

1998 ONTABA EASTERN ONTARIO REGIONAL CONFERENCE

the ONTABA ANALYST

On Friday April 17, 1998, the first Eastern Regional ONTABA conference was held at Ongwanada Resource Centre, in Kingston. Over 110 members heard five presentations. Many attendees were St. Lawrence College Behavioural Science Technology students who became student members of ONTABA for the first time.

Our keynote speaker was **Dr. Vern Quinsey** from Queen's University who spoke about assessing dangerousness in persons with developmental disabilities. He first presented an actuarial model that identified predictors of long-term recidivism of offenders. He then reviewed what dynamic, ongoing factors supervisors should watch for individuals. Dynamic predictors of reoffending included such items as antisocial personality disorder, psychiatric symptoms, and oppositional behaviours. For new violent crimes the best dynamic predictor was antisociality, which included such behaviours as complaints about staff, no remorse for committed crimes, no responsibility taken for their behaviour or previous actions, and no empathy for others. Static predictors were best for forecasting the long term likelihood of problems whereas the dynamic predictors, if they changed for the worse, were the most likely to reflect when someone might reoffend.

Dr. Quinsey then reviewed some of his work is assessing risk in male sex offenders and reported as well on his work involving the ministries of Health, Community and Social Services and Corrections. His research has identified similarities in static risk factors across three groups: (a) offenders, (b) people with mental illness, and (c) people with developmental disabilities.

ities.

Those with a profile that included moderate static predictors and moderate to high dynamic predictors were not seen as good candidates for unsupervised community access. Those with a high static risk but a low dynamic risk (so they get along well in programs) were seen as likely to reoffend and therefore in need of long term supports. All in all, Dr. Quinsey's presentation showed how a scientific (as opposed to a clinical) approach can lead to very accurate predictions regarding reoffending and that the same high-risk profiles emerged across different populations.

If you would like reprints of Dr. Quinsey's recent publications, please contact him at: Dept. of Psychology, Queen's University, Kingston, ON K7L 3N6.

In the second presentation, **Gerry Bernicky and Amy McParland** of West Park Hospital in Toronto, using Stats Can and ONTABA membership data, presented an overview of current and future trends in employment opportunities in the field of applied behaviour analysis. There has been substantial growth in the number of behaviour analysts involved with acquired brain injury services and private consulting. Increased opportunities for behaviour analysts were predicted in developmental disabilities (particularly, autism/PDD) and geriatrics). Concerns were expressed about the potential loss of jobs in the elementary and high schools in the province given recent budget cuts.

The lack of post secondary programs that teach behaviour analysis in Ontario was seen as a limiting factor in the long term growth of our discipline. Our members work under a variety of titles - Behaviour Therapists
-cont. on pg.3

Ontaba

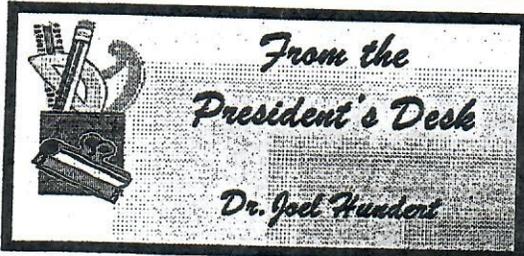
The Ontario Association for Behaviour Analysis

An Affiliate Chapter of The Association for Behavior Analysis International

Editor
Carol Drummond

Contents

1998 Eastern Regional ONTABA Conference	pg.1, 3	Bill Kirby & Maurice Feldman
From the President's Desk	pg. 2	Joel Hundert
Conference, Membership and ABA International	pg. 4	Amy McParland
CASE STUDY: Behaviour Momentum...	pg. 5	Nicole Walton-Allen
Inserts:- 3 - Standards draft, 1998 Membership, Call for		Papers for 1998 ONTABA Conference



ONTABA, under the leadership of Bill Kirby, Maurice Feldman and Jim Reaume, has developed a draft of standards for professional practice in behaviour analysis that will shortly be distributed for consultation. The development of professional standards is a significant undertaking and marks a milestone in the evolution of ONTABA. The development of standards and the possible later consideration of certification of Behaviour Analysts were two of the key issues that gelled people together in the formation of ONTABA, approximately five years ago.

