

## Legislative Update

# FABA Legislative & Governmental Affairs Update – End of Session 2019

By Eric Prutsman, Esq., FABA General Counsel & Lobbyist

When we last provided an update the 2019 Session had not yet started. Committees in the Florida Senate had already taken an early interest in the Medicaid Behavior Analysis program but we had no idea what was around-the-corner regarding AHCA proposals to make changes to the administration of the program. The Agency announced in March that major changes would take place with the use of electronic visit verification (EVV), multidisciplinary team (MDT) reviews, licensure as health care clinics, changes to the behavior analysis policy, and rate cuts for behavior analysis providers. Your FABA leadership immediately engaged the Agency and the Legislature on the devastating impact huge rate reductions would have on access and quality of behavior analysis services. And, the members of FABA, and parents across the State, connected with the Governor and Legislature through FABA's Action Center: [www.fabaworld.org/action-center](http://www.fabaworld.org/action-center) to let their elected officials know of their concern.



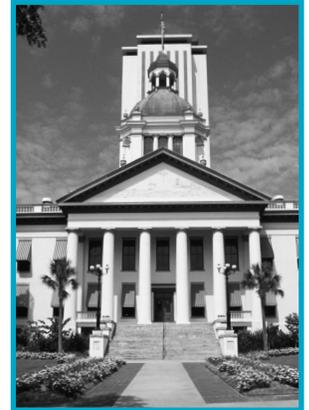
Eric Prutsman  
FABA Lobbyist

Within 72 hours of the rate reduction announcement, thousands of stories of the potential impact of rate cuts connected with legislative committee members. With the help of friends in the Legislature like Rep. Rene Plasencia, Sen. Aaron Bean, Sen. Gayle Harrell, and Sen. Darryl Rouson, the Legislature questioned the Agency's proposals. Secretary Mary Mayhew quickly announced to the Senate, at her confirmation hearing, that the proposed provider rate cut would be put on hold until the end of 2019. Additionally, FABA was represented at each of the public meetings AHCA held around the State, as behavior analysts and parents expressed their views on the proposed changes. The result of the collaborative effort of many members,

provider groups, and parents was that by the end of April, the Agency had also delayed the clinic licensure requirement to July 1, 2020, and turned the EVV, and MDT approach into pilot proposals in specific regions. The Legislature also included language in the State's FY 2019-2020 budget that prohibits the Agency from enacting any rate reductions through June 30, 2020.

Over the past two months FABA has continued to meet regularly with AHCA, including Secretary Mayhew, to address additional proposals that the Agency has brought forward. We have continued to raise concerns regarding the health care clinic requirement, the qualifications for lead analysts, the timeframes for new provider application approvals, and a proposal to combine the behavior analysis

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# FABA 2019: Get Ready for a Great Conference

By Andrew Houvouras, FABA President

It is an exciting time to be a FABA member. With the call of papers, it's a time to look forward to FABA 2019, our 39th Annual Conference. 2019 will be my 22nd straight year attending FABA. In retrospect, the time, much like this year as your president, has gone by quickly. The annual conference is always one of my favorites and most stressful times of the year. It reminds me how lucky we are to be behavior analysts and how powerful the environment is in shaping our lives. The Call for Papers and Conference planning also coincide with the start of our election process which will eventually result in a new president-elect and two members-at-large joining the board. These are times to reflect on what FABA has accomplished, what comes next and who among us is going to serve the membership.

The FABA Conference will be the conclusion of my term as FABA President, an honor and privilege for which I am forever grateful. Moving off the board will be my friends, Matt Potak and Megan Miller who deserve recognition for their service to FABA. Matt has been an integral part of helping organize FABA's work with AHCA to address our practice concerns and leading the development of local chapter activities. He has done so with a friendly smile and quiet dignity. Megan Miller is simply one of the strongest disseminators in our field who used her formidable organizational skills to advocate for our practices and has launched the #dobetter movement through social media to expand the knowledge base and practice skills for her fellow behavior analysts. I was lucky to join them for our terms of service. Fortunately, FABA is in good hands with Yulema Cruz moving into the role as



Andrew  
Houvouras

your President. Yulema has already made a significant impact at FABA, working as a member-at-large, President-elect and has directed the multicultural SIG whose activities and memberships have flourished under her leadership. I'm excited to see her lead our organization.

