

Navigating the Complex World of Autism Spectrum Disorder for Children and Adolescents of Color – A Parent Perspective

Program Description

Learning that your child has autism spectrum disorder (ASD) can have a profound impact on parents, caregivers, and other family members. In this highly personal narrative, the presenter, a mother of a child with autism and a licensed clinical social worker, describes her own journey of adjustment to the reality of her child's autism. Learning to navigate complex service systems and learning how to be a strong advocate are necessary skills needed to ensure that their child receives seamless, timely, and quality services.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this program, participants will be able to:

1. List at least 2 myths of a stereotypical clinical presentation of autism and ADHD.
2. Describe at least 1 possible cultural difference and experiences of oppression faced by African American children with ASD and their families.
3. Identify at least 2 strategies for supporting children of color who have autism and their families.
4. Explain at least 2 strategies for supporting children of color who have autism and their families.

Target audience

Human service professionals, school personnel, and mental health professionals interested in learning about the challenges of Navigating the Complex World of Autism Spectrum Disorder for Children and Adolescents of Color – from A Parent Perspective.

Contact Hours

4.0 credit hours (able to offer 2-6 hours)

Program Agenda

9:00 – 9:15 AM	Introduction/Background
9:15 – 10:30 AM	Impact of disability
10:30 - 10:45 AM	Break
10:45 - 12:00 NOON	The importance of Early Diagnosis
12:00 – 12:45 PM	Working with Professionals
12:45 – 1:00 PM	Strategies/Supports
1:00 – 1:15 PM	Wrap up/closing
1:15 PM	Adjourn

Faculty

Danyale Sturdivant, MSSW, LCSW, is a graduate of Russell Sage College and Columbia University's School of Social Work. She holds a master's degree in clinical social work and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and is the proud mother of a teenage son on the Autism spectrum. After facing challenges in finding appropriate providers to meet the needs of her family, she founded Living Autism Out Loud (LAOL). LAOL strives to reduce and eventually eliminate barriers Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) parents face when accessing services for their children with autism and intellectual developmental disabilities. These barriers may cause families to miss early detection and intervention opportunities for disabilities such as autism spectrum disorder and other intellectual developmental disabilities. LAOL seeks to reduce and eliminate these barriers through culturally responsive training, curriculum development, and parent-led panels for educational institutions, human service agencies, and community organizations.