



Community Living in Kentucky

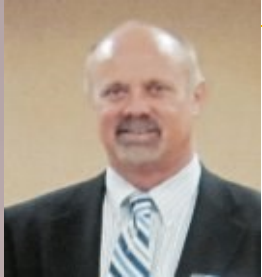
November 2015

Meet a Behavior Specialist

Kelly Copas, PBSS

270-843-5300

Positive Behavior Support Specialist



Kelly earned a Master's Degree from Vanderbilt University in Special Education with an emphasis in behavior and vision impairments. He studied Teaching English as a Second Language, Group Counselling and Gifted Studies during his Rank I. He is certified in Middle Grades Education and Special Education. Kelly has worked in public

school for 28 years as a special education teacher. During the last 15 years he has taught incarcerated youth in a detention setting and prior to that, he taught students with a wide range of disabilities in public school. In addition, Kelly teaches students with visual impairments, blindness and low vision, and also assists teachers and caregivers in implementing strategies which enhance and facilitate success across settings. Kelly's practice is founded in Cognitive Behaviour Theory, Applied Behavior Analysis and Positive Behaviour Supports. He knows from experience the benefit of establishing positive relationships with students, setting high, attainable goals and allowing students to experience success. Kelly also teaches behavior management classes at Western Kentucky University to students who are pursuing Special Education Teacher Certification. Kelly works closely with Western Kentucky University students involved in the Student Council for Exceptional Children. Kelly is proud to say that in the last 28 years he has never worked with a student who did not want to improve. He knows it is his responsibility to find what motivates the student, praise the positives and observe the student make progress. He clearly understands the beneficial outcomes of developing and maintaining positive relationships with those he serves. In addition, Kelly is a firm believer in collaboration among all individuals who can provide meaningful input regarding the student. Kelly is serving participants in Warren

Specialized, Professional Services

Behaviors Supports—assessment and collaborative services to address challenging behavior. Specializing in Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

Social Skills Groups—developing specific skills to build meaningful relationships

Therapy Services—physical, speech and occupational therapies from skilled therapists

Consultation Services—customized support including person-centered planning

Mental Health Services—child, marriage and family counseling. Some services include treatment of depressive disorders, anxiety disorders, and children's issues such as ODD, ADHD and ASD

Calendar of Event

November 3rd—Election Day

November 11th—Veteran's Day

November 18th—Free 1st Aid/CPR training from 9am-12pm at the Alive Center (Call CLiK to register)

November 26th—Thanksgiving Day



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Meet a Behavior Specialist

Sarah Smith, LPCC, PBSS

Sjrich5486@gmail.com

270-843-5300

Positive Behavior Support Specialist



Sarah is a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor. She has an Educational Specialist Degree from Murray State University in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Sarah's previous work experience includes positions as a counselor at Lourdes Behavioral Health Institute and the Center for Specialized Children's Services at Four Rivers Behavioral Health. Sarah is a member of the American Counseling Association. Sarah is passionate about helping participants have functional, appropriate, and meaningful social relationships with others. She enjoys being able to assist individuals in attaining new life skills, increase effective communication, and become increasingly independent. Sarah appreciates the ability to collaborate with parents, teachers, caregivers, and other service providers to develop comprehensive supports. Sarah provides supports in Carlisle, Graves, McCracken, and Hickman counties.

Learning Corner

What is IEP?

The Individuals with Disabilities Act established that all children have the right to a free and appropriate education. For children with disabilities, determining what constitutes "appropriate" is a collaborative process in which school personnel, parents, and professionals work together to determine the child's specific needs. The meeting often culminates in a legal document called the Individual Education Plan (IEP). The IEP details accommodations and modifications, specialized instruction and behavior plans, specialized assessment protocols, and, at times, assistive devices (technologies) to be provided so that a child can learn and "show what they know." The educational team (including parents and any professionals they want included) meet at least annually to assure the IEP is up-to-date and continues to meet the child's needs.

Specialized, Professional Services

Behaviors Supports—assessment and collaborative services to address challenging behavior. Specializing in Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Michelle P Waiver and Supported Community Living Waiver

ABA Services—adaptive behavior services to modify difficult behaviors. Private insurance and Michelle P. Waiver

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