



THE ASSOCIATION FOR POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORT

Enhancing the quality of life for people across the life-span.

Association for Positive Behavior Support (APBS)

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www.apbs.org

APBS Board Update

Hello APBS members. I am happy to be providing you with my first Board Update as the president of our Board of Directors. I have served on the APBS Board in many roles over the past seven years, and I look forward to this opportunity to continue making contributions to my professional organization “home.”

I am grateful to have taken on this role at such an exciting time for APBS. As you know, our new executive director has been hard at work learning about what we do and creating a vision for an even bigger and better APBS. Times of transition and change can be hard, but they are also opportunities for reflection and growth. In conjunction with Cheretta, our Board is committed to building on the foundation set by previous leaders. We promise to maintain our organization’s values while expanding our reach in the field and providing more benefits to our members. If you are as excited as I am about strengthening APBS, I encourage you to participate in one of our new events, get involved in one of our new committees, and share this information with your colleagues. I say with confidence, the future of APBS is bright!

Since I assumed the role of president, our Board has been very busy. In addition

to establishing committees and planning for the conference, we have also engaged in ongoing governance training with a nationally recognized consultant and non-profit board expert, Dr. Cathy Trower. In the evolution of an organization, it is natural for a board to move from a focus on operations in its early days to a focus on governance as it is more established. In fact, governance is the primary role of a Board of Directors. As your Board of Directors, we are responsible for making informed judgments that are in the best interest of APBS, including sound financial decisions and ensuring compliance with both federal laws and our own bylaws. These are not responsibilities I take lightly. The well-being and stability of APBS is in our hands, and we will continue working to uphold our duties to the organization.

I also want to include a reminder that our 2025 Annual Conference will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, March 12–15, at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch. As I shared in a prior email, this year’s conference theme is “Together Toward Tomorrow: Uniting PBS Across the Lifespan.” My hope is that we will bring together self-advocates, practitioners, and researchers in a shared goal of advocating for PBS across

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settings and across all life stages. Our dynamic mainstage speakers, Joe Sanfelippo and Lola Dada-Olley, believe in this message and will share their powerful stories with us. We will also be offering expanded opportunities for networking, hands-on learning, and collaboration. Register for the conference now, so you can be a part of this exciting event.

Please feel free to reach out at any time with questions, concerns, or celebrations!

Sarah Wilkinson
President

Call for Proposals Now Open!



What are your lessons learned? Best practices? New discoveries? Share your knowledge, and make an impact! We invite you to present a content-rich session at the APBS 2025 Annual Conference, individually or as part of a team. Submit your proposal today at <https://bit.ly/4d693bQ>.

This year, we will start a new tradition: The APBS president will choose a theme for the APBS Annual Conference. This provides an opportunity to ensure that our meetings reflect our

discipline's rich diversity of perspectives and subject matter. APBS President Sarah Wilkinson has chosen the theme "Together Towards Tomorrow: Uniting PBS across the Lifespan." Her conceptualization of the theme is below.



Together Towards Tomorrow: Uniting PBS across the Lifespan

The theme for the 2025 APBS conference is "Together Towards Tomorrow: Uniting PBS across the Lifespan." By choosing this topic, I hope that we can take stock of the contributions of self-advocates, practitioners, and researchers alike to deepen our understanding of positive behavior support and its impact on our lives. I hope to highlight links between current research and practice to celebrate our strengths and identify new areas for exploration. And I hope to outline directions towards a future where we are united in our shared goal of advocating for the use of positive behavior support across tiers, in many types of settings, and at all life stages.

A focus on systems, practices, data, outcomes, and equity is central to the success of PBS no matter where we work and with whom. Uniting PBS across the lifespan brings together our members' varied experiences and areas of expertise for a common purpose. This vision ensures our organization's continued dedication to implementing PBS in a range of school, home, community, and facility settings. It is woven into fundamental questions we all strive to answer in our work, including how we can best set folks up for success to meet behavioral expectations, how we can ensure the practices we implement are culturally and contextually relevant, and how we can effectively use data to engage in a cycle of continuous improvement.