The FABA Conference continues to be a who's who of luminaries in the field of behavior analysis with Jim Carr, Aubrey Daniels, Tara Fahmie, Gina Green, Greg Madden, Ray Miltenberger, David Palmer and Lori Unumb all invited to share their wealth of knowledge with us fellow behavior analysts. As always, practitioners and researchers from in and outside the United States will converge to

present their research, workshops and ideas. A new change to the conference will be the poster session which will be an emceed event incorporating an innovative standardization to posters to feature the important clinical findings and a large graphic display. And, as history has shown us, the level of talent, information and entertainment in the Ignite sessions will once again prove to be a Conference highlight.

While there is much to look forward to, the conference will also serve the important purpose of planning for the next year and the many challenges facing the practice of behavior analysis. If this year has taught us anything, it is

that coordination and solidarity bear fruitful dividends. It has reminded us supporting our families, clients, profession and organization demands sustained involvement, vigilance and resolve. Let's continue to do what we do best: analyze our own behaviors, evaluate the systemic issues, and arrange our environments accordingly so we can support one another, fight the good fight and advance the practice of behavior analysis.

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## Save the Date

# FABA'19

## 39th Annual Meeting September 19-21, 2019



*Sawgrass Marriott Resort, Ponte Vedra*

# Making Conference Attendance Count Toward Experience Hours

By Yulema Cruz, MS, BCBA

**A**BA students: Wondering how to make conference attendance count toward your supervised experience hours? Some suggestions below...

Conference attendance is a great opportunity to immerse oneself in the field, especially as a newly-minted student of applied behavior analysis. Attending conferences provides access to countless reinforcers including learning about new research and practices in the field, networking with other professionals, and engaging with a variety of experts within and sometimes outside of ABA. An additional advantage that conference attendance holds for professionals in the field, is the opportunity to gain continuing education units (CEUs) that may be applied toward the fulfillment of recertification requirements. Though this advantage is not available for students of ABA, conference attendance may serve a similar purpose when applied to gaining experience hours under the category of unrestricted activities. Asides from observations, assessments, developing behavior plans, training, and monitoring among others, unrestricted activities include researching literature that is relevant to clients' behavior programming (BACB, 2019). The latter example may allow ABA students to gain experience hours by attending relevant, research-related presentations at ABA conferences. Below are some suggestions on how to take advantage of these opportunities:



Yulema Cruz

**Research the topics that will be presented at the upcoming conference.** Once students have developed an interest in attending an ABA conference, they should become more acquainted with the history of the conference, its purpose or mission, as well as any relevant upcoming conference information. After the conference program is made available, students should research the topics that will be presented. This will allow them to identify whether: 1) the topics proposed are research-related, 2) are relevant to clients' programming, and 3) may have the potential of improving clients' programming in some way.

**Seek supervisor approval.** This should be the second step before informing clients or making plans with classmates, after the above was successfully accomplished. Part of seeking supervisor approval is presenting a case that allows students to provide support for gaining experience hours by attending conference talks that may be mutually beneficial for

both the students and the clients' programs. The students may further their knowledge of a specific topic, while gaining motivation and ideas to advance clients' behavior plans. Because supervisors are ultimately responsible for each student's experiences, and conference attendance may affect the provision of direct services to clients, it is important that supervisors provide their seal of approval after having had sufficient time to consider the student's case and make the necessary arrangements to minimize variables affecting clients' services.

**Develop a plan/schedule.** After approval and informing clients, the students and supervisors should develop a plan (or schedule) together of the relevant talks the students wish to attend, the number of hours that will be counted toward the total experience hours for that week, how those hours will be documented, as well as identify the specific clients whose programs would benefit from the research shared on each talk. If relevant, the students and supervisors should discuss whether supervision should occur during the conference, and any relevant information related to that specific supervision meeting.

**Stick to the plan.** Part of following the pre-developed plan or schedule may also include documenting attendance at the talks by taking notes, and if feasible, making a plan to contact the speakers later on during the conference or after the conference has ended. Some presenters also allow attendees to take pictures of the slides, which may serve as a record of attendance, as well as permanent products to be further reviewed at a future time, at the students' pace.

