

MORNING SESSIONS

CBHI Services - an Overview (Gándara)

Leah Cote: LICSW, Director of Intensive Care Coordination
Lianette Sheehan: BCBA, Director of In-home Behavioral Services

This workshop is an overview of the services within CBHI (Children's Behavioral Health Initiative) with a focus on ICC and IHB and the referral and exclusionary criteria.

Introduction to Floortime/DIR

Sarah Measures: M.Ed., Instructor for the Astra Foundation

Sarah will review the essential elements of the DIR/Floortime model. Video tapes will be used to illustrate principles and strategies. Topics include a review of the six developmental stages of the model and the criteria for evaluating the child's functioning at each level; the importance of understanding a child's processing issues and sensory challenges and how these impact a child's movement through the developmental levels; the significance that affect is the driving force enabling children to learn and that only when the child's actions are "hooked up" to his feelings is he able to make skills his own.

Key Components of effective social/emotional skills training

Jed Baker: Conference Keynote Speaker

The presentation details key components that must be addressed in order to be effective in teaching skills including: Prioritizing appropriate skill goals; motivation for training; skill acquisition; strategies based on level of language functioning; generalization; peer sensitivity training; and measuring progress.

LifeMAP Coaching – The Road to Success

Nataliya S. Poto: M.A., Director of LifeMAP Coaching Programs and Asperger/Autism Professional Coaching Association at the Asperger/Autism Network (AANE)

This workshop is a presentation of AANE's coaching programs called LifeMAP. LifeMAP consists of eight subprograms: LifeMAP for Teens; CollegeMAP; InterviewPREP; Practice Interview; WorkMAP; LifeMAP over 50; LifeMAP in Spanish; LifeMAP Foundation. All LifeMAP programs are intensive, practical, highly individualized life coaching programs for individuals with Asperger/autism profiles. The ultimate goal of LifeMAP is for clients to improve their quality of life and increase their independence. The workshop offers unique tools and innovative coaching strategies which are developed and used by LifeMAP coaches to support their clients.

Total Communication: Building Communication Skills AM/PM

Julie Hayden: Senior Director at Behavior Assist, BCBA, LABA, BS in Biology, MSED in Behavior Analysis

Total Communication and Building Communication Skills will review how to effectively set expectations for parents, caregivers, and providers to promote collaboration, engagement and continuity of care for clients. Participants will learn to set expectations across all stakeholders involved in client treatment. Topics include models of ABA service delivery that have been developed or enhanced during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Widening the Circle: The Importance of Friendship for All

Meg Gaydos: Pathways to Friendship Facilitator
Phoebe Goodman: Pathways to Friendship Facilitator

Pathways to Friendship consultants will share stories of connecting

people, the benefits of inclusive friendships, and what to do when efforts are distracted and misled, which even when well-intended, can be terrible barriers to relationships. Each section will emphasize the opportunity for people to build relationships within their communities, naturally wherever they live, learn, work and play. Support on how to encourage friendships for people with autism in different facets of everyday life will be explored.

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

Autistic Perspectives on Post-Secondary Education

Jay Eveson-Egler: Co-Manager of the Simpatico Autism Peer-to-Peer Mentorship Program at AANE; autistic self-advocate
Tiffany Cavanaugh: Inclusion Consultant/Peer Inclusion Specialist; autistic self-advocate
Adra Riv Woods Rege: Bookseller at Barnes and Noble; Assistant at Tangle U Productions; autistic self-advocate; Alumna of both Holyoke Community College and Mount Holyoke College

Three local autistic self-advocates share their experiences and resources on navigating post-secondary education.

It Takes Two: Autism and Dual Diagnosis

Alix Generous: Conference Key Note Speaker

Participants will learn about the dual diagnosis of Autism and Mental Health issues, some common dual diagnosis and problems encountered, as well as considerations for treatment.

Individualized College Support for Students in Need of Transition Services (College Steps)

Chris Kennedy: Regional Director
Brya Emery: Director of Admissions and Enrollment

This workshop will review how teams can support students in their transition to a post-secondary education environment with a focus on post-secondary or pre-employment goals. Topics include the program overview, age-appropriate transition supports, partnerships both on- and off-campus, and monitoring student goals and progress towards greater independence.

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Transition: Special Education to Adult Services (DDS)

Leilani Paniagua: DDS Transition Service Coordinator

Transition is a word that has a unique meaning to families with a loved one aging out of the entitlement of education and into the world as productive, contributing adults. This anticipated change brings about many anxious feelings. When does the transition process start? Who is involved? Are there any options? Who can help? Family members were also competent with the educational terminology, now they must learn a new language such as 688, ISP and Self-Direction? The Breakout Session will discuss student's vision, critical timelines, eligibility process and criteria, Chapter 688, Individual Transition Plan, and a review of adult services.