The Voice of Behavior Analysis in Connecticut

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October 16, 2012

To Whom This May Concern:

This letter is regarding the Public Hearing on Mental Health and Substance Use: Access to Prevention, Treatment and Coverage to be held on October 17, 2012.

The Connecticut Association for Behavior Analysis (CTABA) is a professional organization that seeks to assist in the development and advancement of the field of behavior analysis within the state of Connecticut through research, education, and dissemination of information. CTABA represents Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA) in Connecticut, with a current membership of over 200 persons certified by the Behavior Analysis Certification Board (BACB).

Public Act No. 09-115: An Act Concerning Health Insurance Coverage for Autism Spectrum Disorders went into effect on January 1, 2010. PA 09-115 put into effect insurance payments for Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services for children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD).

There are three types of insurance policies that are not covered by PA 09-115: self-funded policies, policies that originate out of state, and Medicaid policies, e.g., Husky Health Care. As a result, families with these types of insurance policies are not able to access ABA services for their children because they are unable to pay the high cost of the services. In addition, children from low-income families and children who are wards of the state are not receiving services under the Connecticut Law.

Two states, Ohio and Florida have already been mandated to provide reimbursement for ABA services for children in Medicaid programs.

It is crucial that all children diagnosed with ASD are provided with the same opportunities to receive treatment under the Connecticut State Law, regardless of the type of insurance policy their parent have and regardless of a family's income.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth C. Nulty, MS, BCBA
President, CTABA