



## THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF FORENSIC STUDIES (AIAFS) *presents*

### How Trauma and Other Forms of Adversity Impact Persons on the Autism Spectrum: A Need for a Trauma-Informed Care Response

Presenters: Jerrod Brown, Ph.D., MA, MS, MS, MS and Nicole Kimberley-Staeheli, MATS

This is a 6.0-hour On-Demand training

#### Training Description

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by social, communication, and behavioral challenges. Although symptoms can vary in type and severity, individuals on this spectrum often struggle in social settings (e.g., communication deficits), exhibit restricted and/or repetitive behaviors or interests, and may not perform well in school, work, or other settings. Individuals with ASD are also at greater risk to experience adverse life experiences such as being bullied, exploited, victimized, and abused (i.e., verbally, physically, or sexually) relative to the general population. Designed for caregivers, family members, and professionals working with individuals on the spectrum, this training highlights the consequences of adverse life experiences (ACEs) on individuals with ASDs and examines how a trauma-informed care response can be beneficial. Other related topics covered include trauma (e.g., complex and developmental trauma), PTSD, and toxic stress as well as three more target areas. First, we will discuss adverse behaviors for individuals with ASD that may stem from experiences of trauma (e.g., sibling abuse, emotional and behavioral dysregulation, substance use, and self-harm). Topics covered will include attachment problems, theory of mind, alexithymia, weak central coherence, rumination, irritability, gullibility, and internalizing and externalizing psychopathology. Second, we will explore the resulting impact on caregivers and the family systems (e.g., parenting and caregiver stress) of those on the spectrum. Third, we will highlight the need for professionals to both (a) understand the challenges faced by individuals on the spectrum and (b) provide trauma informed care to best intervene on behalf of these individuals and their support systems. Empirically based research findings and case study examples will be highlighted throughout this training with practical tips and suggestions.

#### Training Objectives

1. Identify the signs, symptoms, and varying severity levels of autism spectrum disorder
2. Explore adverse life experiences (ACEs) including their consequences and red-flag indicators
3. Consider the role of ASD in exposure to trauma and other ACEs
4. Discuss the implications of ASD and adverse life experiences on screening and interventions
5. Review the principles of trauma informed care and the role of the helping professional in relation to individuals with ASD and their support system (e.g., parents, caregivers, and siblings)
6. Review empirically-based research findings and relevant case studies

#### Presenter Biographies

**Jerrod Brown, Ph.D., M.A., M.S., M.S., M.S.**, is a professor, trainer, researcher, and consultant with multiple years of experience teaching collegiate courses. Jerrod has also been employed with Pathways Counseling Center, Inc. in St. Paul, Minnesota for the past eighteen years. Pathways provides programs and services benefitting individuals impacted by mental illness and addictions. Jerrod is also the founder and CEO of the American Institute for the Advancement of Forensic Studies (AIAFS). Jerrod has also provided consultation services to a number of caregivers, professionals, and organizations pertaining to topics related to autism spectrum disorder (ASD), Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), confabulation, suggestibility, trauma and other life adversities, traumatic brain injury (TBI), and youth firesetting. Jerrod has completed four separate master's degree programs and holds graduate certificates in Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Other Health Disabilities (OHD), and Traumatic-Brain Injuries (TBI). Jerrod has published several articles and book chapters and is regularly featured on several national and international podcast programs.

**Nicole Kimberley-Staeheli, MATS**, is the lead consultant for Nicole Ranae Consulting, LLC and has over 25 years of experience in field of Corrections. The primary focus for much of her career has been in the training, facilitation and implementation of evidence-based practices. Ms. Kimberley-Staeheli is a certified Motivational Interviewing trainer and has personally facilitated and trained hundreds of cognitive behavioral, trauma responsive, and gender responsive interventions. Ms. Kimberley-Staeheli serves as an independent consultant for county and community-based agencies serving criminal justice involved individuals and the communities they live in.

**COST: \$99.00 (Individual Rate)**

**REGISTRATION: Online at <https://www.aiafs.com/trainingsod.asp>. This event is a recorded, on-demand training event with participants able to watch at their convenience. Details on how to access each on-demand event will be sent after registration is complete. Note: Participants will not have the ability to do a Question and Answer session or interact with the presenter and this may affect CEU approvals.**

**For additional info, contact Darian @ 612-250-5432 - or - Email: [aiafsassoc@gmail.com](mailto:aiafsassoc@gmail.com)**