



Black Applied Behavior Analysts

BABA CONFERENCE

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DETROIT, MI

Beyond "Behavior Problems". Supporting
Individuals with Co-occurring Needs and
Mental Health Diagnoses

Abstract

Are you supporting individuals with multiple diagnoses? Do you feel comfortable and competent to support individuals with mental health diagnoses?

Board certified behavior analysts are most commonly known for their ability to support individuals with intellectual disabilities. Individuals with intellectual disabilities disproportionately have more health problems than the general population and are significantly more likely to experience traumatic events. Further complicating the matter, individuals with more severe disabilities often cannot communicate their needs, which leads to unmet needs and can often lead to individuals unnecessarily being supported in restricted settings.

Behavior analysts receive little to no formal training in supporting individuals with co-occurring mental health needs, complex behavioral needs, or trauma histories. Unfortunately, they are the professionals who are often called in when there is a "behavioral problem." This workshop will provide an overview of the importance of thoroughly assessing underlying medical, mental health, or aversive histories. Attendees will discuss best practices for assessment, support strategies, and care coordination with other services providers. The session will present cases of individuals with co-occurring needs for participants to review. Attendees will be provided with resources to utilize in practice.

Learning Objectives

- Summarize co-occurring needs and common diagnoses amongst individuals with IDD
- Describe components of a comprehensive assessment
- Identify considerations when developing and making treatment recommendations
- Analyze case studies and formulate possible treatment options
- Explain the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration
- List resources for future support



Breanna Kelly,
MS, MSW, LCSW, BCBA