

## Petition to Establish an APBS Network

**I. State or Geographic Region for the Network:** Florida

**II. Five Petitioning APBS Members:**

| Name             | Member #   | Email Address | Phone Number |
|------------------|------------|---------------|--------------|
| Meme Hieneman    | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]    | [REDACTED]   |
| Jennifer Agganis | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]    | [REDACTED]   |
| Jolenea Ferro    | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]    | [REDACTED]   |
| Jayson Lobley    | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]    | [REDACTED]   |
| Selina O'Shannon | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]    | [REDACTED]   |

**III. Network Contact Person Name and Email (to be posted on apbs.org):**

Meme Hieneman, Ph.D., BCBA, [REDACTED]

**IV. Rationale for Establishing the Network:**

Florida has been a forerunner in the adoption of PBS practices and is perfectly poised to establish an APBS network. The University of South Florida (USF) was one of the six key collaborators on the Research and Training Center on PBS. Faculty members from USF (some of whom are listed on this petition) participated in the research, training, and dissemination activities that led to the national organization. Although the efforts of this early group have diversified, there remains a strong, interdisciplinary cadre devoted to application of PBS for individuals with behavioral challenges. In addition, Florida's PBS Project has created an extensive network within education; the directors have reviewed this proposal and committed their support to this newly-formed network.

The primary purpose for establishing an APBS Network in Florida is to provide a forum for individuals, agencies, and programs to communicate and further enhance practices, leading to increased adoption and integration of PBS principles. Through its activities, the Florida APBS network would be able to provide recognition, training, information, and collaboration. The focus of this network will be interagency and interdisciplinary in nature, seeking engagement of family support organizations, developmental services, mental health, advocacy programs, community-based service providers (e.g., behavior analysts, social workers, counselors, therapists), educators, and other relevant disciplines.

**V. Projected Goals and Activities of the Network**

Florida's PBS Network will seek to achieve this mission through a variety of activities.

1. Establish an interagency, interdisciplinary leadership team representing a wide-range of constituencies to guide efforts. This team will have online meetings at least every two months to clarify the goals of the network, build our membership, organize communication systems, and plan events.
2. Conduct annual surveys to determine level of awareness and implementation of PBS practices across agencies and programs supporting people with behavioral challenges across the state of Florida. Analyze feedback from the surveys to focus efforts of the network.
3. Develop mechanisms to promote collaboration and information sharing across members that may include an online forum, newsletter, and materials depository. Establish standards for the adoption and dissemination of information so that all materials shared represent the essential features of PBS.
4. Host events that include both informal networking and conferences. (One of our participating agencies has agreed to sponsor a conference in late 2013 or early 2014). Events will include presentations by researchers and other leaders in the PBS field, sessions by local experts, and networking and sharing opportunities.
5. Develop a resource guide for agencies in need of consultation and training to improve their capacity to adopt PBS practices. Create guidelines for assistance and training to ensure that implementers incorporate PBS features adequately. Work with universities and other institutions to enhance their preservice and inservice professional training programs.
6. Interface with national APBS organization to enhance visibility and engagement and share information derived from activities in Florida.

## **VI. How Will the Network be Evaluated?**

The Florida APBS network will be evaluated through measurable program outcomes including: (1) progress records associated with each network goal completed during the conference calls, (2) database tracking additional members, affiliations, and regions of Florida represented, (3) attendance and evaluation reports following each event, (4) listing of product developed by network, (5) results of annual survey with estimates of number of agencies or programs that have benefited from network assistance, and (6) funding resulting from collaborative activities.

**Please send all information to:  
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