**Present documentation of attendance to supervisor.** After the conference ends, students should present documentation of their attendance to the supervisor, during the following supervision meeting. Including notes, pictures, and perhaps a summary of each talk, may be sufficient support for counting those hours toward the required experience hours. Summaries of the talks presented may spark discussions centered around improving clients' programming based on the information acquired during the conference. This in turn, may result in direct benefits to the clients' behavior programs.

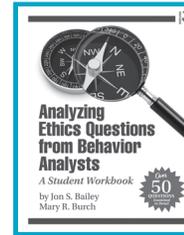
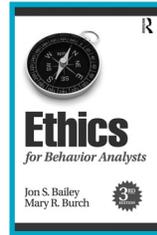
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# Ethics Anyone?

By Authors Jon Bailey and Mary Burch

This article is reprinted with permission of the author John Monk who writes for The State newspaper in Columbia, SC.

We felt this was relevant to some recent fraud investigations occurring in Florida since it details the nature of the fraud and the consequences for some of the participants.



Jon Bailey, PhD



Mary Burch, PhD

## Two SC Women Get Prison for Their Roles in \$13 Million Federal Autism Health Fraud

By John Monk, The State  
JUNE 26, 2019 05:00 AM

COLUMBIA, SC

Two S.C. women were ordered to federal prison Tuesday for their roles in a federal health care fraud in a long-running illegal scheme where a company falsely billed government health insurance programs for some \$13 million for supposed care for autistic children.

Magistrate Judge Paige Gossett gave **Angela Keith, 53, one year in prison, and Ann David Eldridge, 58, six months in prison.** Both live in Sumter.

Had they not pleaded guilty Tuesday to misdemeanor charges of making false statements to federal health programs Medicaid and Tricare, the government could have tried them on felony fraud charges. If they had been convicted, each stood to receive a minimum sentence of about four years in prison.

Victims in the case included taxpayers, people who are forced to pay higher health care premiums because of fraud, and autistic children who lost out on getting treatment when the perpetrators submitted bills for care they didn't get, assistant U.S. Attorney DeWayne Pearson told the judge.

Their former company, the S.C. Early Autism Project, is one of the largest childhood autism providers in South Carolina. The defendants made illegal profits out of filing false claims for non-existent treatment of autistic children covered by Medicaid and Tricare, according to evidence in the case.



At the time of the illegal scheme, from about 2009 to 2016, the “culture and the climate of the Early Autism Project was such that everyone (who worked there) knew the billing practices were fraudulent,” Pearson told the judge. As part of the fraud, employees forged parents’ signatures saying they had received the therapy that the company

was billing the government for, he said.

Several whistle blowers brought the fraud to the government’s attention in 2016. One whistleblower was a parent who became concerned that – upon examining the bills – her child was being billed for hours of therapy that the child did not receive, Pearson told the judge Tuesday.

Medicaid is a joint federal-state health insurance program for low-income and disabled families. Tricare is the government insurer for active duty military and their families.

As part of the deal, Keith and Eldridge have agreed to testify against **Susan Butler, the major government target** in the case and founder and former top-ranking executive in the S.C. Early Autism Project.

Butler’s attorneys, Beattie Ashmore and Deborah Barbier, were in the courtroom Tuesday observing the proceedings but had no comment. A trial date in her case is set for January. The government is seeking to recover some \$9 million from Butler.

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# “You Don’t Get It” – Autism’s Curious Response to the Field of ABA: Part I

By Matt Briere-Saltis

This article is the first submission in a multi-part series exploring the growing trend of adults with autism (“Autistics” is their preferred terminology, more on that in a bit) that are taking to social media and the internet to advocate for more humane social and clinical interactions with the autistic population. Sometimes referred to as a “neuro-diversity” movement, there is a growing wave of sentiment that some of us who dedicate our lives to trying to help folks with autism and/or related disorders are missing the mark in certain areas. Further, they say that some common practices in the field of ABA are ineffective, harmful, and potentially abusive. The field of ABA has long recognized the unretractable value of taking a critical inward gaze to evaluate what we understand best practice to be. This seems to be an opportunity to thoughtfully evaluate the feedback and suggestions offered by this active sub-section of the population, and provide respectful, measured responses in search of common ground.



