

5th Annual ONTABA Conference

The 5th Annual ONTABA Conference held at Metro Hall, Toronto, on November 14th and 15th was a landmark event. There were excellent presenters, important issues brought to the forefront and invaluable feedback and input provided on our Associations' next step toward Standards of Practice for Behaviour Analysis in Ontario.

THEME:
Ethics in
Behaviour
Analysis and
Therapy

Dr. Jonathan Towle provided a very interesting perspective to the audience in his talk "A Parent's View of Different Treatment Methods". Dr. Towle discussed his family's international journey through time and treatments to find a match that he describes as both beneficial to his child and empirically based to satisfy his scientific approach. He strongly advocated for us to continue to contribute to our field of study.

The Keynote address was given by Dr. Linda Hayes, Director of the Behavior Analysis Program at the University of Nevada, Reno. Dr. Hayes spoke to the Theme of the conference in her address, "Ethics from a Behavior Analytic Perspective".



Dr. Linda Hayes delivering the Keynote Address .

A panel discussion was held at the end of the conference to address issues brought forward during the conference and to address current ethical issues in therapy facing behaviour analysts in the audience.

Dr. Larry Williams, University of Nevada, Reno, presented a paper "The Way We Were: Evaluation of a Community Behavioral Service for People with Developmental Disabilities." This was a long term study of "treatment effects" on Behaviour therapists work and the resulting long-lasting behaviour change in clients using progressively more positive methods of treatment for maladaptive behaviour.

The Standards of Practice Task Force represented by Dr. Bill Kirby, St. Lawrence College and Dr. Maurice Feldman, Ongwanada and Queens University, reviewed

the task force's first draft of Standards of Practice for Behaviour Analysis in Ontario. Special thanks to the Task Force and input for a second draft was provided by participants.

A very popular talk was provided by John Heng, Surrey Place Centre and Dr. Bill Sullivan, Toronto Hospitals, entitled "Ethics in Service Delivery". They discussed the issues of Integrity, Courage and Justice as related to scenarios that the participants could relate to.

Thankyou to all organizers and participants for contributing to yet another successful ONTABA Conference

Posters from members across the province were appreciated along with the wine and cheese soiree Thursday night.

Annual reports (inserts), Board Member Bio's and pictures from the Conference are in this edition for your information and enjoyment.

-Carol Drummond

-The Board of ONTABA

the ONTABA ANALYST

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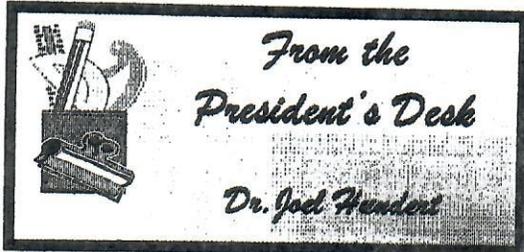
The Ontario Association for Behaviour Analysis

An Affiliate Chapter of The Association for Behavior Analysis International

Editor
Carol Drummond

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*From the
President's Desk*

Dr. Joel Hundert

Objectives for ONTABA in 1998

It is a time of change in how health, educational and social services are to be delivered in Ontario. With fiscal cutbacks and the examination of individualized models of funding supports, there is likely to be fewer special services available and a shift to less expensive, less qualified and in many instances, less effective individuals providing those services. This trend can be seen in the child care, educational, developmental, and rehabilitative sectors.

As an organization promoting behaviour analysis in Ontario, ONTABA is positioned to deal with both the threats and opportunities that emerge from these changes to our service delivery systems. The public needs to be informed of and protected from unqualified individuals providing "behavioural" treatment. The work that ONTABA has already done on the Standards of Professional Practice moves us closer to certification of behaviour analysts.

Only a small proportion of behavioural practitioners in the province are members of ONTABA. We need to make the organization more relevant to these individuals and be more active in our recruitment efforts.

Could ONTABA play a role in promoting behavioural training for front-line staff? Perhaps we can provide names of behaviour analysts who can provide this training to interested organizations.

We also need to inform and lobby government about the behaviour needs of vulnerable populations and the a disability to have provisions to protect those individuals while examining their right to effective treatment.