It is important to put this development into a broader context. It is interesting that at the time of this writing, the Ministry of Community and Social Services has introduced the use of Individual Support Agreements in planning for services for children and adults with developmental disabilities. Service providers are being asked to determine what services they are prepared to deliver to an individual and its cost. All service providers involved with an individual bring their plans together under one agreement with the consumer of service. This is only one example of an individualized approach that is being examined. Others include wraparound planning for children and their families and person-centered planning. There is a clear shift to consumer driven services with controlled access points and service brokers in almost all service sectors.

In some instances, the cost of delivering the service is flowing with the consumer, rather than part of the base budget of an agency. Yet, with this shift in service delivery model, how

can the public be protected from poor services provided by unqualified individuals? In Ontario, the Regulated Health Professionals Act (RHPA) designates the responsibilities of health professionals and Colleges are established to regulate the practice of those professions (e.g., dentistry, psychology). Yet, no such standards are in place for other individuals providing applied behaviour analysis.

There are likely two scenarios possible in the later consideration of certification of behaviour analysts. The first, which does not seem feasible, is to pursue the recognition of behaviour analysis as a separate discipline within the RHPA. Given the lack of standard credentialing and education standards for Behaviour Analysts, pursuing registration via legislation is a very long shot. More likely is the scenario of having ONTABA develop its own certification process under the direction now being discussed by ABA International.

The certification process for behaviour analysts that has been run by the Florida state government is about to be divested. The Florida process has been used as the model for certification for Behaviour Analysts in other states. ABA International apparently has become involved in this discussion and may take more of a lead as to how the divestment process will unfold. As is the case with other professional groups (e.g., social workers, family and marital therapists), establishing our own certification could influence potential employers to insist that the Behaviour Analysts they hire are certified. Even this route is difficult, since we do not know the applicability of the certification process, once divested in Florida and the extent to which ABA International will direct it.

It seems that having standards is only half a measure unless it leads to a way to ensure that standards are adhered to and the public is protected. It may be important for members to express their views on this. It certainly will be a topic discussed over the next year or so.

ONTABA

President:

Dr. Joel Hundert
Nov. 15, 1997-1999

Past Presidents:

Dr. Maurice Feldman
1995-1997

Dr. Wanda Smith
1993-1995

Founder and Member Emeritus

Dr. Larry Williams

Board Members :

President:

Dr. Joel Hundert

President -Elect:

Bill Kirby

Treasurer:

Brad Littleproud

Secretary:

Caroline Benkovic

Student

Representative:

Rosemary Condillac

Members at Large:

Dr. Ken Hranchuk

Dr. Jane Summers

Dr. Nicole Walton - Allen

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

The revised draft standards included in your ANALYST Newsletter package has had input from: ONTABA Board Members, Members of ONTABA who attended the Annual ONTABA Conference in Toronto in November 1997 and from the attendees at the Eastern Regional ONTABA Conference in April 1998. Your feedback is encouraged.

E-mail to: Bill Kirby at BKIRBY@SLCSL.SLawrenceC.on.ca
or send to: Bill Kirby, St. Lawrence College, Portsmouth Ave., Kingston, Ontario, K7L 5A6

ONTABA Eastern Ontario Regional Conference 1998- *con't. from pg.1*

pist, Behaviour Analyst, Behavioural Consultant, Psychologist, to name but a few. Graduates from the Behavioural Science Technology program at St. Lawrence College in Kingston were noted as now filling many jobs formally taken by those with Masters degrees (usually in psychology or education). It is apparent that many front line workers acquire their behavioural training on-the-job, and a need for ongoing staff development was recognized.

Amy ended the presentation with a review of the history of our chapter, its goals and objectives and structure and committees (see article pg.4).