Matt Briere-Saltis

Many individuals involved in this movement are self-diagnosed as having autism, others have come by the diagnosis via more traditional means such as psychological evaluations. It should be noted that a self-diagnosis of autism is not recognized in any clinical or legal context due to the obvious complexities of diagnosing specific developmental disorders. Self-diagnosis does, however, often correlate with individuals identifying strongly with specific symptoms of autism. There are several websites run by not-for-profit companies that seek to provide a common voice for this movement. The Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN) is perhaps the most prominent. Their website promotes a number of policy and treatment proposals aimed at various fields including ABA, psychology, and education. Many of their proposals are consistent with best practice in those stated fields. Some diverge from common practice, and those will be the focus of this multi-part series.

Beginning with introductions, it would be important to note that members of this movement advocate for the use of “identity first” language rather than “person first” language. They often capitalize the ‘A’ and utilize the word as a singular proper noun: an Autistic. One commonly asserted rationale for this is that autism is omnipresent in their behavior, choices, and experience to such a high degree that it is inaccurate and misleading to suggest there is a person separate from the autism, thus eschewing the phrase “person with autism.” Lydia Brown, a self-diagnosed Autistic and contributor to the ASAN, articulates that “It is an edifying and meaningful component of a person’s identity, and it defines the ways in which an individual experiences and understands

the world around him or her. It is all-pervasive.” The point of interest in this phraseology would be the word “defines.” To suggest that autism defines someone to the degree that they ought not to be considered as having a “person” separate from their disorder is a significant assertion. More research would be beneficial in this area to better understand the experiences, perceptions, and attitudes behind the assertion.

Another paradigm being challenged by the Autistics movement is that we ought to promote the social outcome of a client or patient shaping their behavior to present outwardly more similar to their peers; colloquially we would call this being able to blend in. According to one survey commissioned by the Office of Developmental Primary Care at the University of California San Francisco, “participants thought that therapies designed to make them appear superficially non-autistic did more harm than good.” Parsing out some of this language is needed to get at the crux of what is being targeted. ABA therapies are generally not designed to make someone appear “non-autistic,” rather they teach functional interpersonal interaction skills, which generally come with a range of acceptable physical presentations that are defined by societal standards. There is often a deeper value in teaching a social skill with a more common topography when considering the goal or the intended function of the skill. An individual (with or without autism) that is experiencing acute distress or deep sadness will be more successful in alleviating those aversive sensations if they are able to communicate to the people in their environment that they are suffering. Communication, as we all know, involves more than just vocal utterances. Teaching an individual to communicate with the full gamut of vocal, gestural, and facial expressions will increase their success in attenuating those aversive sensations and thus increase their chance at being a healthy organism. Teaching social cues and body language may well indeed be superficial in that it focuses on the body’s outward appearance, but more to the point it is undeniably functional and meaningful.

Whether these opinions represent the sentiment of the entire autistic population or a vocal fringe of the community, we owe it to ourselves to fight the urge to dismiss them at face value, rather we can reflect. As evidenced by the examples in this article there seem to be, at the very least, opportunities to educate and to ensure that we are being effective ambassadors. When ABA is done right, when we really, painstakingly honor tenets like “applied” and “effective,” we are capable of changing lives in ways that everyone can support. Be sure to tune in for Part II, where we will evaluate more policy and practice suggestions regarding compliance training, physical prompting, and restraint.

# CoFABA 2019 – A Sell Out Success!

By Kim Lucker-Greene, PhD

We welcomed 230 guests and six spectacular presenters to the UCF Alumni Center on March 29th, 2019 for this year's annual conference hosted by the local chapters of FABA. It was another sold-out event that also boasted double the attendance at both networking socials held before and after the conference presentations.



Kim Lucker-Greene

The theme of this year's conference was, "From Theory to Practice Across the Lifespan". Top rated presenters took us from behavior analytic theoretical perspectives to the applied practice of behavior analysis across our lifespan, from early intervention to geriatrics.

Presentations included Eb Blakely's opening talk on pathways to and from behavior analysis. This was followed by a presentation on compliance as a behavioral cusp for young children, by David Wilder. A very spirited talk was offered by Tiki Fiol who examined the complexities and ethical situations faced by practitioners working with school aged individuals.

Attendees were truly transfixed during the afternoon presentations as Sorah Stein kicked it off with a behavior analytic approach to puberty and sexuality, followed by Sarah Fernandez's informative presentation on navigating the world of adult services for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Maranda Trahan finished with an inspiring and inviting exposition on the growing need for ABA services in dementia care, giving some stunning statistics that were truly eye opening for the audience members.