As a small organization, we need to be lofty in our mission, but realistic of what we can accomplish each year. **For 1998, under the leadership of our able board, I would propose that ONTABA aim at accomplishing the following objectives:**

- Continue the work on **Standards of Professional Practice** to be ratified at the Annual General Meeting. Present a motion on a plan of how to introduce certification of behaviour analysts in Ontario.
- Produce a **brochure** informing the public and service organizations about behavioural approaches, how to determine if a practitioner is qualified in applied behaviour analysis and how front line staff can be trained.
- We shall develop and implement a **membership recruitment strategy** that results in a 10% increase in general members and a 15% increase in student members.
- We shall **correspond** with the Ministries of Health, Educational and Community and Social Services informing them of our issues and suggesting an opportunity to present a brief.

I welcome your feedback on these ideas.

ONTABA ATTENDS UNVEILING OF INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT AGREEMENTS FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES - Dr. Joel Hundert

ONTABA has been recognized as a provincial organization by the Ministry of Community and Social Services and was invited to attend an unveiling of COMSOC's policy directions for Individual Support Agreements, along with a number of other provincial organizations (e.g., Ontario Association for Community Living, L'Arche, etc.). Although we were given very short notice, both myself and Nicole Walton-Allen, as board members, attended.

The day consisted of a number of presentations from Ministry personnel on the rationale and procedures of individual support agreements. These agreements will be phased in over the next few years and will be applied to the service planning for both adults and children with developmental disabilities. The idea is for service providers to come together to form one individual support agreement where the units and cost of service to an individual are identified. The individual client and/or representatives will be instrumental in directing this plan.

Under a section entitled Specialized Community Supports, an individuals needs for behaviour interventions can be identified. Here, an individual with behaviour needs would have the amount of service identified (number of hours) as well as the cost. In most instances, no dollars would flow to the agency. This is simply an exercise to articulate the amount of service provided.

It seems that government is moving towards individualized funding with the next step being how to look at different levels of funding for individuals and then moving to the flow of funds around the individuals.

The recognition of ONTABA as a body to have input into government direction is significant. This is, in large part, due to lobbying by **Maurice Feldman**. Moreover, ONTABA was invited to have continued input into COMSOC development of standards of practice for behaviour therapists.

ONTABA

President:

Dr. Joel Hundert
1997 - 1999

Past Presidents:

Dr. Maurice Feldman
1994 - 1997

Dr. Wanda Smith
1993 - 1995

**Founder and
Member Emeritus**

Dr. Larry Williams

**Members of the
Board :**

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Dr. Joel Hundert

President -Elect:

Dr. Bill Kirby

Treasurer:

Brad Littleproud

Secretary:

Caroline Benkovic

Student

Representative:

Rosemary Condillac

Members at Large:

Dr. Ken Hrachuk

Dr. Jane Summers

Nicole Walton - Allen

Introduction to the Board Members of ONTABA

Please see back page to contact any of these Board Members

President: Dr. Joel Hundert

Joel received his Ph.D in child clinical psychology at the University of Western Ontario. He is the clinical leader (director) of Behaviour Therapy Consultation Service, Hamilton Health Sciences Corporation (formerly Chedoke- McMaster Hospitals) and an associate professor of psychiatry, McMaster University. He has published extensively including a number of papers in the Journal of Applied Behaviour Analysis and a book entitled "Enhancing Social Competence in Young Students".

President -Elect: Dr. Bill Kirby

Bill is a professor in and coordinator of the Behavioural Science Technology diploma program at St. Lawrence College, Kingston, Ontario. Teaching in this program for over twenty years, Bill has and continues to be involved in the only college program in Ontario that is specifically designed to train students in the theory and application of behavioural psychology. Currently Bill with Jim Reaume is co-chair of the ONTABA Task Force on the Standards of Professional Practice as well as assisting in moving and updating the ONTABA homepage.

Treasurer: Brad Littleproud

Brad received his B.Sc. in psychology from the University of Toronto. He has been working in the field of Developmental Disabilities for ten years, the last seven being at Surrey Place Centre as a Behaviour Therapist. Brad has been an active member of ONTABA since its inception.