Three members of the ONTABA Standards Task Force - Bill Kirby, Jim Reaume, and Maurice Feldman - began the afternoon sessions with a review of the current draft standards of practice for behaviour analysts (see article elsewhere in this newsletter for more details about the standards). Each conference attendee received a copy of the draft standards and was invited to provide feedback. The speakers emphasized that this was an important endeavour in the establishment of behaviour analysis as a recognized and viable profession in the province. Updates were also provided about credentialing initiatives in the U.S. and the develop of standards for the treatment of challenging behaviour by the Developmental Services Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services (ONTABA has a representative on this task force).

The next presentation was given by Dr. Joel Hundert from Hamilton Health Sciences Corporation and McMaster University. He spoke about some of his recent work in training staff who work in the early childhood education field. His goal was to train existing staff in behavioural principles to act as guides for children with special needs. He noted that 13% of children age 4-6 have been identified as having one or more problems, yet less than 1% are estimated to have received help in the last six months. Of the 1,300 preschoolers with developmental disabilities, 75% are in integrated settings, including 50% of those with severe developmental disabilities. Preschool teacher surveys clearly indicated the importance of dealing with behaviour problems and teaching social and communication skills to children to promote school success. By offering ten, 3 hour training sessions, weekly assignments and follow-up consultation for a year, Dr. Hundert is exploring how staff can be trained as 'guides' and therefore more effectively work with behaviour consultants. In his concluding comments our current ONTABA President noted that considerable research has shown that in ideal situations behavioural interventions have very positive results; the challenge now is to begin to understand the key factors that contribute for success in situations that are far from the ideal (i.e., reality).

In the final session of the day Wendy Haddrall and Neil Muchmore of the Regional Community Brain Injury Services, based in Kingston, shared their experiences as behaviour analysts working in a multidisciplinary environment. While both the medical and rehabilitation models are not necessarily behavioural, the good news is that the contributions of behaviour analysis are being increasingly recognized. Conferences for people working in acquired brain injury usually have at least one presentation extolling the benefits of applied behaviour analysis; the professional literature also supports the behavioural approach. The insistence of applied behaviour analysts to collect data to objectively evaluate interventions has helped to convince those outside of our orientation that a behavioural approach can often be effective with people who have brain injuries.

The presentation then described typical problems that clients with acquired brain injury present. Brain damage and resulting cognitive disturbances can lead to problems with memory, attention, learning abilities, understanding and following instructions, problem solving, executive functioning; behaviour problems that are presented include: anger, learned helplessness, failure to complete activities, impulsivity, sleep disturbances, and social isolation. Wendy then went on to provide examples of several interventions that she has developed for some of these problems. An excellent handout added to the presentation which covered a wide range of practical information.

Overall the conference was a tremendous success. The talks were of high quality, attendance was high, and we recruited many new members. We would like to thank the co-sponsors, St. Lawrence College and Ongwanada for their support, and Brad Shoniker for his considerable response effort. Reinforced by this year's success, we have a high probability of offering a conference again next year.

- Bill Kirby and Maurice Feldman

Check out the ONTABA Web site at : <http://www.stlawrencec.on.ca/guests/ontaba/ontaba.htm>

Currently under construction!

ONTABA would like to thank St. Lawrence College for hosting our web site.

Conference, Membership, and ABA International

Amy McParland
West Park Hospital
Membership & Recruitment Committee

On April 17th, the **ONTABA Eastern Regional Conference** was held at the Ongwanada Resource Centre Auditorium in Kingston. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of the new and renewed members to **ONTABA** and encourage all to take part in the many opportunities that the Association has to offer to further Behaviour Analysis in Ontario.