Luncheon roundtables were held on the topics presented as well as on Supervision and State Medicaid. These were a huge hit with the conference attendees as they were able to engage in face-to-face discussions with the presenters in a more comfortable setting. An even bigger hit were the two social events that were hosted by the CoFABA leaders and hospitality sponsors. The Thursday evening welcoming social and Friday afternoon post-conference networking event were enjoyed by many of FABA members this year. Many people expressed their pleasure with being given an opportunity to get to know some of the presenters through these more informal, relaxed events. New this year was a raffle in which books recommended and signed by each of the presenters were given away at each of the social events. This activity brought some additional fun and excitement for sure!

The CoFABA leadership would like to extend a sincere "Thank You" to all of our fabulous presenters and planning committee for putting on such a spectacular conference! We hope that you will join us for some great fun and learning next year. Remember to register early because this conference sells out fast. The date has not been set, so please visit [www.fabaworld.org](http://www.fabaworld.org) for updates!



# FABA Legislative & Governmental Affairs Update – End of Session 2019

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policy with other intervention policies. The Agency has heard FABA's concerns on the combined policy issue and the provider qualifications criteria and has just recently proposed that the behavior analysis policy continue to be a standalone policy and that the qualifications for lead analysts be strengthened significantly.

There still is much work to be done when the detail of the behavior analysis policy is released, and as soon as the

pilots for the EVV and MDT initiatives get underway. We will also be monitoring the progress of the partial lifting of the provider enrollment in South Florida. Thank you for making calls, sending e-mails, and making personal visits with your legislators. Your continued involvement in the advocacy effort is essential to making sure that quality behavior analysis services are readily available throughout Florida.

## FABA 2019: Get Ready for a Great Conference

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Some of those who fought the good fight have left us and FABA 2019 is a time for remembrance. Maxin Reiss will be honored at this year's conference. A founder of Behavior Management Consultants, she left an indelible impact on many FABA members whom she befriended and mentored. Murray Sidman, a giant in our field, also passed on. His contributions, like Maxin's, are difficult to capture in words but FABA has reached out to those who will pay tribute to Maxin's and Murray's substantial contributions to the people and the field to whom they dedicated much of their lives.

In Ponte Vedra Beach, let's take stock of how far we have come. We are a year away from celebrating 40 years as an organization, with a growing membership, an increased view of our significance from people outside of behavior analysis, and an agenda to do nothing less than use applied behavior analysis to save the world. Take time to reminisce

with old friends, make new ones and enjoy our moments together. Attend FABA 2019 differently this year: challenge yourself to attend something outside your comfort zone, look for ways to get involved in advocacy, volunteer for even one hour, and use ABA to help promote social justice.

After years of service to FABA, I hope to enjoy the Conference as much as I have the last 21. I hope the Annual Conference inspires us to continue learning more. I hope to see friends and share our stories and laughs. I hope the talks we attend reaffirm our commitments to a science of behavior. I hope to continue seeing FABA's membership grow. I hope FABA 2019 motivates our research and practices. I hope we take a moment to observe and appreciate small important changes we have fostered that are steps toward meaningful outcomes.

I hope.

## Making Conference Attendance Count Toward Experience Hours

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One last suggestion... enjoy the conferences! All ABA conferences offer opportunities for entertainment and social interaction. Students should take advantage of learning not only about new best practices in the field, but also take in the culture of perhaps a newly-visited city. Most conference attendees leave with renewed motivation to continue to enhance their skills for the benefit of those whom they serve. Finally, ABA technologies and [www.behaviorguy.com](http://www.behaviorguy.com) recently published a piece on "15 Ways to Make the Most of your Conference Experience" (2019). Students and supervisors

alike should benefit from following the recommendations within. The article can be found here: <https://abatechnologies.com/news-resources/infographics/15-ways-to-make-the-most-of-your-conference-experience/>.

### Reference

Behavior Analyst Certification Board (April, 2019). BCBA/BCaBA experience standards: Monthly system. Retrieved from: [https://www.bacb.com/wp-content/uploads/BACB\\_Experience-Standards\\_190402.pdf](https://www.bacb.com/wp-content/uploads/BACB_Experience-Standards_190402.pdf)

# CABA (Capitol Association for Behavior Analysis) Update

By Christi Cherpak and Anne Perlman

The Capitol Association for Behavior Analysis is the local chapter serving the Tallahassee area. In previous years, this chapter has been a student run organization with all of the officer's being current students in the FSU Master's in ABA graduate program. With the executive board now being led by local BCBA's, we have recently met to establish our goals for the upcoming year. The CABA leadership change was official as of May 2019. We would like to introduce ourselves and our goals for our upcoming year. This year we have co-presidents with Anne Perlman and Christi Cherpak. Kaitlyn Simmons is our treasurer and Elaina Chason is our student liaison and social media coordinator.