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CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Topics:

- Supporting Child Development Through the Use of PBS in Early Childhood Settings
- Integrating PBS, Academics, and Mental Health Within a Multi-Tiered System of Support
- Ensuring Equitable Access to Educational Supports through PBS
- Increasing the Use of PBS Practices in Classroom Settings
- Supporting Parents by Advocating for PBS at Home
- Enhancing PBS Supports for Adults Living in Residential Facilities
- Alignment of Systems, Data, Practices, and Outcomes Across all Three Tiers of the PBS Framework



SUBMIT TODAY!

www.apbs.org

We welcome submissions for papers and panel proposals. Here is an illustrative sample of topics:

- Supporting Child Development Through the Use of PBS in Early Childhood Settings
- Integrating PBS, Academics, and Mental Health Within a Multi-Tiered System of Support
- Using PBS to Teach Functional Skills to Individuals with Significant Disabilities
- Ensuring Equitable Access to Educational Supports Through PBS
- Increasing the Use of PBS Practices in Classroom Settings
- Supporting Parents by Advocating for PBS at Home
- Enhancing PBS Supports for Adults Living in Residential Facilities
- Alignment of Systems, Data, Practices, and Outcomes Across all Three Tiers of the PBS Framework

I am excited about what we have to offer at this year’s conference. We have taken the opportunity to reimagine the conference, leveraging past attendees’ input to include more networking opportunities, collaboration, and new opportunities to celebrate you and your daily work. Continue to check apbs.org for the latest conference updates. I look forward to seeing you in St. Louis!

Sarah Wilkinson
President

APBS Recognizes

Editor’s Note: *The ability of APBS to promote positive behavior support is largely dependent on the voluntary efforts of its members. Therefore, we devote a feature column in the APBS Newsletter to recognizing our outstanding volunteer members. Based on recommendations from our operating committees, we acknowledge members who have made extraordinary voluntary contributions to APBS.*



Margaret Moore
Executive Director, Center for Human Engagement
Endorsed Behavior Professional
WV APBS Network Leadership Chair
Huntington, West Virginia

Dr. Margaret Moore is a longstanding member of the APBS Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Committee. Dr. Moore has participated in action planning to increase content related to IDD in the APBS conference and has led important committee work in this area. She is currently leading the writing of content for the IDD white paper on PBS related to trauma-informed supports and PBS, and is participating in work involving collaboration with self-advocate organizations in the field of autism.

Thank you, Margaret, for your outstanding volunteer service to the Association for Positive Behavior Support!



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CHERETTA A. CLERKLEY, MBA



WWW.APBS.ORG

New APBS Member Benefits Created Just for You!

Dear APBS members, partners, and friends,

When I last messaged you, I shared that we've been hard at work creating a reimagined APBS that serves you, invites you to learn in a smart, supportive community, and helps us all offer the best positive behavior supports we possibly can. Now, I'm including a sneak peek of our new offerings below! (I've also attached a great graphic that explains these new benefits, see page 5.)

We're introducing more educational content and resources—in new formats that work for you—in 2025. These include:

Microcredentials

These educational opportunities are convenient, affordable, short courses that empower you to learn and show off your new applied skills. For example, we're hoping to offer courses in topics such as classroom management; family and community partnerships; de-escalation; collaboration for professionals across roles; and justice and restorative practices.

When you complete an APBS microcredential, you'll also earn a digital badge. This clickable badge—which you can share on social media, in your email signature, and on your website—is a great way to share your accomplishments. Even better? When your colleagues, peers, and employers click on the image, they'll learn more about your microcredential, including the issuing institution, when you earned it, and what you focused on.

Our New All-Access Webinar Subscription

This subscription includes on-demand, online opportunities to earn continuing education units (CEUs). Each subscription is

valid for a full year, during which you can take as many CEUs as you want!

Bonus: through this subscription, you'll also get access to educational resources that help you learn at your own pace.

Members like you now have more ways to get involved and get recognized.

New Committee Membership Opportunities

Committee members work closely with the APBS team on a number of initiatives, from sharing your expertise on positive behavior support to creating resources for other members and advocates working in our field. You can join committees focused on lifespan, continuing education and training, communications, research, and international PBS. [Sign up for committees here.](#)

New Committee Leadership Roles

Showcase your expertise and become a future APBS leader! Leadership opportunities include roles as an officer, APBS Board of Directors member, committee chair, and vice chair. We'll share more about responsibilities and how to apply in the coming months.

COMING UP: Signature Interest Groups (SIGs)

Through SIGs, you can get to know other members in a small group setting. Have you ever asked, "How do I find other people who care about the same thing I do, so we can talk, share and problem solve together?" If so, then SIGs are perfect for you! Each SIG focuses on a specific interest area. We're launching SIGs before the end of the year. Once we launch this great new offering, you'll be able to visit your membership profile to view SIG opportunities, join an SIG, and stay up to date about SIG meetings.

