

The Impact of ACES on Autistic Individuals

Program Description

This workshop will provide an overview of adverse childhood experiences (ACES) and how these ACES impact autistic individuals. The presenter will review how ACES can have an ongoing impact on an individual throughout the lifespan and will particularly emphasize possible differences in symptom presentation based on autism alone versus autism and developmental trauma. Case examples will be utilized to apply the concepts and for feedback. The presenter will conclude with an overview of strategies for working with autistic individuals who have mental health conditions resulting from previous adverse childhood experiences.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this workshop, participants should be able to:

- Define adverse childhood experiences (ACES).
- Outline how adverse childhood experiences can impact development.
- Explain how adverse childhood experiences can impact autistic individuals.
- List strategies to reduce and mitigate the impact of adverse childhood experiences in children and youth.
- Discuss the impact of experiences of ableism and microaggressions through the lens of adverse childhood experiences and the related impacts on individual development.
- Identify strategies to work with autistic adults who have complex trauma symptoms resulting from adverse childhood experiences.

Target Audience

Human Services Professionals, medical professionals, professionals working in the autism field, family members, and anyone interested in this topic.

Contact Hours

2.0 to 4.0 contact hours

Program Agenda - 4.0-hour version

12 Noon - 1:30 PM

- Introductions
- Define adverse childhood experiences (ACES)
- Adverse childhood experiences and the impact development.

1:30 PM – 1:45 PM

- Break

1:45 PM – 3:15 PM

- Strategies to reduce and mitigate the impact of adverse childhood experiences in children and youth.
- Adverse childhood experiences and the impact on autistic individuals.

- The impact of experiences of ableism and microaggressions through the lens of adverse childhood experiences and the related impacts on individual development.
- Strategies to work with autistic adults who have complex trauma symptoms resulting from adverse childhood experiences.

3:15 PM – 3:30 PM

- Break

3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

- Collectively work through case example(s) to apply information learned throughout the talk to an actual case (or cases).

Faculty

Molly Marus-Quinley, MSW, LCSWA, (She/Her), is a psychotherapist and co-director at Neurodiversity Empowerment Services, located in Cary, NC. Molly is proudly neurodivergent and works to empower neurodivergent clients to embrace their full selves by recognizing their unique strengths. Molly has trained to work with neurodivergent (Autistic, ADHD, etc.) individuals across the lifespan, from children to adults, as well as with family members of neurodivergent individuals. Molly works from an identity affirming and inclusive approach. Molly particularly loves working with LGBTQ+ and neurodivergent teens and adults. In addition to professional training in DBT and other clinical modalities, Molly is an active listener to the autistic and ADHD communities, who share their lived experiences in a variety of digital spaces.