

## **SECAC Meeting – February 7, 2019**

6:30pm to 8:30pm / McFaul Activity Center

**TOPIC:** Essentials of Behavior

**Guest Speakers:** Daniel Marshall, BCBA  
HCPS Board Certified Behavior Analyst

SECAC chairperson, Dawn Markovic, welcomed the group, and reminded that the April meeting would be the Parent Input Forum. Any suggestions for topics could be emailed or placed in the suggestion box.

**GUEST SPEAKER, Daniel Marshall,** presented an overview of behavior and discussed the function of behavior.

### What is Behavior:

- Behavior is anything a person says or does, and has an impact on the environment
- It is a means of communication, an expression of wants and needs
- Behavior patterns are learned, can change, and can be good.
- A defined behavior must be clear and strict, not open to interpretation
- It must be “observed, repeated, and be measurable”

### Function of Behavior: (Everything a person does has a purpose)

- M: medical issue (must be ruled out)
- E: escape
- A: attention
- T: tangible
- S: sensory (result of internal need)

### How to identify function:

- QABF form is used (Questions About Behavioral Function)
- A: antecedent (what was happening before)
- B: behavior
- C: consequence (what happened after)

### Steps to Address Problem Behaviors

- Define behavior
- Identify purpose
- Define Replacement behavior
  - o must teach the child an alternate way of getting the wants and needs met, and must be among the child’s current skills
- Reinforce (increases likelihood)
  - o reinforcers should match the function
  - IE: if the function is attention, the reinforcer for the replacement behavior needs to give them attention
  - o delivery of reinforcement needs to be within 5 sec
  - o “Reinforcement Inventory” and “Reinforcer Questionnaire” are forms that help identify effective reinforcers for a child
- Monitor, Evaluate, Change

Examples used within school setting:

- Specially designed instruction
- (Specific) Verbal Praise with Reinforcement
- Token Reinforcement System
- Behavioral Contracts
- Individualized Behavior Plan

## **UPCOMING & OTHER NOTES**

- **SAVE THE DATE:**

**Saturday, April 13, 2019 from 9am-2pm**

**Youth and Family Resource Festival**

APGFCU Arena at Harford Community College

Thomas Run Road, Bel Air 21014

- **Maryland Special Education Parent Involvement Survey**

Dr. Susan Austin reminded the group of the importance of completing the survey, how the parents' feedback helps guide the efforts to improve special education and related services in the local school system.

A paper copy has been mailed to the child's parent or legal guardian; or the survey can be completed online at [MDPARENTSURVEY.COM](http://MDPARENTSURVEY.COM) by May 17, 2019.

**Next SECAC Meeting:** *March 7, 2019*

*Planned Topic: Sensory Occupational Therapy with guest speaker from HCPS*

Meeting location: McFaul Activity Center in Bel Air, MD

6:30 pm Meet & Greet / Meeting 7:00-8:30 pm