During the conference several individuals expressed an interest in becoming ABA International members. As explained at the conference, an **ONTABA** membership entitles individuals to a reduced fee for an ABA International membership. This does, however, only pertain to the Chapter-Adjunct category within ABA, which does not include the journal, The Behaviour Analyst. Individuals will receive the ABA Newsletter and the mailings throughout the year. For those interested in joining ABA there are a several ways in which to do it. One way is to contact via e-mail at 76236.1312@compuserve.com and request a membership information package, another way is to go to a library or borrow a colleague's copy of the Journal of Applied Behaviour Analysis' (JABA), and in it will be membership information (at the back of the journal). ABA International provides global networking opportunities and their website is especially informative. It is located at www.wmich.edu/aba.

To complete the requirements for the reduced ABA membership fee, **ONTABA** members need to provide written documentation that they are members of the Association. A letter verifying membership was provided in the the most recent **ONTABA** membership packages. For any members requiring the letter please contact any member of the Membership and Recruitment Committee.

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
(see above for details)*

1998 ABA Convention Hotel Accomodations

- sent by mass e-mail from PSY_ABA@wmich.edu on April 30, 1998

Due to the overwhelming response to the Association for Behavior Analysis 1998 Annual Convention, a third overflow hotel has been arranged for conference attendees who still need to book rooms. If you have not made your hotel reservations, you can now call the Courtyard by Marriot in the Walt Disney World Resort at 1-800-223-9930. The room rates for single/ double are \$115.00 US per night and are subject to 11% room tax.

*******Be sure you identify yourself as a member of the ABA group.*******

SR+

CASE STUDY: The Use of Behaviour Momentum to Reduce Aggression in a 32 Year Old Female

Nicole Walton- Allen Ph.D., C.Psych.,
Behaviour Institute, Hamilton, Ontario
ONTABA Member - at - Large

Lisa (not her real name) has lived in a lodging home for 3 years with 15 other female residents. Prior to that, she lived with her family. Lisa was exhibiting severe outbursts of verbal aggression which would end with her screaming in her room for hours. In addition, she had physically threatened staff. The problems have reached a point where staff were contemplating removing her from the residence to admission to a psychiatric hospital for medication review. A program was developed with the behaviour therapist of the organization (YWCA, Hamilton), Donna Johnston, based on the behaviour momentum literature and the work on errorless compliance training, by Dr. Joe Ducharme.

Data was collected on the types of requests given to Lisa and whether or not she followed through. Based on this information, requests were divided into 4 levels based on the probability that Lisa would follow the request as shown below.

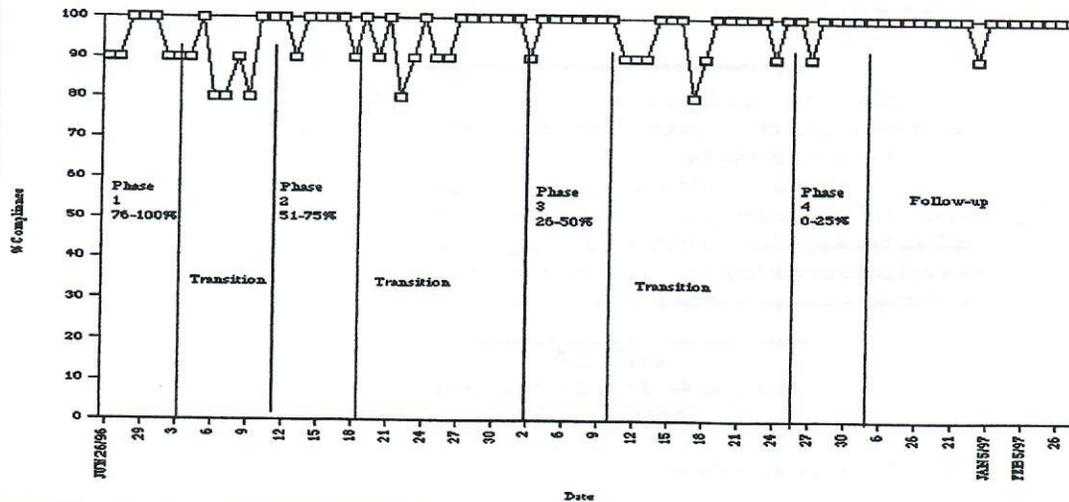
Level	Probability of follow- through	Example
1	76 - 100 %	"please draw a picture of", "please get a snack ready"
2	51 - 75 %	"take your meds", "help clean the table" ..
3	26 - 50 %	"get a shower", " please clean the bathroom"
4	0 - 25 %	" please go to work", "please make your bed"

