

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**SOCIAL STORIES™** (Three-hour session) with Laurel Falvo, BA: In this presentation, the speaker shares examples of Social Stories™ written according to the guidelines and criteria developed by Carol Gray, explaining how this valuable educational tool can be used to promote social understanding with individuals with autism spectrum disorders. Participants will be able to explain some of the “gaps” present in the processing abilities of individuals with autism, identify a Social Story™ written according to “Social Stories™ 10.1” and Brainstorm various situations where Social Stories™ can help promote social understanding.

**ASPERGER SYNDROME: WHAT IT IS, WHAT IT ISN'T AND HOW TO UNDERSTAND PEOPLE WHO LIVE IT** with Sandra McClennen, PhD: Asperger syndrome results from brain differences which produce both strengths and challenges. Understanding these strengths and challenges can help us better relate to and support those who experience it. For this reason, it is also important to correctly identify those with Asperger syndrome. This presentation will address both correct diagnosis and information needed to better understand and support individuals.

**FAMILY PERSPECTIVE: HOW PROFESSIONALS CAN FIT IN WITH THE FAMILY** with Celena Barnes and Dawn Marie Ham-Kucharski, MA: This session is designed to offer ideas of how a family can become informed, empowered, encouraged and have hope when caring for a individual with autism. The session will address some of the unique challenges a family may face when dealing with advocacy, siblings, stigma, loneliness, isolation and relationships (marriage, extended family, neighbors). These parents offer suggestions of how people can support and encourage families caring for individuals with autism.

**APPLIED BEHAVIORAL ANALYSIS (ABA) FOR AUTISM ACROSS THE LIFESPAN** with Gary Carone, MS LLP, LMSW, BCBA: Participants will gain an understanding of contemporary behavior analysis (ABA) versus the common “understanding” and myths. They will gain an understanding of how behaviorally trained practitioners do their job in the mental health field, especially with persons with Autism. Participants will learn about the CALM program and how it can help children with Autism and their families.

**SENSORY INTEGRATION FOR AUTISM ACROSS THE LIFESPAN** with Elaine Lamontagne, Maureen Jones, OTR, Lynn Stroup, OTR: In this session, participants will learn how to define sensory processing and understand how sensory processing influences behaviors. They will learn to incorporate sensory activities into the daily routine. Participants will be able to modify the environment using a sensory frame of reference.

**A BOX IS GREATER THAN ITS COVER. THE TREATMENT OF A TEEN WITH AUTISM** with Kenneth Cunningham, PhD, ACSW: The conference session will address autism from a Winnicottian perspective situating central themes of “therapeutic holding environment,” transitional phenomenon and the therapeutic relationship as a means for unlocking the autistic box. The presentation will make lively the gains of an autistic teenager, and depict his relationship with the therapist.

**STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING COLLABORATION BETWEEN PARENTS AND SCHOOLS** with Patricia Doyle, MS and Jamesena Ingram MEd: This session is designed to assist families in establishing and maintaining working relationships with school personnel. The goals include reinforcing parent advocacy, minimizing adversarial contacts and, ultimately, facilitating child learning.

**COMMUNICATION DEVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM** with Chris Skoglund, MS: The focus of this presentation is on assistive technology support for K-12 students. Participants will learn about different considerations for students with Autism and learn about various devices that can be used.

**PLAY PROJECT** with Adam Brode, MA, CCC-SLP: Participants of this session learn about current trends and research in Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The speakers will describe strategies that promote two-way communication and social development. Additionally, participants will learn higher skill levels in the DIR (Floortime) Model.

## What is Autism?

Autism is one of a group of disorders known as Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs). ASDs are developmental disabilities that cause substantial impairments in social interaction and communication and the presence of unusual behaviors and interests. Many people with ASDs also have unusual ways of learning, paying attention, and reacting to different sensations. The thinking and learning

abilities of people with ASDs can vary—from gifted to severely challenged. An ASD begins before the age of 3 and lasts throughout a person's life.

Autism was first identified as a specific disorder in 1943 by child psychiatrist Leo Kanner, MD. Based on a study of 11 children, Dr. Kanner published the first description of what he called “autistic disturbances of affective contact.”

## DETROIT-WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AGENCY & THE VIRTUAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE



# PRESENTS

# Autism

## Across the Lifespan: Emerging Practices with Keynote Speaker David Laman, PhD

Tuesday, June 30, 2009 9:00 am-4:30 pm



Hyatt Regency Dearborn  
600 Town Center Drive  
Dearborn, Michigan 48126



Funded by:



In Partnership with:



## REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

The conference will begin promptly at 9:00 am. Check-in will begin at 7:30 am. Early arrival is suggested for parking and check-in. Child care is not provided.

