

Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association

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REHABILITATION & COMMUNITY
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RCPA Policy Director and Two Legislators Recognized by ABA in PA Initiative

RCPA's Jim Sharp, Rep. Schlegel Culver, and Rep. Mehaffie received awards

HARRISBURG (June 9, 2021) --- The Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association (RCPA) congratulates the recipients of the ABA in PA Initiative's 2021 award recipients. The ABA in PA Initiative is a nonprofit advocacy organization dedicated to changing the future for all children in Pennsylvania with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) by ensuring access to Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy via Medical Assistance. Each year, the organization recognizes several individuals who have gone above and beyond for the autism and special needs children's community. The 2021 award recipients include distinguished legislative advocates as well as the director of RCPA's Children's Division.

The ABA in PA Initiative today recognized the following award recipients:

- RCPA Children's Division Director Jim Sharp received the Pioneer and Key Collaborator Award;
- Representative Lynda Schlegel Culver (R-Northumberland) received the Advocate for Excellence Award; and
- Representative Thomas L. Mehaffie III (R-Dauphin) received the Champion for Behavior Analysts of Pennsylvania Award.

"Jim has been there for us whenever a problem arises and we reach out for advice, guidance and his expertise. He always makes time to give advice. But he takes his work a step further and digs into the weeds of a problem to help us solve it so that families get the care they deserve," said ABA in PA Initiative Vice President Kirsten Yurich. "There have been many instances where he has helped us make connections and for which our collaboration has brought about better outcomes."

Jim Sharp joined RCPA in 2019, bringing more than 30 years of systems expertise in the areas of behavioral services and development, juvenile probation and rehabilitation, and violence prevention and aftercare reintegration. He previously served in several key positions at Merakey, and before that, Jim served as the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer at the Philadelphia Family Court Juvenile Probation, where he aided in the implementation of national and statewide models for violence prevention, aftercare reintegration, and juvenile drug and graduated sanctions courts.

"Jim is a passionate advocate for children, actively seeking opportunities to network with interested organizations and agencies with a focus on identifying solutions to better support Pennsylvania's youth," said RCPA President and CEO Richard S. Edley, PhD. "As the director of the Children's Division, Jim has tirelessly worked with others to improve outcomes and access across the diverse arena of children's services, including ABA therapy. We are proud of him for being recognized by the ABA in PA Initiative for its Pioneer and Key Collaborator Award, and we celebrate the achievements of Rep. Schlegel Culver and Rep. Mehaffie."

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About the Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association (RCPA):

With well over 350 members, the majority of who serve over 1 million Pennsylvanians annually, Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association (RCPA) is among the largest and most diverse state health and human services trade associations in the nation. RCPA provider members offer mental health, drug and alcohol, intellectual and developmental disabilities, children's, brain injury, medical rehabilitation, and physical disabilities and aging services, through all settings and levels of care. Visit www.paproviders.org for more information.