Staff were trained to make 10 specific Level 1 requests of Lisa under optimal conditions (i.e. low noise level, uncrowded situations). When Lisa did follow through on the request she was given enthusiastic praise (e.g., Lisa, you came back when I asked you to....., you did it, that was fantastic). Staff were asked to keep track of their requests to Lisa and whether or not she followed through with requests within 10 seconds. After Lisa reached compliance levels of 80 % of requests for 7 consecutive days, then Level 2 requests were introduced by mixing them 50-50 with Level 1 requests. Results are shown in Figure 1.

It was very important that staff were consistent in their implementation of the program. This was achieved by having staff sign and initial a data sheet each each occasion they gave Lisa a request and also recorded her response to that request. As the level of difficulty increased for the instructions, Lisa's compliance to instructions were maintained at 80 %.

This program has been very successful with Lisa, and as a result her aggression has reduced to near zero and her placement is no longer in jeopardy. One of the limitations of this study was that no baseline of Lisa's compliance to instruction was undertaken because of the urgency of the situation.

PERCENTAGE OF FOLLOWING REQUESTS BY STAFF





Contact: ONTABA Board Members and Committee Chairs

President: Joel Hundert
ph. (905) 521-2100, ext.7397
fax (905) 383- 5744
e- mail : hundert@fhs.mcmaster.ca

President-Elect: Bill Kirby
ph. (613) 544-5532 ext.1127
fax (613) 545-3920
e-mail: BKIRBY@SLCSL.StLawrenceC.on.ca

Treasurer: Brad Littleproud
ph. (416) 925-5141
fax (416) 923-8476
e-mail : littlepr@widow.aracnet.net

Members at Large:
Ken Hbranchuk
ph. (613) 839-2263
fax (613) 839-2263
e- mail : srpos@wonder.ca

Jane Summers
ph. (905) 521-2100
fax (905) 383-5744
e- mail : JSUMMERS@IHIS.CMH.ON.CA

Nicole Walton- Allen
ph. (905) 570-0777
fax (905) 257-2416
e- mail : hundert@networx.on.ca

Secretary: Caroline Benkovic
ph. (905) 521-2100 ext. 7532
fax (905) 383-5744
e-mail : carolineb@networx.on.ca

Student Representative: Rosemary Condillac
ph. (905) 883-2270 ext.3166
fax (905) 883-2256
e-mail : rcondillac@oise.utoronto.ca

Membership and Recruitment:Gerald Bernicky
ph. (416) 724-7481
fax (416) 243-0832
e- mail :bernicky@interlog.com

Promotions: Jane Summers *

Newsletter: Caroll Drummond
ph. (416) 925- 5141 ext.259
fax (416) 923- 8476
e- mail :carolld@interlog.com

Conference: Henrietta Penny
ph. (905) 521-2100
fax (905) 383-5744

Task Force: Standards of Practice
Bill Kirby* and Jim Reaume
ph. (905) 436-0061
fax (905) 725-5059

Member Emeritus

Larry Williams

Sustaining Members

Deanna Armstrong
Caroll Drummond
Joel Hundert
Mary MacMillan
Wanda Smith

Fransisco Barrera
David Factor
Sherril Hunt
Jay Nixon
Rebecca Ward

Anne Cummings
Maurice Feldman
Bill Kirby
Nadia Oliviera
Nicole Walton- Allen

John Davis
Ken Hbranchuk
Sue Lantz
Ron Settingington

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.

ONTABA
P.O. Box 44, 354 1/2Yonge Street,
Toronto, Ontario

ONTABA will not be held responsible for the opinions of the contributors to the *ONTABA Analyst*