ABA-Based Interventions: From PA to Prague
Amiris Dipuglia
National Autism Conference 2017
Around the World Panel

Czech Republic
- Population: Approximately 10.5 million
- Czech language: 9 different dialects
- Commonly known foreign languages: German, English and Russian
- No Prevalence information available for ASD
Getting Behavior Analysis to the Czech Republic

- Two mothers…One mission
- “It all started with an email”- April 2015: Jana contacts Prof. Karola Dillenburger, BCBA-D
- With significant contributions from her husband, Prof. Mickey Keenan, advice poured in
- Jana connected with Milena during a parliamentary seminar who immediately offered her support

Solving the Urgent Need for Approved Local Training

- Connected with Prof. Karel Pančocha – Vice-Dean of Faculty of Education, Masaryk University in Brno
- Planning began for a conference to raise awareness of ABA
First ABA Conference!  
October, 2015

- Over 400 parents and professionals

Czech Society for ABA

- Founded November 20th, 2015
- Goals:
  - Guarantee high quality ABA-Based interventions supervised by board certified behavior analysts
  - Establish certified education and training in ABA
  - Create new non-medical allied health profession—Certified Behavior Analyst
- Board Chair: David Kasal, MD – Pediatrician and parliament member
- Honorary Members: Profs. Keenan and Dillenburger
- Honorary Advisor: Dr. Neil Martin – Director of International Development for the Behavior Analyst Certification Board
- Affiliation with Czech Medical Society of Purkyně
First Major Event: February 2016

- Hearing/seminar at the Czech Parliament in Prague called *Out of the Trap of Autism with ABA*
- Participants:
  - Profs. Dillenburger and Keenan
  - Zuzana Mastenova, BCBA
  - Dr. Neil Martin
  - Prof. Lori Unumb, Director of State Government Affairs for Autism Speaks
- Attended by over 120 politicians, professionals, and parents

Other Significant Accomplishments:

- In collaboration with Prof. Pančocha:
  - Funding secured from Ministry of Education to train 15 students at Queen's University of Belfast (or other international approved course sequences)
  - Established Czech BCBA approved course sequence at Masaryk University in Brno, under leadership of Prof. Keenan: First cohort in fall of 2017
  - RBT courses at Masaryk University taught currently by Zuzana Mastenova, BCBA
Certifications in Czech Republic

- Two BCBA:
  - Dita Chapman (March 2017)
  - Katerina Chrapkova (Recent)

- Registered Behavior Technician course: Coordinated by Lenka Žáková
  - 36 students Fall of 2016
  - 37 students Spring of 2017
  - Approximately 55 students expected fall of 2017
  - Approximately 10 RBTs in Czech Republic

Other Significant Accomplishments:

- Introduction of postgraduate study of applied behavioral analysis at Masaryk University, Faculty of Education
- For use in schools working with children with autism spectrum disorders
- Scholarship provided to nine students
- Students must obtain language certificate prior to enrolling
- Project covers cost of supervision
- Students are also supported by the project in their supervised praxis - matches the students with families and finds supervising BCBA (currently 4 families)
One Family Changed and More to come

- 7 year old boy with autism
- Each family receives 6-8 hours/week in addition to parent training
- Parents commit to working 2 hours/day

Other Significant Accomplishments:

- First country in Europe to pass a law establishing behavior analyst as a new non-medical health profession
- Law passed the Senate at the end of June, 2017
From PA to Prague

July 2016: “What do you think about PaTTAN?”

- Attended workshop held by Dr. Vince Carbone in Bratislava, Slovak Republic
- Recognized Mike Miklos from a photo…
- Answer to the question: “It’s just perfect”
- Dr. Carbone contacted Mike Miklos and “I have never received such nice emails, ever – Mike’s are the best!”
March 2017

- Dita Chapman attended PaTTAN Autism Initiative Intensive Skills Training in ABA (Condensed to two days due to storm)
- Attended two day workshop: Advanced Consultation Skills when Addressing School Based Needs of Students with Autism Dr. Vince Carbone
- Additional training and practice sessions with Miklos and Dipuglia
- Visits to classrooms

Visit to Exton Elementary, West Chester SD
June 2017

- Modified Intensive Skills Training in ABA-two days
- Assistance and translation- Dita Chapman with support from Masaryk University attendees (Profs. Karel Pančochá and Helena Vaďurová)
- Other Attendees:
  - Classroom staff: teacher and assistants
  - Clinic Manager: Katrin Telin
  - Foundation/RBT: Jana Rehakova
  - Kindergarten teacher from Chrudim: Petra Filipiová
- Met with 4 students and their parents, observed sessions and provided feedback
First Classroom Using ABA-Based Interventions: August 2017

Základní škola a mateřská škola Lyčkovo náměstí

Jan Korda: Principal
October 2017:


- Co-organized by Czech Ministry of Education, Czech Society for Applied Behavior Analysis, and Faculty of Education of the Charles’ University of Prague

Charles University

- Founded in 1348

- Conference will be attended by approximately 200 professionals, policy makers, students and parents
It all started with an email!