

Coalition to Improve Quality and End Wait Lists

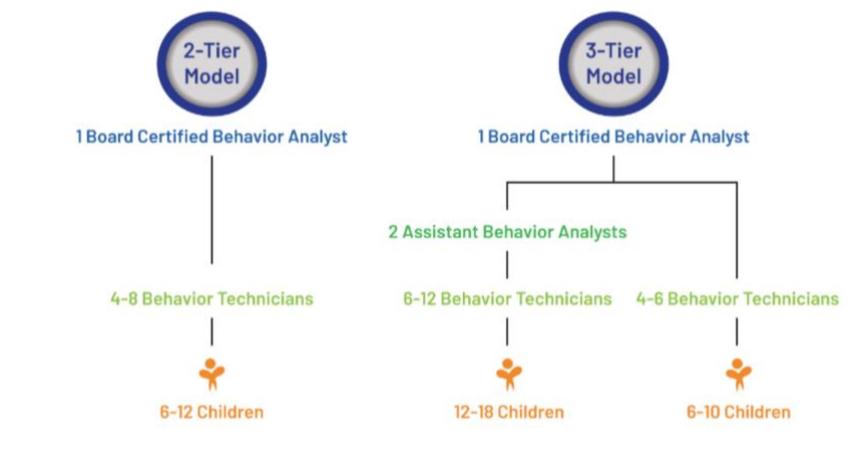
Today 2,000-3,000 Massachusetts children are waiting to receive vital services to treat Autism Spectrum Disorder. Early intervention and consistent, timely treatment is essential to achieve best outcomes.

However, according to a national study published in the September 2023 edition of the Journal of Pediatrics the average time between screening and diagnosis is 27 months and even longer to obtain ABA services following a diagnosis. The delay can result in disastrous consequences for young children.

The Coalition to End Wait Lists for Autism Services' mission is to improve quality and program integrity, increase access, and to support school systems in Massachusetts.

The biggest reason for this waitlist is that there are not enough supervising ABA providers, given the constraints of the current 2-tier delivery model. Under a 3-tier model, Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analysts (BCaBAs) serve as a mid-tier supervisor for the provision of autism services, operating under the direction of a Board Certified Behavioral Analyst (BCBA). This 3-tier model is successfully adopted in other states and by Blues Plans and Optum. This model carries three principal benefits:

- 1) The clinical competency of brand new BCBAAs is enhanced** as they spend significant time as a mid-tier BCaBA supervisor, shadowing experienced BCBA clinicians and gaining hands-on experience that is not available under a 2-tier model.
- 2) Access to care is almost doubled under a 3-tier model** as BCBAAs will oversee 10-16 clients in a 3-tier model (with support from 1-2 BCaBAs), but only 6-10 in a 2-tier model with no support supervision.
- 3) Per child costs are lower when a BCaBA mid-tier supervisor is part of the care-team**, as the reimbursement level for a BCaBA is below that of a BCBA. This is demonstrated by the diagram below:



The following 12 ABA providers, who make up 50% of the ABA services provided across Massachusetts have joined the Coalition. They are joined by the Council of Autism Service Providers (CASP) and the Massachusetts Professionals in Behavior Analysis (BABAT).

Adapt ABA

Autism Care Partners

Autism Learning Partners MA

BCI (a LEARN Behavioral provider)

Behavior Frontiers

Behavioral Health Works

Behavioral Health Network

Constellations Behavioral Services

Cortica, Inc.

Pacheco ABA Service and Behavioral Consulting

PLLC

Positive Synergy

The Stepping Stones Group



Behavior Frontiers



Additionally, 23 mayors have joined the coalition:

Mayor Bettencourt of Peabody
Mayor Christenson of Malden
Mayor Coogan of Fall River
Mayor DeSimone of Attleboro
Mayor Garcia of Holyoke
Mayor Gove of Amesbury
Mayor Johnson of Agawam
Mayor Koch of Quincy
Mayor LaChapelle of Easthampton
Mayor Lungo-Koehn of Medford
Mayor Marchetti of Pittsfield
Mayor Mazzerella of Leominster

Mayor Mitchell of New Bedford
Mayor Nicholson of Gardner
Mayor Nicholson of Lynn
Mayor O'Connell of Taunton
Mayor Pangallo of Salem
Mayor Petty of Worcester
Mayor Reichelt of West Springfield
Mayor Sciarra of Northampton
Mayor Simmon of Cambridge
Mayor Sisitsky of Framingham
Mayor Verga of Gloucester