

# Related Services Update

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## Ethics

School based providers are faced with numerous decisions daily regarding caseloads, budgets, documentation, supervision, evaluations, implementation of IEP's, etc. Related service providers must keep ethics in the forefront while making these decisions. Practitioners have their governing bodies' Code of Ethics to guide their decision making process. The American Speech-Language Association (ASHA) states that their Code of Ethics is a "framework and focused guide for professionals in support of day-to-day decision making related to professional conduct."

### This issue:

- Ethics
- Spring conference!
- Upcoming trainings
- Current openings

Kitchner (1984) identified five moral principles that are the underpinnings of many ethical guidelines. The five principles are autonomy, justice, beneficence, non-maleficence, and fidelity. Autonomy is the freedom of action and choice. Justice is treating individuals fairly. Beneficence is doing good for others. Non-maleficence is preventing or doing no harm to others. Fidelity is loyalty and strict observance to professional duties. School providers are often faced with the dilemma of too many students and not enough time. However, practitioners must recognize their own boundaries and clinical competencies to ensure the highest care for their clients.

According to an ASHA Leader article, some of the most common ethical inquiries include documentation lapses, employer demands, use and supervision of support personnel, client abandonment, impaired practitioner, reimbursement for services, professional versus business ethics, clinical fellowship supervision, and disclosures of past misconduct and/or crimes.

Providers with concerns about the ethical practices of colleagues should file a complaint with the respective licensing agency. Information on how to file complaints can be found on each organizations website. Individuals in violation of their licensing agencies' code of ethics receive sanctions for unethical conduct. Depending on their respective association's Code of Ethics, sanctions can include reprimand, censure, probation of membership, revocation of membership, and/or educative letters.

The American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) 2016 version of Code of Ethics can be found here: <https://www.asha.org/Code-of-Ethics/>

The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) 2015 version of Code of Ethics can be found here: <https://ajot.aota.org/article.aspx?articleid=2442685>

The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Code of Ethics can be found here: [http://www.apta.org/uploadedFiles/APTAorg/About\\_Us/Policies/Ethics/CodeofEthics.pdf](http://www.apta.org/uploadedFiles/APTAorg/About_Us/Policies/Ethics/CodeofEthics.pdf)

Are you an administrator receiving these updates? Please make sure you are forwarding these newsletters to your related services providers.

For previous newsletters, go to: <http://sde.ok.gov/sde/newsupdates>

## Spring Related Services Conference

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We are excited to announce that we are hosting a conference in April specifically for related services providers in the schools. The conference will be late April in Oklahoma City, OK (specific date and location TBA shortly). More details to come!

## Upcoming Trainings & Resources

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**January 16, 2018 – Challenging Behavior in Schools: Part I.** <http://autismcenterok.org/content/upcoming-statewide-trainings>

**February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 10:50a.m.-11:50a.m. – Elam-Plowman Lecture**

Dr. Susan Bazyk from Cleveland State University will present information about “Every Moment Counts.”  
[http://www.everymomentcounts.org/view.php?nav\\_id=27](http://www.everymomentcounts.org/view.php?nav_id=27).

To register contact Judith Grove, [Judith-grove@ouhsc.edu](mailto:Judith-grove@ouhsc.edu) or (405) 271-2131, ext 47130.

**February 22-23, 2018 – Challenging Behavior in Schools: Part II.** <http://autismcenterok.org/content/upcoming-statewide-trainings>

**Current openings:** Stillwater Public Schools is looking for a part-time speech pathologist, contract or salary position, for more information contact Melissa Kifer at [mkifer@stillwaterschools.com](mailto:mkifer@stillwaterschools.com).

If you need technical assistance regarding related services, looking for related services providers, or are a current related services provider looking for work in the schools, contact Tara Warwick at [twarwick@todaystherapysolutions.com](mailto:twarwick@todaystherapysolutions.com).