

A Systemic Approach to the Treatment of the Autism Spectrum Disorders

Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work

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Schedule:

- 10-10:15-Introduction/Overview
- 10:15-11:00-Part I
- 11:00-11:15—Break
- 11:15-11:45—Video of individual with ASD
- 11:45-12:30—Part II/Video
- 12:30-12:45—Break
- 12: 45-1:30—Part III
- 1:30-:45--Discussion
- 1:45-2:00-Evaluations

- The Question of Etiology
- Medical Screening: Modified Checklist for Autism
- Making the Diagnosis: Team of psychologist, OT SPLP, educator, social worker
- The Various Rating Scales: Gilliam, Autism Rating Scale
- Resources for making the Diagnosis: DDA/School System/Private providers
- Differential Diagnosis: OCD, ADHD, Social Anxiety
- Co-Morbidity: OCD, ADHD, mood issues
- Epidemiology: 1 in 150

■ Part II: The Systemic Context of Autism

- Common Family Dynamics: time/resource demands, stigma, isolation, behavior issues, guilt/blame, parental strife, problems with other siblings
- The Stages of Grief Model: shock, denial, anger, bargaining, acceptance. Family members can be at different stages, need to grieve again at each developmental stage
- Common Ways of Coping: *Normalization* (addressing autism within the context of other needs), *Crusadership* (illness as an occupation), *Altruism* (can neglect own needs), *Resignation* (can lead to depression)
- Positive Effects of Having An Autistic Member of the Family: increased cohesion, empathy among siblings, personal growth
