
DO SOMETHING ABOUT
THAT, THEN I REALIZED
I AM SOMEBODY