



Organizational Spotlight: Autism Home Support Services



Autism Home Support Services (herein referred to as AHSS) is a new therapeutic provider agency serving people with I/DD and their families within our Weld County community. Although the organization may be new to our area, they have extensive experience throughout Colorado and across many states. More recently, AHSS opened locations in Northern Colorado

including Greeley in August of 2020 with both center and home-based services. Their primary service provision is Applied Behavior Analysis Therapy, more commonly known as ABA, a highly effective form of therapy most frequently recommended for individuals living on the autism spectrum. However, through the use of a variety of customizable, positive reinforcement mechanisms, ABA has proven to meet the needs of other individuals as well, including all functioning levels and abilities. The person-centered approach of ABA allows the therapist to create supports that are unique to the abilities and needs of the client. ABA is an inter-service model, meaning it allows for pairing and collaboration with other valuable therapies, including but not limited to physical, occupational and speech therapies, thus improving outcomes across a variety of needs. All AHSS services are able to accommodate English and Spanish speaking clients and families.

The AHSS local office and center-based services are located at 3400 West 16th Street, Building 8, Unit E in Greeley. Center-based services support primarily children at this time, with a Pre-K and kindergarten readiness program, as well as teen opportunities. The center is designed to allow peer clients with similar interests to safely interact with one another while receiving therapy services. Children are always paired at a one to one ratio with a therapist while at the center. The Greeley location is managed by Bryan Cummings (pictured above), a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) with a bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Studies from Colorado State University and a master's degree in Professional Behavior Analysis from Florida Institute of Technology. Bryan has worked in ABA for 9 years and became a BCBA nearly 3 years ago. He and his family have lived in Colorado since 1995 and his wife is a teacher at a local Weld County school. Bryan and his family are committed to the Weld County community with a strong dedication to the education and success of everyone who lives here.

Along with the center-based services provided by Bryan and his highly trained staff, AHSS also provides home-based services that offer therapeutic supports in a more natural setting. Services include traditional ABA therapy and life skills training. Home-based services allow for natural interactions with the client's family, friends and other community members while in a familiar physical environment, including their home or other community locations such as parks, restaurants, shopping centers, etc. Most AHSS services are covered by Medicaid and other private pay insurance policies.

However, AHSS is more than just a service provider agency, they envision themselves as "family connectors." Their mission is to provide ABA therapy to all who may benefit, but also to be recognized as a community resource. This agency strives to remain community focused, beyond the traditional clinical settings, and at times such opportunities are without cost. Prior to the pandemic and transition into Weld County, AHSS hosted community

meetings with The Arc of Larimer County to share free services and supports to Larimer County individuals and families. At one such opportunity, therapists trained community members regarding the development and use of visual schedules. Visual schedules are a simple ABA technique that can be very user friendly, does not require extensive professional support to execute and most importantly, have highly successful outcomes for people with I/DD. AHSS anticipates, when it is safe to do so, similar community resource opportunities will be hosted in Weld County.

Yet, there is still more good news! AHSS hopes not to stop just with the current supports provided in Weld County. In fact, they are currently planning expansion into more telehealth opportunities to enlarge their service region and support as many families as possible. Their center-based services may also see more growth with the possibility of age appropriate social skills groups, again when the circumstances of the pandemic allow it to be safe to host larger in-person engagements. The AHSS team is excited to embark on new opportunities with the residents of Weld County and further develop supportive therapies and relationships to allow people with I/DD to flourish in our shared community. AHSS is committed to providing ongoing supports and services; however, it is their vision that one day each client and family would thrive with their new skills and abilities and there would no longer be a need for their services.

For more information regarding AHSS services and opportunities, please visit their website at autismhomesupport.com, by phone 844-247-7222 extension 1 or via email at intake@autismhomesupport.com.

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Upcoming Virtual Event

Join us for an exciting virtual event featuring Bryan Cummings and Marissa Lewis of AHSS on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 5:30pm to learn more about ABA Therapy and answer some of your questions.

**Event flyer and RSVP information to follow very soon!
We look forward to seeing you there.**