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COMING SOON

Get **MORE** from your Association for Positive Behavior Support (APBS) membership

MORE educational content and resources in new formats coming in 2025

Microcredentials

Convenient, affordable short courses that enable you to show off your new applied skills

All-Access Webinar Subscription

On-demand, online opportunities to earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs)

MORE ways to get recognized

New Committee Leadership Roles

New 40 under 40 to Watch in Positive Behavior Support (PBS)



MORE ways to get involved with APBS

Join a New Committee:

- Lifespan
- International PBS
- Research
- Continuing Education and Training
- Communications

Network with Signature Interest Groups (SIGs)

- Get to know other members in a small virtual setting

Stay connected with our refreshed APBS website and new member portal this fall



MORE opportunities at your 2025 Annual Meeting



Innovation Zone

- Through the Innovation Zone, conference attendees like you can learn about innovations that are transforming our industry. You'll walk along an interactive path, learning how tomorrow's technology can enhance how we practice PBS. We're highlighting resources focused on connectivity, too.
- Meetings with hand-selected companies

Networking to Build Your Community

New Learning Formats

After the Conference: Live Sessions

Real-time, online sessions with a Q&A

Learn & Design Labs

Structured, small group design sessions

Birds-of-a-Feather

Small group discussions addressing one issue

Workshops

Engaging deep dives

(New APBS Member Benefits, continued from page 4)

COMING UP: Award Program for Changemakers

We're launching our 40 Under 40 to Watch in Positive Behavior Support award program. Applications/nominations open in September!

We're presenting a fresh, exciting new 2025 Annual Meeting!

Our new learning formats include:

- Live Sessions: real-time, online sessions with a Q&A.
- Learn & Design Labs: structured, small group design sessions dedicated to one issue from the perspective of researchers and practitioners.
- Birds-of-a-Feather: small group discussions addressing one issue.
- Workshops: audience-engaging deep dives.

Innovation Zone

We're also launching our Innovation Zone at this Annual Meeting (space is limited). Through the Innovation Zone, conference attendees like you can learn about innovations that are transforming our profession. You'll walk along an interactive path, learning how tomorrow's technology can enhance how we practice PBS. We're also highlighting resources focused on connectivity. This Innovation Zone includes:

- Innovative solutions and practical insights showcases.
- Spotlights on PBS innovation at the local, regional, international, and thematic levels (at schools, in homes and communities, and at the state level).
- Small, hands-on workshops.
- Meetings with hand-selected companies.

Stay connected with our refreshed APBS website and new member portal.

We launched the new member portal this summer, and are rolling out our new website this October!

We listened when you asked for more networking, learning, and engagement offerings, and we are so excited as we introduce these new membership benefits.

Know a colleague, peer, family member, or friend who may be interested in our new membership offerings? Membership applications are open! Forward this message, including the graphic, to share these opportunities.

Cheretta Clerkley
Executive Director

APBS 25 Conference Mainstage Speakers Announced

APBS 2025 CONFERENCE

TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

**MAINSTAGE SPEAKERS
ANNOUNCED**

join us!

Joe Sanfelippo | Lola Dada-Olley

March 12-15, 2025 | Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch

Sign up today to secure your spot with the APBS Accelerated Access! | Learn more at apbs.org

Meet Our Mainstage Speakers

We are excited to announce two remarkable individuals who will grace our Mainstage at the APBS 25 Conference "Together Towards Tomorrow: Uniting PBS Across the Lifespan." Each brings a unique perspective on positive behavior support strategies in school, home, and agency settings.

Day 1: Joe Sanfelippo

During the mainstage day one, Joe Sanfelippo, author and 2019 National Superintendent of the Year, will focus on "Bringing Our Community Closer." He'll share his successes, explain the importance of Tier 1 interventions, encourage equity in behavior-specific praise, and promote well-being through relationship building.

Day 2: Lola Dada-Olley

Lola Dada-Olley, attorney and podcast host, will focus on "Strengthening Partnerships in Community." She will share her personal experience of being "drafted into the special forces unit of motherhood." Attendees will improve their understanding of the support families and the IDD community need while providing a framework for professionals to support families of children with disabilities better.

For more information, visit <https://apbs.org/mainstage-keynote-speakers/>.