

THE COMPREHENSIVE AUTISM CARE DEMONSTRATION: SOLUTIONS FOR MILITARY FAMILIES
Person- and Family-Centered Care in Applied Behavior Analysis

Date: Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Time: 1:00pm – 5:00pm ET

Location: Lecture Room, National Academy of Sciences Building, 2101 Constitution Ave, Washington, DC

Autism is a life-long, complex neurodevelopmental condition characterized by differences in social communication and interaction and restricted or repetitive behaviors, often accompanied by other morbidities. Interventions and proper supports can help those with autism manage change and stressful situations. Applied behavioral analysis (ABA), a behavioral therapeutic approach, is one such intervention. ABA is the application of learning theory and behavior analytic principles to build new skills important to individual health and well-being and/or reduce maladaptive behaviors that are not serving the individual. ABA providers use a range of practices based on ABA principles to promote skill acquisition and use in autistic individuals.

The National Academies’ consensus report, [The Comprehensive Autism Care Demonstration: Solutions for Military Families](#), examines the delivery of ABA to TRICARE-eligible beneficiaries and the impacts on military-connected families using the demonstration to assess ABA services and offers recommendations to improve the delivery of ABA services to TRICARE beneficiaries that need them. A person- and family-centered approach to the delivery of ABA is important given the complex, heterogenous nature of autism and the range of individual health goals that might be supported by ABA. This event will bring together experts in autism diagnosis and ABA delivery and assessment, representatives from families receiving ABA, ABA providers, and policy makers to discuss current best practices for person- and family-centered care.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2025 (Eastern Times Shown)

12:00pm

In-person Registration Opens (Lunch Available)

1:00pm

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Natacha Blain, Senior Program Director, National Academies

1:05pm – 1:25pm

Report Overview

Eric Flake, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and University of Washington (committee member)

1:25pm – 2:50pm

Science Behind Autism and ABA

Moderator: Eric Flake, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and University of Washington (committee member)

What is Autism?

Andy Shih, Autism Speaks (committee member)

What Does Meaningful Diagnosis and Referral look Like?

Kristin Sohl, University of Missouri School of Medicine (committee member)

What is ABA?

Aubyn Stahmer, University of California, Davis (committee member) - VIRTUAL

Does ABA Meet Evidence Criteria?

Brian Boyd, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (committee member) - VIRTUAL

What is Known about ABA Intensity?

Sam Odom, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (committee member)

Q&A

2:50pm – 3:05pm

BREAK

3:05pm – 3:50pm

Centering Individual and Family Needs

Moderator: Jose Rodriguez, University of Utah Health (committee member)

What is Person- and Family-Centered Care?

Nikki Montgomery, Family Voices -VIRTUAL

Family Experiences

Kristi Cabiao, Mission Alpha Advocacy

Rebecca Brown, military parent

James Hulett, military parent – VIRTUAL

Jennifer Penhale, Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council (committee member) - VIRTUAL

Guiding Questions for Discussion:

1. What does individualized and family-centered care mean to you?
2. How long have you used ABA? What have been the treatment goals?
3. Has your use of ABA (or goals) changed over time? How have you (parent) engaged with ABA delivery?
4. What resources have been useful for decision making and family support or respite care?
5. If applicable, what is your experience with Autism Services Navigator? (how has it been helpful or challenging?)
6. What have been concerns (or successes) with continuity of care or transition to adulthood, notably in relation to moves or school transitions?

Q&A

3:50pm – 4:00pm

BREAK

4:00pm – 4:55pm

Developments in Assessing Needs and Progress

Moderator: Pablo Juárez, Vanderbilt University Medical Center (committee member)

Practice Guidelines, Individualizing ABA Care

Jane Howard, Council of Autism Services Providers

Measurement Complexity

Somer Bishop, Weill Institute for Neurosciences, University of California San Francisco - VIRTUAL

Personalized Care and Treatment Planning

Ivy Chong, Little Leaves Behavioral Services

Implementing Useful Assessment and Outcome Measurement

Thomas Frazier, John Carroll University - VIRTUAL

Guiding Questions for Discussion:

1. What are current standards for individualizing ABA assessment and treatment plans?
2. How can individualization and standardization both be achieved in outcome assessment?
3. How might technology improve parent/caregiver and provider communication, monitoring session quality, and outcome assessment?

Q&A

4:55pm

CLOSING REMARKS

Eric Flake, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and University of Washington (committee member)

5:00pm

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