Secretary: Caroline Benkovic

Caroline graduated from the St. Lawrence College, B.S.T. program and is currently attending McMaster University. She works as a Behaviour Technician with the Behaviour Therapy Consultation Service at the Chedoke Campus of the Hamilton Health Sciences Corporation. She encourages ONTABA membership as it has been an excellent resource for her.

Student Representative: Rosemary Condillac

Rosemary is a second year Ph.D student in the School and Clinical Psychology Program at The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) at the University of Toronto. In addition to her studies, Rosemary is a behaviour consultant at York Behaviour Management Services, and a psychology intern at the TRE-ADD Program at Thisletown Regional Centre. Rosemary's clinical and research interests include: behavioural assessment and intervention for children and adults with autism and developmental disabilities; training in behavioural techniques for parents, teachers, and direct-care providers; and program evaluation.

Members at Large:

Dr. Ken Hranchuk Ph.D., C.Psych. -Ken is an independent practitioner who consults to seven different organizations in the Ottawa and Eastern Ontario region. He has been a sustaining member of ABA International for the past eleven years as well as a member of ONTABA since its beginning. Ken's interests are wide and varied in that he is actively involved as an applied behaviour analyst with populations ranging from autism to developmental disabilities and emotionally disturbed children and adults as well as organizational behaviour management. He has presented workshops on a variety of topics in behaviour analysis across Canada and has also presented numerous papers in Canada and the United States. On a personal level, Ken is dedicated to behaviour analysis and is very involved with assisting those in the field who operate in isolation and require feedback and support as well as those who are new to the field and would like to become behaviour analysts in both their personal and professional lives.

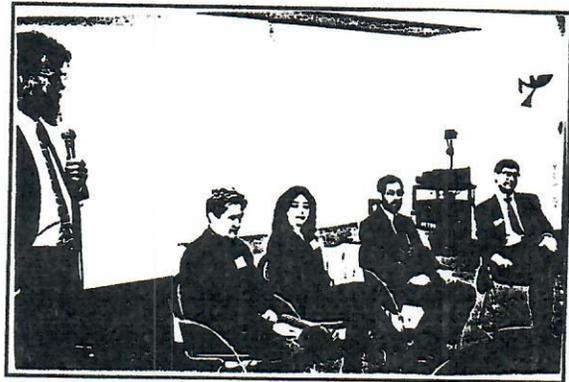
Dr. Jane Summers- Jane is a registered psychologist and the director of a mental health service for adults with developmental handicaps at the Hamilton Health Sciences Corporation. She received her Ph.D in school psychology from the University of Toronto in 1991. She previously held a faculty appointment in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the John Hopkins University School of Medicine and served as Director of Outpatient Services for the Department of Behavioural Psychology at the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore , Maryland. Her research interests include autism and pervasive developmental disorders and developmental disability syndromes.

Dr. Nicole Walton- Allen- Nicole is a psychologist in private practice consulting to agencies on behavioural supports for persons with developmental disabilities and training behaviour therapists. She has over 10 years of clinical experience at Surrey Place centre as Research and Clinical Coordinator of the Parent Education Program, consulting with families, group homes, day programs and agencies on supports for children and adults with developmental disabilities. She has run numerous parent training groups, developed parenting programs for adults with developmental disabilities and performed assessment of parenting capacity for the courts throughout Ontario.