Christi Cherpak



Anne Perlman

We have three main goals for the upcoming year. Our first goal is to create opportunities for our graduate students to interact with local BCBA's in an effort to further their professional development. We want to supplement their knowledge of ABA, not just with the valuable lessons they learn in the classroom but also to learn about how ABA is being implemented in a variety of settings. In addition, we will reach out to current undergraduate students to introduce them to the field of ABA.

Next, we want to increase CABA's involvement in the community. We want to raise awareness of Applied Behavior Analysis and introduce families to the local providers in order to assist them securing services for their children and family members. Since we are located in Tallahassee we feel it is important to be present at events that impact ABA statewide.

Finally, there are several ABA provider groups in Tallahassee, as well as independent BCBA's; we want to grow our membership. As previously stated, in recent years CABA has been largely a student run group since a majority of its members are students; in addition to student members we want to increase current BCBA membership to better support and represent these professionals. In order to increase membership, we are planning to offer more professional development opportunities for local BCBA's and opportunities to network.

Ms. Perlman is a BCBA with a Master's Degree from Florida State University in Child Development and Family Relations. She began working in the field of Behavior Analysis in 1993. Her career started as a behavior specialist at a center-based school, serving students who were diagnosed with severe emotional and behavioral disabilities. In 2000, Ms. Perlman began working full time at Behavior Management Consultants with Dr. Maxin Reiss. Currently, Ms. Perlman serves as the Director of Clinical Services while

also working directly with children, families and school consultation. Ms. Perlman is the mother of two grown children. When not working, she enjoys cheering on the FSU Seminoles, paddle-boarding with her husband and travelling.

Christi Cherpak, a Tallahassee native, lives in Tallahassee with her husband, step-daughter, and cat. Already a psychology major, her interest in the field began with connections through her younger sister who is diagnosed with Down Syndrome. She has been in the field for fifteen years and a BCBA since 2008. Her experience during that time has ranged across children and adults in various settings. Mrs. Cherpak is currently serving a center school as well working in a variety homes and community settings. She also teaches a special needs dance class at the studio where she grew up dancing. She is excited to help CABA grow and support our goals for 2019.

Kaitlyn Simmons is serving as the incoming CABA treasurer. She lived in Jacksonville with her family until she started school at FSU in Fall of 2012. During her years as an undergrad she met Dr. Jon Bailey who spoke at her introductory psychology class about ABA. After researching ABA, she took her first ABA class with Dr. Dawn Bailey and was hooked. Not able to get enough of ABA; she volunteered with BMC and eventually was hired on as a registered behavior technician. From there she went through the FSU Master's program and became a BCBA in August of 2018.

Elaina Chason is a Tallahassee local and a 2nd year student in the ABA Master's program at Florida State University and has come to the team with wonderful ideas to help CABA utilize new technology. Fresh into the field, Elaina is excited to continue to grow and learn as a future behavior analyst.

**Come and see the  
FABA Page on Facebook, or  
Better Yet . . .**

**Come and  
'Like' Us!**



# Two SC Women Get Prison for Their Roles in \$13 Million Federal Autism Health Fraud

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Tuesday's relatively light sentences were given because both Keith and Eldridge have agreed to testify against Butler and because both women were active in their community and churches in numerous constructive ways, according to evidence in the case.

Eldridge, represented by attorney Joe Griffith, has already forfeited some \$2 million by selling property and – although she made more money from the scheme than Keith – was considered to have played a lesser role in the fraud, Pearson said.

Keith, who was represented by attorney John Simmons, had a financial incentive to overbill the government because she “was able to make hundreds of thousands of dollars in bonuses from the company,” Pearson told the judge.

Judge Gossett also said she was moved by testimony by two mothers of autistic children, who told the judge that Eldridge had spent hundreds of hours working with their children, who had been deemed hopeless cases by doctors, and worked wonders with the children.

