

Global Positive Behavior Support Coalition June 2026 Leadership Collective Meeting

Who was in the room

Participants joined from across the globe — Australia, UK, Ireland, Netherlands, Germany, Czech Republic, Nigeria, Korea, Philippines, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Canada, and multiple US states. The geographic spread itself shaped much of the conversation.

Structure of the leadership collective

The biggest discussion was how to organize the group. Several competing ideas emerged: regional representation (by continent or country), thematic subgroups (by topic area or setting), or a hybrid of both. There was broad concern about keeping the leadership collective group small enough to be functional — roughly 10–15 was mentioned as a workable ceiling — while still being genuinely representative and ensuring all countries have a voice. Term limits and a nomination process with clear criteria were also mentioned.

Avoiding dominance of larger countries and those with more PBS

Multiple participants raised concern that without intentional design, the group could end up skewing toward US, UK, and Australian voices simply because those countries have the most members. There was interest in actively prioritizing underrepresented regions.

What "PBS" actually means across cultures

Several people advocated for working collectively on a shared definition of Positive Behavior Support as a first step for the Global PBS Coalition. The term PBS means different things in different countries, and some of the people attending felt establishing common dimensions (rather than a single rigid definition) would be helpful for the Coalition.

Subgroups by setting or theme

People were enthusiastic about working groups organized around areas including: school-wide PBS, adult services, children and families, mental health, people with lived experience, and workforce development.

Starting simple and building iteratively

A recurring practical theme was not to over-engineer the structure upfront. Several voices suggested letting the steering committee propose an initial structure based on the feedback gathered, then refining it over time rather than trying to come up with a final organizational chart immediately.

Lived experience and disability identity

At least one participant raised the importance of including people with disabilities and/or with PBS experience (students, children, people with disabilities, etc.) in the leadership of the Global PBS Coalition, rather than only practitioners, researchers or family members.

Connecting to existing national networks

There was interest in linking the global coalition to established national bodies (like the PBS Alliance and the United Kingdom Society of Behavior Analysis (UKSBA) rather than building

in parallel to them. The discussion also included how countries might communicate internally and identify representatives who can share the diversity and complexity within their own countries. In some countries there are many nonprofit, technical assistance, and governmentally funded systems who are all making important contributions. Creating feedback loop systems for organizations interested in participating will be essential for the Global PBS Coalition.

Culture and values as a foundation

A few participants suggested early priorities should include agreeing on shared values, a code of conduct, and possibly mapping what PBS organizations already exist country by country before finalizing any organizational structure.