### SUGGESTED PARTICIPANTS

- Social Workers, Psychologists, Counselors, School Personnel, Parents, Advocates, Community Members touched by or interested in Autism, Other Mental Health Professionals or Professionals working with families touched by Autism.

### MENTAL HEALTH, MEDICAL, EDUCATIONAL AND ALL OTHER PROFESSIONALS

- **CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS:** Continuing Education Credits for Licensed Social Workers are currently pending for this training. Late arrivals or early departures will result in the deduction of credits. **Professionals must have their perspective license number with you to receive credit.**
- **COST: Conference Admission fee is \$60 per person. An "early bird" offer of \$45 is for those who register between April 15 and May 8. Early bird payment must be received or postmarked by May 8. Regular \$60 payment must be received by June 22.**

### COMMUNITY MEMBERS

- **COST:** Limited number of scholarships available for families affected by autism, adults on the autism spectrum and college students. Please contact Sheila at (888) 785-7793 for scholarship information.

## CONFERENCE AGENDA AND SPEAKERS

7:30 am-9:00 am

Conference Check-in

9:00 am-10:00 am

Parent Panel

**CONVERSATION WITH PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM** with Celena Barnes, Dawn Marie Ham-Kucharski, MA, Stratford Johnson, Patricia Watts, Nichole Cummings and Debbie Townley: This is a presentation provided by parents caring for individuals with autism. They will share their family stories concerning the unique challenges and successes relating to issues of raising a individual with special needs.

10:00 am-Noon

Keynote Speaker

**REAL PEOPLE, REAL DIFFERENCES, REAL OPPORTUNITIES: KEEPING A WHOLE-PERSON PERSPECTIVE WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS** with David Laman, PhD: Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) have received significantly increased attention in recent years. As we develop a better understanding of the causes of ASD, the effects of various interventions, etc., it is important that we keep a "whole-person" perspective. The very real differences associated with ASD affect real people and families, often in very unique ways. Only by better understanding the whole person with ASD, each with unique abilities, personality and needs, can we assist them to have real opportunities and real lives in our communities. From this perspective, this presentation will explore issues such as optimizing development and functioning, promoting mental and behavioral wellness, building healthy families and creating embracing communities.

Noon-1:00 pm

Lunch (provided)

1:00 pm-4:30 pm

Breakout Sessions

Choose from three one-hour Breakout Sessions in the afternoon. One Breakout Session on Social Stories™ will last the entire afternoon (three hours), all others are one hour. The afternoon schedule is as follows:

1:00 pm-2:00 pm Breakout Session One  
2:15 pm-3:15 pm Breakout Session Two  
3:30 pm-4:30 pm Breakout Session Three

2:00 pm-2:15 pm Beverage Break  
3:15 pm-3:30 pm Beverage Break  
4:30 pm Certificate Distribution

# REGISTRATION FORM

- ▶ Pre-registration is REQUIRED through the Virtual Center of Excellence. Seating is limited.
- ▶ Last Day to Register is Monday, June 22, 2009
- ▶ Two ways to register:
  - ▶ Register online at [www.vceonline.org](http://www.vceonline.org)
    - Pre-registration is easy online; pay by credit card!
    - Expand your Virtual Training Transcript by registering online!
  - ▶ FAX or MAIL this completed form to Sheila at (734) 785-7740 (address at bottom of page)
- ▶ Registered participants will receive a confirmation via email. If you do not receive an email within two weeks of the conference, contact the VCE Message Center at (888) 785-7793.

## Autism Across the Lifespan: Emerging Practices

Please PRINT and fill out the registration form COMPLETELY.

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (Home) Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Job Title (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

License Type (if applicable): \_\_\_LBSW \_\_\_LLBSW \_\_\_LMSW \_\_\_LLMSW \_\_\_Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Professional License Number (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

### METHOD OF PAYMENT: (please select one)

- Online Credit Card Payment (visit [www.vceonline.org](http://www.vceonline.org) for registration)
- Personal Check
- Agency Check

**PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE DATE OF THE EVENT.**

## PAYMENT GUIDELINES

### MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

Virtual Center of Excellence  
13101 Allen Road  
Southgate, MI 48195

Agency checks must include the names of participants that the check is covering and be postmarked no later than the last day of registration.

### Cancellation/Refund Policy:

Substitutions are permitted at any time. No shows will be billed at the full training rate. Cancellations must be received in writing at least 10 business days prior to training to [stoporek@vceonline.org](mailto:stoporek@vceonline.org) to obtain a full refund. If cancellation is received less than 10 business days prior to training then no refund will be given.

- To ensure your payment and registration is processed correctly, please include the following on the memo line of your check: **Autism Conference**
- You will receive a confirmation of your registration via e-mail within two weeks of the conference. If you do not, please contact the VCE Message Center at 888-785-7793.