

2022 EASTERSEALS MIDWEST VIRTUAL AUTISM CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 3, 2022 | 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

NOVEMBER 4, 2022 | 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

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EMPOWERMENT ACROSS A LIFETIME

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Conference Dates:

November 3, 2022 | 8:30 AM -12:30 PM

November 4, 2022 | 8:30 AM -12:00 PM

Cost for Attendees:

Professionals: \$55 total

Families currently receiving services: Free*

Community members not receiving services: Free

*Individual's funding will be billed for attendance.

SCHEDULE

November 3

Welcome and Morning Keynote | Haley Moss 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Break 10:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Breakout Session 1 10:15 AM – 11:15 AM

Session A: What to do When You Get a Poorly Written IEP

Session B: What to Expect after an Autism Diagnosis

Closing Keynote | Jonathan Martinis 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Supported Decision-Making: From Justice for Jenny to Justice for All

November 4

Breakout Session 2 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

Session A: Supporting Social Engagement in Early Childhood

Session B: An Inside Look into Music Therapy, Why it Works,
and How Music can be used as a Tool to Reach
Individuals with Autism

Break 9:30 AM – 9:45 AM

Breakout Session 3 9:45 AM – 10:45 AM

Session A: Helping Children of All Ages with Emotion Regulation
Using the SCERTS Model

Session B: Circling Up: Parenting Support Groups

Afternoon Keynote | Patti Vasquez 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

All the Rage - Finding Humor and Happiness after Heartache



Opening Keynote

Thursday, November 3
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Opening Keynote presented by Haley Moss



BIOGRAPHY

Diagnosed with autism at the age of three, Haley Moss' parents were told that she might not ever finish high school or earn a driver's license. Today she is a lawyer, neurodiversity expert, keynote speaker, educator, and the author of four books that guide neurodivergent individuals through professional and personal challenges. Haley is a consultant to top corporations and nonprofits that seek her guidance in creating a diverse workplace, and a sought-after commentator on disability rights and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The first openly autistic lawyer in Florida, Haley's books include "Great Minds Think Differently: Neurodiversity for Lawyers and Other Professionals" (ABA Book Publishing; June 2021), "The Young Autistic Adult's Independence Handbook" (Jessica Kingsley Publishers; November 2021), "A Freshman Survival Guide for College Students With Autism Spectrum Disorders" (Jessica

Kingsley Publishers; October 2014), and "Middle School – The Stuff Nobody Tells You About: A Teenage Girl With High-Functioning Autism Shares Her Experiences" (AAPC Publishing; March 2010). Her articles have appeared in outlets including the Washington Post, Teen Vogue, GQ, Bustle, Fast Company, Law 360 Pulse, and the ABA Journal.

Haley earned her law degree from the University of Miami School of Law with numerous honors. Admitted to the Florida Bar in 2019, she is the recipient of awards including the American Bar Association Solo, Small Firm, and General Practice Division's Breaking Barriers Award (2021), D-30 Disability Impact List (2021), Road Less Traveled Award from Ms. JD (2020), Outstanding Self-Advocate Award from University of Miami – Nova Southeastern University Center for Autism & Related Disabilities (2018), and Publix Self-Advocate of the Year from the Palm Beach County Special Needs Advisory Coalition (2018).

What to do When You Get a Poorly Written IEP

Thursday, November 3
10:15 AM - 11:15 AM

Session A presented by Dr. Teresa Green



SESSION DESCRIPTION

We've all been there. You get a new student and they have a poorly written IEP. You don't know a lot about them and don't know how to proceed. This presentation will provide you with tips to use to gather more information for your transfer or annual IEP. This breakout is targeted towards Special Education Teachers and Process Coordinators.

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Green is a retired Director of Student Services. She was in public education for over 20 years and specialized in Special Education. She received her Doctorate in Educational Leadership in 2013. Dr. Green is currently a consultant for the DESE MoPAL program. She also contracts with schools to assist them in working toward compliance and coaches clients in reaching both their professional and personal goals.

What to Expect after an Autism Diagnosis

Thursday, November 3
10:15 AM - 11:15 AM

Session B presented by Darren Olsen, PhD



SESSION DESCRIPTION

Has someone you know recently been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder? Feeling overwhelmed about what is next, what needs to be done, and where to start? Stepping into the world of autism can be a confusing and trying time, and that's understandable. This session will provide information on topics that will benefit parents, family members, and educators on steps that can be taken to help support people with autism as they begin this journey. Concrete steps after an initial diagnosis, as well as helpful general information on supports, resources, and interventions will be discussed.

