



KansABA

KANSABA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL POSITION ON THE USE OF CONTINGENT ELECTRIC SKIN SHOCK

DECEMBER 2, 2022

MISSION STATEMENT

KansABA's mission is to (a) advance the science and practice of behavior analysis, as well as its education and training; (b) address issues relevant to the science, practice, education, and training in behavior analysis; (c) maintain disciplinary, professional, and ethical standards in the science, practice, education, and training in behavior analysis; and (d) recruit and enhance interest in behavior analysis throughout the State of Kansas and the Kansas City metropolitan area — Clay, Jackson, and Platte counties.

GUIDING VALUES

We believe that the treatment of individuals with developmental disabilities should be guided by the following principles:

- All individuals have the right to respect, dignity, choice, and safety (Bannerman et al., 1990; Reid, Rosswurm, & Rotholz, 2017)
- The primary focus of treatment is to develop adaptive skills that are socially valid using reinforcement-based procedures (Bannerman et al., 1990; Wolf, 1978)
- When procedures are used to reduce behavior, these procedures must be implemented in a manner that is consistent with evidence-based outcomes, our BACB ethical code, and in compliance with all local, state, national, and industry guidelines for treatment (Behavior Analysis Certification Board, 2020; Zarcone et al., 2020)

POSITION STATEMENT

On December 2nd, the KansABA Executive Council voted on the two positions set forward by ABAI (i.e., Position A and Position B) regarding the use of contingent electric skin shock (CESS). Position A opposed the use of CESS except under extraordinary circumstances and Position B opposed the use of CESS under any condition. In accordance with our organization's mission and the guiding values previously outlined, the KansABA Executive Council voted to support Position B. That is, **we strongly oppose the use of contingent electric skin shock under any condition.**

This statement reflects the position of the KansABA Executive Council only and does not necessarily reflect the position of KansABA, its special interest groups, or any of its members. A member vote will be set forward in 2023 allowing all members of KansABA to voice their support of ABAI's Position A or Position B regarding the use of CESS. The results will reflect the official position of KansABA as an organization. Additionally, this position statement does not reflect the position of ABAI, its Executive Council, or its members.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The KansABA Executive Council position aligns with those who have condemned CESS, including but not limited to:

- American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD)
- Arizona Association for Behavior Analysis (AzABA)
- Association for Behavior Analysis Australia (ABAA)
- Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI)
- Association for Contextual Behavior Science (ACBS)
- Association for Profession Behavior Analysts (APBA)
- Association for University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)
- Autism Learning Partners
- California Association for Behavior Analysis (CalABA)
- Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD)
- Centria Autism
- Consensus Statement from Clinicians and Researchers Working with Destructive Behavior
- Federal Register
- Hopebridge
- Illinois Association for Behavior Analysis (ILABA)
- InBloom
- International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IASSIDD)
- Kansas Association for Behavior Analysis (KansABA) Behaviorists for Social Responsibility (BFSR) Special Interest Group

- LEARN Behavioral
- Massachusetts Association for Behavior Analysis (MassABA)
- National Council on Disabilities
- Oregon Association for Behavior Analysis (OrABA)
- Trumpet Behavioral Health
- UK Society for Behaviour Analysis (UKSBA)
- United Nations
- Vanderbilt The Kennedy Center

The KansABA Executive Council found it helpful to reference literature when voting on a position regarding the use of CESS. This included, but was not limited to:

- Association for Behavior Analysis International. (1989). *Statement on the right to effective behavioral treatment*. <https://www.abainternational.org/about-us/policies-and-positions/right-to-effectivebehavioral-treatment,-1989.aspx>
- Bannerman, D. J., Sheldon, J. B., Sherman, J. A., & Harchik, A. E. (1990). Balancing the right to habilitation with the right to personal liberties: The rights of people with developmental disabilities to eat too many doughnuts and take a nap. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 23, 79–89. <https://doi.org/10.1901/jaba.1990.23-79>
- Behavior Analyst Certification Board. (2020). *Ethics Code for Behavior Analysts*. <https://bacb.com/wp-content/ethics-code-for-behavior-analysts/>
- Council of Autism Service Providers. (2020). *Applied behavior analysis treatment of autism spectrum disorder: Practice guidelines for healthcare funders and managers*. (2nd ed.). <https://casproviders.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/ABA-ASD-Practice-Guidelines.pdf>
- Federal Register. (2020). *Banned devices: Electrical stimulation devices for self-injurious or aggressive behavior*. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/03/06/2020-04328/banned-devices-electrical-stimulation-devices-for-self-injurious-or-aggressive-behavior>
- Food and Drug Administration. (2014). *FDA executive summary: Electrical stimulation devices for aversive conditioning*. <https://autistichoya.files.wordpress.com/2016/04/fda-executive-summary-for-the-april-24-2014-neurological-devices-panel.pdf>
- Reid, D.H., Rosswurm, M. & Rotholz, D.A. (2018). No less worthy: Recommendations for behavior analysts treating adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities with dignity. *Behavior Analysis Practice*, 11, 71–79. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40617-017-0203-y>
- Wolf, M. M. (1978) Social validity: The case for subjective measurement or how applied behavior analysis is finding its heart. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 11(2), 203-214. <https://doi.org/10.1901/jaba.1978.11-203>
- Zarcone, J.R., Mullane, M.P., Langdon, P.E., & Brown, I. (2020). Contingent electric shock as a treatment for challenging behavior for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities: Support for the IASSID policy statement opposing its use. *Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities*, 17(4), 291-296. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jppi.12341>