After Eldridge leaves prison, part of her sentence will be to continue working with those children, Gossett said.

In August, 2018, Early Autism Project paid the federal government \$8.8 million to resolve civil fraud allegations in the case. The fraud lasted from about 2009 until 2016.

In 2013, Early Autism Project was acquired by ChanceLight, a national health care provider that operates in more than 20 states. ChanceLight agreed to participate in a compliance program as part of the \$8.8 million settlement. No ChanceLight officials face criminal charges in South Carolina.

During the hearing, both women apologized for their actions. Pleading guilty to a misdemeanor allows them get their health care licenses back more easily than if they had been convicted of a more serious felony charge.

Late Tuesday ChanceLight released a statement saying the Early Autism Project's billing practices were in place before ChanceLight acquired the company in 2013: “Immediately after learning of the investigation, we hired outside experts who helped evaluate and enhance billing practices,” a spokesman said. Numerous other checks have been established, the spokesman added.

# FABA'19



## 39th Annual Meeting September 19-21, 2019



### *Sawgrass Marriott Resort, Ponte Vedra*

# Travel Tips for the 2019 FABA Conference

By Leigh Stehlik, Business Manager

If you are planning to attend 39th Annual FABA Conference here are some details to help you plan your trip...



Leigh Stehlik

## Transportation:

The Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa is located in Ponte Vedra Beach, midway between St. Augustine and Jacksonville Florida. The Jacksonville International Airport is the closest airport to the hotel. The resort is located 45 minutes from Jacksonville International Airport.

**Estimated Taxi Fare:** \$75 (one way)

**Estimated Uber Fare:** UberX: \$26-35 UberXL: \$38-50

## East Coast Transportation:

- Reservation required
- Hourly Shuttle: between \$45-\$50 per initial reservation, and \$24.00 per additional guest within that reservation booking.
- The Hourly shuttle leaves on the hour, every hour from the airport 10:00am – 7:00pm.
- The shuttle departs the resort on the hour from 5:00am – 5:00pm
- [www.ectjax.com/marriott\\_reservations/](http://www.ectjax.com/marriott_reservations/)

## Super Shuttle booth right at the airport:

- <http://www.supershuttle.com/Locations/JacksonvilleJAX>
- Reservations: Book online or call (800) BLUE VAN (258-3826)
- 9850 Interstate Center Dr., Jacksonville, FL 32218
- [jaxsales@supershuttle.com](mailto:jaxsales@supershuttle.com) Office: (904) 765-9999

## Parking:

Self-Parking is free for resort guests. FABA attendees may select to apply the cost of self-parking towards valet and receive \$10 credit. For those not staying at the resort, parking is still free, however, you will need to stop by the help desk to pick up a pass to leave at the end of the day.

Please note that there are approximately 850 parking spots at the venue, and we are expecting 1,400 people to attend the event. That being said, please carpool whenever possible and expect delays on Thursday from 8:00 am – 9:30 am.

## When to Arrive and Leave:

The conference officially begins on Thursday, September 19, 2019 at 8 am, and ends on Saturday, September 21st. Pre-Conference workshops are held on Wednesday, and

require an additional ticket purchase. Attendees who are not going to workshops will want to arrive by Wednesday evening in order to attend the BACB Update with Jim Carr at 6:00pm. After this event, there is a Welcome Reception in the Hotel Lobby Bar.

If you would like to take advantage of the full FABA conference, departure travel should be planned for Saturday, July 17th. After 12:00. However, many people choose to leave on Friday Night after the Inside Behavior Analysis event. If you choose to stay for Saturday, you may attend the popular Ignites @ Nite! event at 8:00, directly followed by Karaoke and Dancing.

## What to Wear:

In September, the temperature is an average high of around 86 degrees, with an average low around 73 degrees. Meeting room temperatures tend to be cold. Please bring a light sweater or jacket to all meetings.

