



Minnesota Positive Behavior Support (MNPBS) Network

State network of the Association for Positive Behavior Support (APBS)

June 5, 2020

Message from MNPBS Network

The members of the MNPBS Network are deeply troubled and distressed by the tragic loss of Mr. George Floyd and the impact of this loss on his family as well as for the entire Twin Cities, the broader Minnesota community and the country as a whole. The demonstrations in the Twin Cities are important for our community to increase the awareness of long-standing systemic inequities and to establish a long-term priority for necessary change to the social, health and educational systems that maintain these disparities in Minnesota.

We are posting the content below as a reflection on what guides us as we consider the potential for the broad impact of positive behavior support on the social and educational systems and the lives of people we encounter. We find this content helpful and want to share it with you in the hope that this information is useful to you as you reach out and connect with others.

In 2018, our parent network, the Association for Positive Behavior Support (APBS), actively engaged with colleagues from kindred behavioral science organizations to establish a Coalition of Behavioral Science Organizations. The organization created a document "[Shared Values and Guiding Principles of the Coalition of Behavioral Science Organizations](#)" ([link here](#)) as a guide to enable our societies to achieve unprecedented advances in human well-being, based upon evidence and facts that include a focus on promoting community health and public policy. Below is information sourced from the document that speaks to us today.

During these times that continue to expose inequities in society, it is important to remember our following commitments:

- a) Health and well-being for all,*
- b) Scientific evidence as the basis for societal decision-making, and*
- c) Public policy as a mechanism for fostering positive change.*

Behavioral science has made great strides in understanding what human beings need to thrive and how to foster healthy development. It is our role to share this information with others in order for it to become common knowledge across communities. Professionals and policymakers, in partnership with all stakeholders, can implement and add to the great record and promise of behavioral science.

It is also important to recognize our Coalition's core mission to expand awareness and support research and dissemination of culturally competent practices that enhance nurturing societies, guided by the following interrelated principles:

- 1. Systematic attention to the social determinants of health and well-being for constructing healthy societies.*
- 2. Enhancing personal and family well-being contributes to nurturing societies.*
- 3. Evidence-based interventions made available effectively and efficiently.*
- 4. Supportive and effective educational environments that attend to social-emotional-behavioral development.*
- 5. Empirically supported strategies for health promotion and prevention.*

6. *Community-wide interventions and factors that support with considerable guidance for advancing collective health and supporting stable, vibrant, and just communities.*
7. *Implementation of science-based workplace interventions can offer major contributions to work life and the effectiveness of organizations.*
8. *Effective public policy.*

The MNPBS Network recognizes the need to support our Twin Cities community and anywhere in Minnesota struggling in these difficult days. We have seen our neighbors and the greater community come together to clean up each morning after fires and looting occurred, make sure people have food and supplies when grocery stores are closed or have been burned and looted, and observed people reach out to each other to make sure everyone receives the support they need in this difficult time.

Now more than ever, our efforts to support our black community needs to be driven by equity for people of color and with the application of evidence-based practices that are grounded in science to nurture our civic, societal, medical, educational and human services systems.

We understand that to address the issues in our society today, we must work towards diversifying our members. We are writing additional documents that will be coming out soon that would be improved if written collaboratively from the perspectives of a more diverse membership.

If you have feedback to continue to inform our efforts, please consider visiting our webpage, emailing us, or connecting with us through social media below:

Webpage: <https://mnpsp.org/mnpbs>

Email: MNPBSnetwork@gmail.com

Twitter: @[MNPBS](#)

Facebook: @[MNPBSnetwork](#)