

Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care

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Ministère de la Santé
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OCT 17 2017

HLTC2968MC-2017-205

Mr. Thomas Corcoran
Chair
Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council
56 Wellesley Street West, 12th Floor
Toronto ON M5S 2S3

Dear Mr. Corcoran:

In June 2017, Ontario announced a sweeping transformation to how this province provides services and supports for children and youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder through the new Ontario Autism Program (OAP). Delivering the best services for children and youth with autism requires ensuring the appropriate quality and accountability of those services.

The Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) has previously contracted a study to assess the viability of creating an Ontario-based certification process for Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) practitioners working with those with Autism Spectrum Disorder. MCYS's study concluded that there was a risk of harm associated with the delivery of ABA therapy, and that there was a case to be made for increasing the oversight of ABA practitioners.

While ABA practitioners predominantly provide services to Ontarians with an Autism Spectrum Disorder, they also provide services to other client populations. With this in mind, I am asking HPRAC to provide me with advice on:

- What activities or aspects associated with ABA therapy pose a significant and inherent risk of harm (if any), and whether the risk of harm of this therapy varies by client population (e.g. children and adult); and
- If there is a risk of harm, what is the range of options for an approach to oversight that could be considered.

I would like HPRAC to provide me with its advice no later than January 31, 2018.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to you and members of the Council for supporting this important initiative. If you have any questions, please contact Denise Cole, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Workforce Planning and Regulatory Affairs Division (HWPRAD) at denise.cole@ontario.ca or 416-212-7688.

Yours sincerely,



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Dr. Eric Hoskins
Minister

- c: The Honourable Michael Coteau, Minister of Children and Youth Services
- Drew Davidson, Chief of Staff, Minister's Office, MCYS
- Nancy Matthews, Deputy Minister, MCYS
- Dr. Bob Bell, Deputy Minister, MOHLTC
- Denise Cole, Assistant Deputy Minister, MOHLTC
- Presidents and Registrars of the Regulated Health Professional Colleges