

# Granite State ABA Services acquires Applied Behavioral Associates

CONWAY — Granite State ABA Services LLC has assumed business functions for Applied Behavioral Associates LLC and will be expanding its ABA service locations to more New Hampshire counties.

Rochelle Hickmott-Mulkern, the current program director for ABA LLC, and Heather Hill, current autism and behavior specialist for ABA LLC, will join in partnership to continue to provide home, school, vocational and community-based behavior therapy and ABA services to children, teens and adults with autism as well as other behavioral and mental health disabilities. Granite State ABA Services LLC is one of the few independent clinical practices in Northern New Hampshire providing comprehensive applied behavioral analysis services.

Applied behavioral analysis is the treatment of choice for children with autism. ABA is based on learning theory and behavioral therapy practices to address the individual social, emotional, psychological and developmental needs of children and their families. Studies have shown that early behavioral intervention for children with autism is crucial in treating challenging behavior, social, communication and learning needs. Children with other developmental and communication disorders also benefit from an ABA treatment approach.

Granite State ABA services will continue to include: development of indi-

vidualized treatment plans and behavior support plans focusing on development of pro-social behaviors including functional life skills, adaptive skills and vocational skills as well as the reduction of interfering behaviors identified by clients and caregivers; development of safety protocols; completion of various comprehensive assessments such as VB-MAPP, functional behavior assessment and indirect assessments to assist families and other stakeholders with developmental programming and determining functions of behavior; implementation of regular progress monitoring and data collection tools; consultation and collaboration regarding ABA techniques and interventions; and professional development workshops for agency staff, schools, businesses and parent groups.

Granite State ABA will continue to operate its clinic-based services at its current location of 16 Norcross Circle in North Conway, and has added a second clinical office at 11 Pleasant St., in New



Rochelle Hickmott-Mulkern (left) and Heather Hill have joined in partnership to provide home, school, vocational and behavior therapy to children, teens and adults with autism as well as other behavioral and mental health disabilities. (COURTESY PHOTO)

London. Granite State ABA clinical staff have received specific training in ABA and will begin certification pursuit as registered behavior technicians in 2017.

Families with a child diagnosed with autism are eligible (pending insurance benefit coverage) for ABA services as a result of the state-wide mandate that went into effect Jan. 1, 2011. Granite State ABA accepts both state and private insurance.

Granite State ABA serves children starting at 3 years old through adulthood. Children younger than 3 may be considered based on individual and family circumstances. Direct services are provided on a one-to-one basis in the home, clinic and/or community with supervision and treatment planning by a board-certified behavior analyst.

“ABA is an evidenced-based applied

science that has more than 60 years of research and science focusing on the application of applied behavioral analysis techniques in home, school, vocational, adult-living and community settings with individuals with autism, intellectual disabilities, ADHD and other behavioral disorders,” said Mulkern. “I have seen first hand the benefit of ABA interventions to teach individuals of all ages demonstrating problem behaviors replacement behaviors focusing on functional communication skills, attention to task, social skills, adaptive living skills and work/vocational skills.”

“Understanding what motivates an individual and what a person truly likes can be so helpful in establishing compliance and engagement in everyday routines that give purpose and meaning to a person’s life,” Hill said. “We are so excited to expand our services to more families while continuing to educate and advocate about the benefits of ABA.”

To schedule an appointment or to learn more, the contact in Coos, Carroll and Grafton counties is Rochelle Hickmott-Mulkern at (603) 387-3092 or email [rhmulkern@granitestateabaservices.org](mailto:rhmulkern@granitestateabaservices.org). In Belknap, Sullivan and Merrimack counties, contact Heather Hill, autism and behavior specialist at (603) 455-6750 or email at [hhill@granitestateabaservices.org](mailto:hhill@granitestateabaservices.org).



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