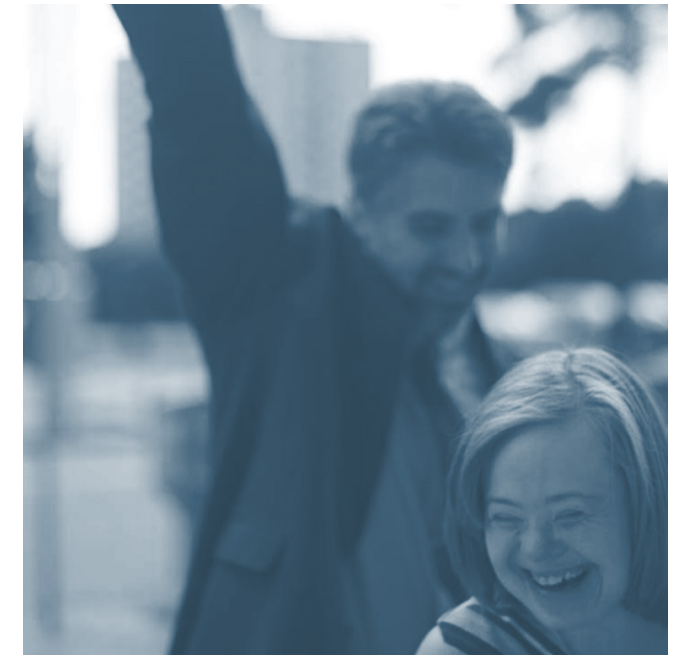
BIOGRAPHY

Darren Olsen, PhD, is a Clinical Child Psychologist at Children's Mercy Hospital Kansas City and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Missouri Kansas City (UMKC) School of Medicine. He conducts evaluations of children and teenagers suspected of having autism spectrum disorder and other developmental differences, individual and group therapy for parents of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other developmental differences, and co-leads the Down Syndrome-Autism dual diagnosis clinic at Children's Mercy Hospital.

Supported Decision-Making: From Justice for Jenny to Justice for All

Thursday, November 3
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Closing Keynote presented by Jonathan Martinis



SESSION DESCRIPTION

Study after study has shown that when people with disabilities have more control over their life and make more decisions for themselves – when they have more self-determination – they have better lives. People with disabilities who are more self-determined are more likely to live independently, work, be integrated into their communities, and avoid abuse.

This session will introduce the audience to the theory and practice of Supported Decision-Making (SDM). When people with disabilities use SDM, they work with friends, family, and professionals so they can understand their choices and make their own decisions. As a result, SDM can help people be self-determined, have better life outcomes, and avoid unnecessary guardianship!

BIOGRAPHY

Jonathan Martinis is the Senior Director for Law and Policy for the Burton Blatt Institute at Syracuse University, leading its efforts to ensure that older adults and people with disabilities have access to the services and supports they need to lead independent, inclusive lives.

In 2013, Jonathan represented Margaret "Jenny" Hatch in the "Justice for Jenny" case – the first trial to hold that a person has the right to use Supported Decision-Making to make her own life choices instead of being subjected to a permanent, plenary guardianship. Since then, Jonathan has led SDM projects in New York, Nebraska, Ohio, California, Virginia, Vermont, Missouri, and Kansas. He has also educated and trained tens of thousands of older adults, people with disabilities, families, and professionals across the country on SDM theory and practice. Jonathan has written or co-written over 60 publications on SDM, including the first textbook and first theory-to-practice guidebook on the subject.

Supporting Social Engagement In Early Childhood

Friday, November 4
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

Session A presented by
Paige McArdle, PhD, BCBA



SESSION DESCRIPTION

Young children learn through social interactions and play. It can be difficult to know how to create opportunities for social engagement, particularly for young children who have their own unique ways of interacting, playing, and communicating. This session will provide general strategies for promoting social engagement that capitalize on your child's strengths, increase opportunities for connection and learning, and can be woven into everyday routines.

BIOGRAPHY

Paige McArdle, PhD, BCBA is a licensed clinical psychologist at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City. Dr. McArdle specializes in providing diagnostic evaluations, early intervention, and parent coaching for children with developmental delays and Autism Spectrum Disorder

An Inside Look into Music Therapy, Why it Works, and How Music can be used as a Tool to Reach Individuals with Autism

Friday, November 4
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

Session B presented by **Beth Turner, Claire Distler, Kelley Pujol, and Kaylen Fagala**



SESSION DESCRIPTION

In this presentation we hope to give you an inside look at the therapeutic benefits behind our fun music sessions and give some tips and tricks for you to use on an everyday basis to benefit your individual(s).

BIOGRAPHY

Beth Turner

Beth is a music therapist in Cape Girardeau and has been with Easterseals Midwest since August 2015. She worked one year as a music therapist in the Poplar Bluff office before transferring to Cape Girardeau. She holds a B.S. in Music Therapy from Maryville University and is a board certified music therapist. Beth also completed the Neurologic Music Therapy training in April 2022. She has presented at the American Music Therapy Association's National Conference as an

undergrad student in 2014 as well as at Easterseals' Southeast Region Autism Conferences in 2018 and 2019.