## Lunch and Dinner Options:

### At the Marriott:

- Vernon's (*Lower Lobby*)
- Alice & Pete's Pub (*Lower Lobby*)
- American Gator Club (*near the Pools*)
- Starbucks (*Upper Lobby*)
- Sharkeys (*at the Cabana Beach Club*)
- Cash Cart sales during lunch

### Sawgrass Village:

(Walking Distance from the Resort)

- Caffè Andiamo (*Italian*)
- Aqua Grille (*eclectic cuisine*)
- Nona Blue (*Modern Tavern*)
- Trasca & Co. Eatery (*Italian*)
- Metro Diner (*All American Diner*)
- Mulligan Pub (*Irish*)

## Conference Program & Packet Pickup:

The full agenda will be released in the weeks leading up to the conference, but details are subject to change up to and during the conference. All sessions on Thursday, Friday and Saturday are open to all conference ticketholders. Workshops require an additional ticket to attend.

Name badges will be issued to all registered attendees, regardless of registration type, and must be worn at all times to gain entrance to sessions, events, the Exhibit Hall and all other areas of the Convention. Your badge will not be mailed. You will receive your badge along with additional conference material at the conference packet pickup desk when you arrive.

*Save the Date*

**FABA'19**

**39th Annual Meeting**  
*September 19-21, 2019*



*Sawgrass Marriott Resort, Ponte Vedra*

***We'll See You There!***



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## FABA Observer Policy

### Submission of Copy

Readers are invited to submit articles and information of general interest to FABA members. Preference is given to submissions that are e-mailed to the address below. Other submissions should be typed, double-spaced and not exceed two pages. The Editor reserves the right to edit copy to conform with newsletter style and with space limitations. Please submit to Mary Burch at the email address given below.

### Executive Committee

<i>Exec. Director</i>	<b>Amy Polick</b>	polick@psy.fsu.edu
<i>President</i>	<b>Andrew J. Houvouras</b>	2018-2019
<i>President-Elect</i>	<b>Yulema Cruz</b>	2019-2020
<i>Past-President</i>	<b>Nikki Dickens</b>	2018-2019
<i>Secretary</i>	<b>Evette Berardi-Cox</b>	2019-2021
<i>Treasurer/Media Coordinator</i>	<b>Jon Bailey</b>	
<i>Members-at-Large</i>		
	<b>Megan Miller</b>	2016-2019
	<b>Matt Potak</b>	2016-2019
	<b>Tiki Fiol</b>	2017-2020
	<b>Kerri Peters</b>	2017-2020
	<b>William Carlucci</b>	2019-2022
	<b>Kristin Myers-Kemp</b>	2019-2022

### Committee Chairs

<i>2019 Program Committee Chair</i>	<b>Nikki Dickens</b>	nikkidickens@fabaworld.org
<i>Program Committee</i>	<b>Jon Bailey, Al Murphy, Leigh Stehlik, Deb Hanratty, Matt Potak, Yulema Cruz</b>	
<i>Observer Editor</i>		
<i>FABA Local Chapters</i>	<b>Matt Potak</b>	
<i>Legislative Committee:</i>	<b>Mary Riordan, Yulema Cruz, Megan Miller, Matt Potak,</b>	
<i>Business Manager</i>	<b>Leigh Stehlik</b>	leigh_stehlik@fabaworld.org

### Observer Editorial Board

<i>Editor</i>	<b>Mary Burch</b>
<i>Managing Editor</i>	<b>Jon Bailey</b>

## Past Presidents

<b>Nikki Dickens</b>	2017-18
<b>Corey Robertson</b>	2016-17
<b>Sharon Older</b>	2015-16
<b>Amy Polick</b>	2014-15
<b>Dawn Bailey</b>	2013-14

The full list of the FABA presidents from 1980 to the present will be added to [www.fabaworld.org](http://www.fabaworld.org).

## A FABA Advocacy Tool

*Come See Us at the  
FABA Action Center!*

[www.FABAWorld.org/action-center](http://www.FABAWorld.org/action-center)

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FloridaAssociationforBehaviorAnalysis/](https://www.facebook.com/FloridaAssociationforBehaviorAnalysis/)

### Newsletter Submissions

The FABA Observer is published 3 times per year. Articles and accompanying high resolution photos should be sent to Editor Mary Burch: dogs@nettally.com

### Submission/Publication Dates

Rates for camera-ready 1/4 page ad (3.5 " wide x 4.75 " tall) is \$50 per issue; 1/2 page ad (7 " wide x 4.75 " tall) is \$100 per issue. Contact the FABA Business Manager for 3-issue special rates. We reserve the right to refuse any advertising.

Submit ad materials to:

**Leigh Stehlik, FABA BUSINESS MANAGER**  
leigh\_stehlik@fabaworld.org