FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is a time of change for Behavior Analysis in Kentucky. The “KYABA Executive Committee” has assimilated a strong team of professionals, business leaders and clinicians to help lead us into the next few years of adjustment, including legislative changes and ultimately Obamacare, which is set to formally begin Jan 1st 2014.

Many changes are upon us right now. You have elected a phenomenal team to manage these changes and continue the work done by previous KYABA members and founders. Executive Council gathered in Nov. 2012 to implement a plan of action. We assessed the organization’s state of affairs and targeted priorities. Lori Phan was appointed Director of Operations and has assisted with web development, workshop design, budgeting and conference planning. We are all diligently working on plans to have leaders in the field come to Kentucky and provide continuing education events. April 12-13th 2013 we have two leaders in the field of ABA providing full-day workshops on Professional & Ethical Consideration and Verbal Behavior. Look for Dr. Jose Martinez-Diaz and Mary Barbera April 12-13th 2013 (U of L Shelby Campus). We are excited to have these educators provide events for us that are critical to ongoing professional development. Check it out on Facebook! Chris George has taken on legislative duties along with Steve Forman, who has designed new by-law revisions. The revisions propose more continuity of service to KYABA members including a President-Elect position, Secretary and Treasurer. Chris and Steve will continue to assess and inform members about legislative changes and changes to SCL & Michelle Phillips Medicaid Waivers. These are paramount issues for Behavior Analysts in Kentucky. Rob Pennington is working on membership tasks and developing plans to continue expanding KYABA services to all regions of the state. Katie Kavanaugh (former student representative), Melissa Mackal (webmaster assistant), Tyler Martin (web design), Ron Peirce (accounting & business needs) and Robert Wallander (public relations & newsletter) have all recently joined our auxiliary team to assist Executive Council in meeting our annual goals.

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Dr. José Martinez-Diaz Brings Ethics Workshop to Kentucky!!

By Robert J Wallander, LBA

The Kentucky Association of Behavior Analysis (KYABA) marks its third year with a WORKSHOP SERIES offered in April 2013 at The University of Louisville. This workshop series will provide BCBAs, LBAs and others with valuable opportunities to earn continuing education units in Ethics & Verbal Behavior. On Friday April 12th, Dr. José Martinez-Diaz will present “Professional and Ethical Considerations for Behavior Analysts”. Dr. Martinez-Diaz (who prefers to be called “José”) is an experienced and respected educator in the field of behavior analysis. He will provide attendees with high quality training on BACB standards in the rich context of his decades of field and teaching experience. In addition, we are anticipating a captivating day of training, as José is well known for his highly engaging and entertaining style of presentation.

On Saturday April 13th, Mary Lynch Barbera, PhD, BCBA-D will provide a workshop entitled “Using ABA/VB Strategies to Improve Autism Programming Across the Spectrum”. She will bring decades of experience as a practitioner, parent, and teacher to KYABA for a full day lecture on behavioral strategies for improving outcomes for individuals across the autism spectrum. She is an international lecturer on the popular yet often misunderstood topic of Verbal Behavior and its application to improving communication skills in children. Attendees will find Mary’s presentation to be highly engaging as she will provide a real-life perspective on her “verbal behavior approach” and offer frequent hands on opportunities to practice new skills.

We had a chance to sit down with Dr. Martinez-Diaz before the workshops and ask him about his experiences during his long career as a behavior analyst. Below is a brief synopsis of our discussion. José will travel to Kentucky from his home in Melbourne, FL where he resides with his wife of 27 years and 3 boys. When he is not teaching or practicing behavior analysis, he enjoys playing instruments, and making music and videos with his high tech recording equipment.

José was born in Cuba and migrated to the United States at age 11. He shared that having a schoolteacher for a mother and a businessman for a father played an important role in his early development and inspired him, in part, to become an educator and practitioner of behavior analysis. After completing his undergraduate studies at the University of Miami, José received training in behavior analysis at the prestigious West Virginia University. José then journeyed to California for an internship and stayed for an additional eight years. José was called to return to Florida for an opportunity to participate in

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Designing our team of affiliates has been critical for a successful transition. Everyone has worked hard tackling various transition issues and contributed many hours to assist in evaluating the current state of affairs, goals and member input. We appreciate member support and patience while we are evaluating many critical issues and problem solving so we may move forward with fresh ideas and events!

Many new challenges are ahead of us! Private insurance coverage, Medicaid Waivers and state-wide regulation changes on how behavior services are to be delivered in Kentucky are constantly changing. This Executive Council and our new team of affiliates will plunge forward to ensure ABA professionals are actively participating in these changes. We will work towards helping you adjust to this ever changing healthcare environment. We look forward to serving our members this year and hope to see all of you at the April workshop series. We are interested in member feedback so please considering attending the April workshop series; we look forward to hearing from you soon...

Let’s have a fantastic year and lots of fun!

Jason Simmons, MS, BCBA-L
KYABA President

“Dr. José Martinez-Diaz” Continued from page 2

credentialing the profession of behavior analysis. It was at that time he began working with Jerry Shook and Michael Hemingway, who involved him in the professionalization of behavior analysis practice and influenced him greatly.

José has received formal recognition for his dedication to high-quality applied work as well as his training of new behavior analysts. In 2005, The Florida Association for Behavior Analysis bestowed one of their highest honors on José with “The Charles Cox Award for Outstanding Service and Advancement of Behavior Analysis in Florida.” José also has been recognized with “The Provost Award for Innovative Programs” from The Florida Institute of Technology for his development of programs to train future practitioners.

When José conducts his ethics workshop in Kentucky this April, he is drawing on his extensive experience with families, parents and learners. During his nearly three decades of practice in California and Florida he encountered numerous ethical “events” while observing the unfolding of behavior analytic practice to real-world settings. During this time, he also served on various rights, advocacy, and peer-review committees. José remains active on the Behavior Analysis Certification Board as a senior consultant, and prior to that served as a member of the governing body for seven years. Many also will recognize his work as the author of the chapter on professional ethics in the seminal textbook by Cooper, Heron, and Heward (2nd edition 2007).

Jose’s dedication to teaching and sense of responsible business engagement will provide workshop attendees with state-of-the-art lessons on professional ethics for behavior analysts. Attendees can expect a well-designed lecture from a highly skilled speaker. Workshop participants might augment their experience by previewing José’s chapter in Cooper, Heron, and Heward (2nd edition 2007) as well as reviewing the current edition of the BACB’s “Guidelines for Responsible Conduct”. José’s continuing education event is scheduled for April 12th, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
In future issue of "The Kentucky Respondent!!
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✓ ASD Practice in Kentucky
✓ News & Photos from the KY ABA Workshop
✓ Let us know what YOU would like to read!!

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