



7th Annual Southwest Washington Autism Conference Session Descriptions



Breakout Session One: 10:15-11:00

Keynote Q & A – [Monica Meyer](#)

Conference attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and further explore keynote address topics in a smaller group. Monica Meyer is an autism advocate, trainer and consultant.

[Russell Lehmann](#)

Back by popular demand, Russell is a nationally known author, poet and Autism advocate. He brings hope, inspiration and encouragement to parents, and other young adults like himself on the autism spectrum.

Next Steps After a New Diagnosis - Sara Palm-Sons (Lewis Co. Parent to Parent)

You or your child has received a diagnosis - now what? This presentation will detail next steps and resources available to you and your family.

Improving Work Behaviors with Behavior-Specific Praise – Abbey Lawrence (University of Washington Employment Program).

This session will explore the practice of using Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) as a tool to improve the quality of work for adults on the spectrum. Three work behaviors will be explored using similar techniques.

Breakout Session Two: 12:10-1:00

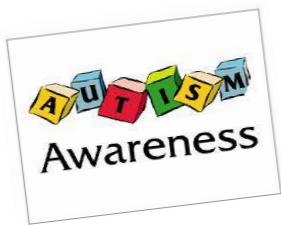
Panel: Adults on the Autism Spectrum - Russell Lehmann, Danny Raede & Tanner Calder A panel of adults on the autism spectrum will share their personal experiences and insights.

When an Emergency Happens - Ed Mund (FireFighter/EMT) and Meja Handlen (Lewis Co. Development Disabilities Coordinator)

In this session you will learn what to expect when emergencies occur, answers to why dispatchers ask certain questions and the essential information to have on hand in the event of an emergency.

Tools to Use Before Behaviors Escalate - Brianne Knighton (M.Ed., BCBA, LBA)

We would all like to be able to predict the future. In this session you will gather valuable tools and resources to utilize before negative behaviors begin or increase.



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Employment and Individuals with Autism - Abbey Lawrence (University of Washington Employment Program)

A discussion of the types of visual supports available from simple to complex including token boards, video prompts, video models, apps and the ways they can be used to increase independence, reduce challenging behaviors and support those with ASD.

Get SMART: School and Medical Collaboration – Members of Lewis County SMART Team
The Lewis County **School Medical Autism Review Team** engages school and medical professionals in a team setting to review a child's needs, perform screening and diagnosis and ensure appropriate services that support their success in school and life. Come learn about this nationally-recognized and replicable mode

Breakout Session Three: 1:10–2:00

Panel: Parents of individuals on the autism spectrum - [Monica Meyer](#), Gretchen Lehmann and Patti Nelson

On the journey to support their now-adult sons, these three women are impacting the landscape of support services for individuals with autism. They will share their lessons learned and insights on lifelong planning for the success of their children.

Deconstructing Defense Mode with Aspergers - Danny Raede (Co-Founder, [Asperger Experts](#))

Danny will define the scared, frustrated, withdrawal or anger elements of Defense Mode. Sensations of self-protection drive defense mode - an exhausting, debilitating cycle of anxiety. Danny (diagnosed with Aspergers at age 12) will describe recognition and methods to overcome this condition.

DDA & IFS Waivers - Navigating Government Services – Judith Miller (Developmental Disabilities Administration/DSHS, Region 3)

The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA of Washington State provides access to services through Individual and Family Services (IFS) waivers. You will learn about eligibility, how to enroll, and available services.

Working Collaboratively with Families and Schools – Kelly Zainfeld (Toledo Public Schools)
This presentation focuses on parent roles as managers of the team for their child on the spectrum. You will learn how to improve collaboration and communication between parents, teachers, the medical community and other caregivers.