



ASSOCIATION FOR POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORT

# Newsletter

Volume 4, No. 2

2006

Association for  
Positive Behavior  
Support

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## APBS Board News

APBS congratulates newly elected Executive Board Members. Our new President is Dr. Glen Dunlap, from University of South Florida. Jennifer Zarcone, from University of Rochester Medical Center, is our new vice president and Rachel Freeman, from University of Kansas, was elected as secretary. Finally, Cynthia Anderson, from University of Oregon, was elected as treasurer.

In addition, we have two new additions to the APBS Board. We welcome Lucille Eber, from Illinois State Board of Education, and Don Kincaid, from University of South Florida, to the board. Returning to the Board is Jackie Anderson, from California State University at Hayward.

APBS seeks input from members in all areas of the organization. We have developed several committees, the purpose of which is to guide the direction of APBS. Currently there are nine committees:

- Membership Committee—developed to increase membership in APBS and to facilitate communication between and across members
- Finance Committee—focuses on managing fiscal matters of APBS

- Conference Planning Committee—coordinates the annual conference
- Website Committee—builds, manages, and evaluates the APBS website
- Cross-Organization Collaboration—facilitates input from and access to other organizations
- Competencies and Standards—defines best practice in PBS
- Publications—Edits APBS newsletter
- Current issues—defines issues of concern to APBS members, receives issues from members, coordinates APBS response to current issues
- Nominating Committee—Develops policies for nominating board members

Participation in a committee is a great way to guide the future of APBS and members of APBS are encouraged to serve on committees of interest to them. Information on each committee (including contact information) is available via the organization website ([www.apbs.org](http://www.apbs.org)).

## APBS Conference, 2006: A Resounding Success

**Cynthia M. Anderson**

The 3rd International Conference on Positive Behavior Support took place in Reno, Nevada, on March 23rd, 24th, and 25th. By all accounts, the conference was a resounding success. Over 1,100 people attended the conference this year and participated in the many presentations, panel discussions, posters, workshops, and meetings available.

### Overview of Conference

The applicability of positive behavior support to socially significant problems was evidenced by the multiple topics represented. Events were focused on the following areas: school issues, developmental disabilities, community supports, training, and multi-cultural PBS.

PBS in schools was a popular topic and included several sub-topics such as enhancing academics, school-wide PBS, classroom-based interventions, and intensive, individualized supports. Many schools and school districts gave data-based presentations illustrating their efforts in the area of PBS and their outcomes were impressive.

Multiple panels, workshops, presentations, and posters focused on issues related to developmental disabilities including mental retardation, autism, family supports, and early intervention. Practitioners, researchers, and family members shared evidence-based practices, longitudinal outcomes, and suggested areas in need of future research.

An exciting aspect of this year's conference was the emphasis on multi-cultural issues found in several presentations and posters. Participants from other countries (e.g., Turkey, Greece) shared their work in PBS, illustrating the international nature of our field. In addition, several presentations addressed how PBS might be implemented successfully with culturally diverse populations.

The applicability of PBS to mental health concerns was evident as well at this year's conference. Topics covered included enhancing children's mental health service delivery via PBS, traumatic brain injury, the role of establishing operations in "psychiatric disorders," emotional and behavioral disorders in children, family-centered interventions, and strategies for enhancing inter-agency collaboration.

Training was an important topic of the APBS conference in Reno. As highlighted in multiple presentations and posters, training is key for maintaining PBS with fidelity. Together we are identifying effective strategies for training others in PBS and for large-scale implementation.

This year's conference provided, as well, multiple opportunities for APBS members to provide input regarding the future of the organization. Membership input was sought regarding development of the APBS website (for information contact Rachel Freeman at [rfreeman@ku.edu](mailto:rfreeman@ku.edu)) and regarding general issues of importance to members of APBS (see summary by Jennifer Zarcone and Randall DePry in this newsletter).

### Keynote Address

The conference was kicked off by a keynote address from our outgoing president, Dr. Edward Carr. Dr. Carr spoke on "The Expanding Vision of Positive Behavior Support: Happiness, Helpfulness, and Hopefulness." Dr. Carr began by reviewing the great strides made by our organization thus far. In just a few short years:

- APBS was founded
- a journal was developed as an outlet for empirical work in positive behavior support
- a website was created to ensure that positive behavior support is accessible to all
- links to other organizations (e.g., the Association for Behavior Analysis) were created
- federal funding priorities and policy were impacted

Dr. Carr noted as well that there remains much to do and suggested three themes to guide us as we move forward: happiness, helpfulness, and hopefulness.

### ***Happiness***

Dr. Carr suggested that quality of life is the foremost dependent variable in positive behavior support—this is what we aim to enhance via our science. As a field PBS, focuses not on diagnostic classifications of “pathology” but instead on the many strengths of an individual and his or her community—on what can go right in a person’s life.