Claire Distler

Claire has been with Easterseals Midwest since August 2016. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy from Western Illinois University and is a board certified music therapist. Claire completed her music therapy internship with Midwest Music Therapy Services in St. Louis, serving individuals in schools, facilities, and homes around the St. Louis area. Since coming to Easterseals, Claire has presented at several conferences and provided services and support to individuals and families in the Poplar Bluff and West Plains offices. She is now piloting music therapy services in the southern bootheel area.

Kelley Pujol

Kelley Pujol is a board certified music therapist and has provided music therapy services for individuals with Autism

Spectrum Disorders at EasterSeals Midwest Autism Services since 2001. Kelley completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Education at Luther College, a Master of Music degree in Music Therapy at The Florida State University, and a Master of Education degree in Special Education at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. Kelley has completed requirements and earned the title Neurologic Music Therapist Fellow. Kelley is the Chair of the Missouri Music Therapy Recognition Task Force, has been appointed to the American Music Therapy Association Judicial Review Board, served on the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) Professional Advocacy national committee, served as an executive board member of the Midwestern Region AMTA, and has been published by the Journal of Music Therapy, American Music Therapy Association, Music Educator's Journal, and the LAHPERD Journal. Kelley received

the service award from the Midwestern Region of the American Music Therapy Association in 2013 and the Changemaker Award for music therapy advocacy from the American Music Therapy Association in 2018. Kelley has also been involved in providing music therapy services to individuals with special needs in Kenya

Kaylen Fagala

Kaylen has been with Easterseals Midwest since April 2022. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy in Music Therapy from Drury University and is a board certified music therapist. Kaylen completed her music therapy internship with Central Missouri Therapy SPOT in Columbia from January 2021 to July 2021. After finishing her internship, Kaylen joined SPOT as a board certified music therapist in August 2021 and served until late March 2022. Kaylen currently serves individuals in the Poplar Bluff and West Plains areas.

Helping Children of All Ages with Emotion Regulation Using the SCERTS Model

Friday, November 4
9:45 AM - 10:45 AM

Session A presented by

Megan Tregnago, M.Ed., MHA, BCBA, LBA



SESSION DESCRIPTION

This workshop will review emotion regulation strategies for children with autism of all ages and communication levels. It will teach caregivers and professionals about co-regulation and self-regulation strategies and share useful tools that participants can use right away to help their child quickly calm when they are frustrated.

BIOGRAPHY

Megan Tregnago is a licensed and board certified behavior analyst (LBA, BCBA). She is the Manager of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Services for Easterseals Midwest's Central office. Megan is a Certified Early Start Denver Model (ESDM) Therapist and oversees three ESDM classrooms in the Columbia office. Over the last 17 years, she has provided services and workshops based upon ABA to families and professionals in the central Missouri region.

Circling Up: Parenting Support Groups

Friday, November 4
9:45 AM - 10:45 AM

Session B presented by Carolyn Mank



SESSION DESCRIPTION

This presentation will discuss the benefits of parental peer support.

BIOGRAPHY

Carolyn Mank is a mother and practicing Certified Nurse Midwife in St. Louis. She has spent her time as a nurse examining the benefits of group support during times of pregnancy. She started a parent support group in hopes of improving supports for parents that are undergoing, or have recently received, a diagnosis for their child.

All the Rage - Finding Humor and Happiness after Heartache

Friday, November 4
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Closing Keynote presented by Patti Vasquez



SESSION DESCRIPTION

Patti Vasquez leads the audience through her unique yet familiar parenting journey. Using humor and honest storytelling she helps parents and caregivers learn simple strategies to improve stressful situations.

BIOGRAPHY

Patti Vasquez is the host of "Driving it Home" on WCPT 820 AM, a stand-up comedian, inspirational speaker, and an advocate for individuals with disabilities. She was born and raised in Chicago and is an internationally performing comedian. She has appeared as a commentator on WGN-TV Morning News, Fox Good Day Chicago, and can be seen in her recurring role as Nurse Patti on NBC's "Chicago Fire." Patti was recently honored by the National Museum of Mexican Art and the University of Illinois for her contributions to art and advocacy work.

Patti and her husband Steve are the proud parents of two sons; Griffin, a college student, who is gifted, kind-hearted, and the best big brother to Declan; and Declan, who is

differently gifted, charming, and was born with a neurological abnormality called Corpus Callosum Disorder. Although he is missing a small part of his brain, Declan has made the world a much bigger place for his family and everyone lucky enough to know him.

In 2014, Patti founded "With Kind Words," a company in which she provides consultations for healthcare providers. She urges them to consider the emotional readiness of every member of the team, from the health professionals to the caretakers, as they strive to ensure the best possible outcome. She incorporates humor and personal experiences as a mother of a child with special needs to lead her audience on an intellectual and emotional journey. She strives to help audiences recognize how they can incorporate compassionate communication and inspire them to do it well.

While hosting her eclectic and wildly successful radio show, Patti began working with ABC to develop a sitcom based on her life and is currently on a reality series featuring Chicago comedians and chefs titled "Her Dinner Party!"