Snaps from the ONTABA Conference 1997



Presenters: John Heng and Bill Sullivan



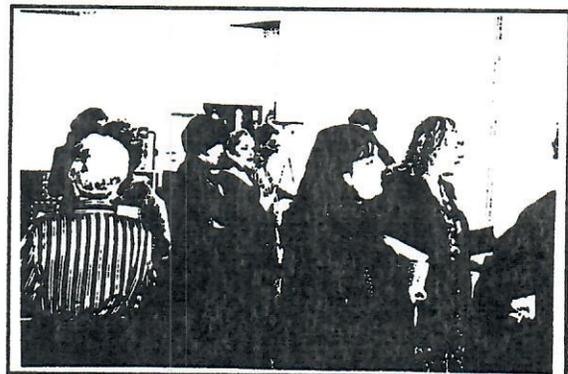
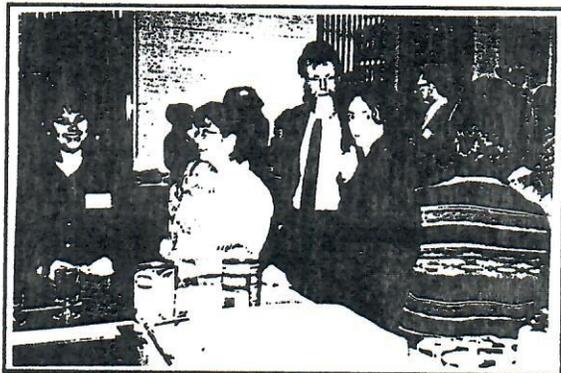
Panel Discussion : L-R: Bill Kirby, Larry Williams, Linda Hayes, Maurice Feldman and Jonothan Towle



Just a few laughs: Joel Hundert and Larry Williams



Poster Session : Maurice Feldman and Rosemary Condillac



Posters, wine, cheese, networking , learning, laughs,.....

Behaviour Analysis and Dual Diagnosis



Jane Summers

ONTABA Member - at - Large
Hamilton Health Sciences Corporation

Behaviour analysis is of growing importance to the field of Dual Diagnosis (developmental handicap and mental health problem). There is increasing recognition that psychiatric and emotional disorders are prevalent among individuals with a developmental handicap. Traditional approaches to the diagnosis and treatment of mental health problems in this population are often affected by factors such as severity of the individual's cognitive and communication impairments (which often preclude subjective reporting) and the non-specificity of their presenting problems (such as aggression or self- injury). The breadth and complexity of these issues often call for a multidisciplinary approach to assessment and treatment.

The behaviour analyst plays an important role on the multidisciplinary team, in terms of the following contributions:

- Providing a methodology and procedures for objectively observing and recording behaviour;
- helping to understand the motivational qualities or "functions" of behaviour
- evaluating and modifying environmental factors that influence behaviour

Behaviour analytic technology is particularly well-suited to "translating" indicators of psychiatric and emotional disturbance into precisely defined, observable events and in doing so helps guide the selection of treatment approaches. Once treatment is underway, a data-based monitoring system can provide objective information regarding the impact on the individual's behaviour.

By working as a member of the multidisciplinary mental health team, the behaviour analyst can contribute a knowledge and skills base that can be used to evaluate the quality of services and hopefully improve the clinical outcome of individuals with a dual diagnosis.

Exiting Board Members-

Past President: *Dr. Maurice Feldman*

Maurice has been an active member since the inception of ONTABA. He continues to contribute officially through the task force on Standards of Practice.

Past Secretary: *Caroll Drummond*

Caroll also has been involved actively since 1993. She continues to contribute through editing and publishing the ONTABA ANALYST.

ABA International
24th Annual Convention
May 21-25, 1998
Sheraton Walt Disney World Dolphin
Orlando, Florida

*Remember you get a discount on
Affiliate Membership with ABA as a Member
of ONTABA

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE FOR BEHAVIOUR ANALYSIS IN ONTARIO Update

The task force headed up by Jim Reaume, Lakeridge Community Services, Oshawa and Bill Kirby, BST Programme, St. Lawrence College, Kingston will be completing the second draft by March, 1998. The first draft was edited at the ONTABA conference in November, 1997. The next phase is to provide the draft to community, government and parties with a vested interest to provide input into the document. To contact the Task Force see the back page.

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Wanda Smith

Caroll Drummond
Joel Hundert
Jay Nixon
Rebecca Ward

ONTABA, the Ontario Association for Behaviour Analysis,
is an affiliate Chapter of the Association for Behavior Analysis International.

ONTABA currently has members from professions such as
education, nursing, health care, and psychology.

The objectives of ONTABA are to promote behaviour analysis in the province of Ontario,
to facilitate interactions between professionals engaged in behavioural activities,
to monitor and participate in legal and professional issues related to behaviour analysis,
and to initiate standardized practices and certification of Behaviour Analysts.

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