Further, it is not sufficient to simply suppress problem behavior; we must strive to use science to enhance the quality of life of those we work with. He noted that as a field, we must focus on multiple dimensions of quality of life including health, safety, material well-being, social happiness, emotional well-being, leisure, and autonomy. In developing interventions to enhance any of these facets of quality of life, we must evaluate possible impediments including problem behavior, social deficits, and dysfunctional systems—all through the lens of functional assessment.

### ***Helpfulness***

A second theme of PBS highlighted by Dr. Carr was helpfulness. One goal of PBS is to assist in the provision of supports needed for individuals to live complete and fulfilling lives. Of course, laboratory research (both basic and applied science) is the root of effective support but our field places emphasis on support strategies that possess both internal and external validity, that is, supports that likely will be effective and that will be implemented. Further, a goal of PBS is to ensure that supports are sustainable over time. Dr. Carr noted that sustainability will, in many cases, require systems-change—the way in which an organization functions must be altered so as to provide effective and sustainable supports to those within the organization.

### ***Hopefulness***

A final theme discussed by Dr. Carr was that of hopefulness. As an organization, we are committed

to extending PBS across populations (e.g., behavior disorders, mental health, juvenile delinquency, literacy, familial stress, dementia) and across venues (e.g., cross-cultural settings, underserved communities, medical settings). Dr. Carr suggested that investigations and discoveries from multiple areas of science might further the goals of positive behavior support. For example, important work in the area of behavioral neuroscience illustrates how environmental variables effect brain functioning. Similarly, researchers and practitioners in organizational management have strategies for implementing broad and sustainable change in organizations. Dr. Carr concluded his keynote by pointing out that although APBS currently is a small organization, we are aligned with a multitude of other organizations and disciplines all seeking a similar goal—enhancing the lives of others.

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## **Networking Ideas Shared in Reno!**

### **A Report from the Membership Committee**

#### **Randall L. DePry and Jennifer Zarcone**

The Association for Positive Behavior Support (APBS) Membership Session at the 3rd International Conference on Positive Behavior Support in Reno was both informative and fun. The membership session provided participants with an informal venue to talk about member care, member opportunities, and organizational networking. Participants represented several states actively involved in PBS. We plan to share a number of ideas that were offered during this session over the next couple of APBS Newsletter issues. The focus of this column is member networking.

### **Networking via APBS**

Session participants agreed that one of the many benefits of joining an organization like APBS is the

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(Networking Ideas Shared in Reno! . . . continued from page 3)

opportunity to network. Networking involves meeting new people, sharing and collecting new ideas and resources, and making future plans for connecting with new colleagues and peers. One goal of the Membership Committee is to develop systems to facilitate networking among APBS members.

Networking ideas that were generated from our meeting at the APBS conference included having an opening reception and orientation for conference attendees and planned social times each evening following conference sessions. Such events would allow those interested in meeting others an informal opportunity to mingle and share what they had learned during the day's events.

Additionally, participants suggested providing a voluntary list of contact information for conference attendees and speakers, as well as developing an annual APBS membership directory that can be added to our website (<http://www.APBS.org>).

Finally, an idea that generated considerable interest was creating a process for facilitating discussion outside of the conference among members within specific areas of interest (e.g., family and adult services, community-based programs and practices, school-wide PBS). It was noted that Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are a common practice in many professional organizations and session participants expressed an interest in exploring this idea further.

We look forward to receiving your ideas about networking. Please feel free to contact us directly and share your thoughts on this important topic. The ideas presented above will be presented to the board for review and action at a future date. We'll keep you posted. Contact information: Randall DePry ([rdepri@uccs.edu](mailto:rdepri@uccs.edu)) and Jennifer Zarcone ([Jennifer\\_zarcone@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:Jennifer_zarcone@urmc.rochester.edu)) Membership Committee Co-Chairs.

## Promote Membership in APBS

You can help the Association for Positive Behavior Support by handing out flyers about [apbs.org](http://apbs.org) and encouraging people to become members. There are many ways to share information with others about the Association for PBS:

- Share this issue of the journal and newsletter with a friend (enclose a membership form from our Web site).
- Add APBS membership forms to your hand-out packets for workshops and conference presentations.
- In your presentations, add a slide promoting APBS; it is the only organization dedicated to positive behavior support.

**[www.apbs.org](http://www.apbs.org)**

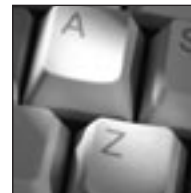
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### APBS Newsletter

Please consider contributing to the APBS Newsletter. The newsletter is a mechanism for sharing perspectives on PBS. Please consider submitting:



- Innovative Applications
- Member Perspectives
- Training Events & Workshops
- Resources and Materials
- Success Stories

If you would like to submit to the newsletter, please contact:

**Cindy Anderson**, (541) 346-2671  
or via email [canders@uoregon.edu](mailto:canders@uoregon.edu)