

Virtual Speaker Series

Exploring Neurodiversity

An estimated 20% of people in the United States have some form of neurodivergence.* **Neurodiversity** and **neurodivergence** have become common words in today's world. It may be just as common to have questions about these terms, like:

- What do they mean?
- Is neurodivergence linked to trauma?
- How does neurodivergence affect communication?
- How can we best support neurodivergent people?



In this training session, presenters will explore these questions and more. They will walk you through foundational knowledge about neurodiversity and neurodivergence, including diagnoses, impacts, and supports.

Date: October 30, 2024

Time: 10 a.m. – noon

Presenters:

Emily Burger, MS, NCC, IMH-E Infant Family Associate

Lori Milcic, MAP, CI, CT, QMHI

Lea Sheffield, IMH-E Infant Family Associate

Emily Burger has supported children and adults with intellectual disabilities and/or autism in varied settings and systems for 20 years. To this work, she has brought her passion for encouraging choice and independence while helping youth and their families through life's transitions. Emily is a graduate of Penn State University and Lock Haven University. She holds a master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

Lori Milcic (pronounced "mill-sick") serves the Office of Developmental Programs as its Deaf Services Coordinator. She has served the Deaf community for over 20 years through work as a direct-support professional, sign language interpreter, professor, and program director. Her expertise in nontraditional communication makes her a treasured resource in the commonwealth. Lori holds a master's degree in psychology and is pursuing her PhD in developmental psychology with a focus on language deprivation.

Lea Sheffield (pronounced "lee-a") manages the Special Populations Unit within the Office of Developmental Programs. She has supported people with disabilities for over 20 years and currently serves as a council member on the Pennsylvania State Interagency Coordinating Council, the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council, and Pennsylvania's Advisory Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Lea holds a degree in social work and is an endorsed Infant Mental Health Associate, Lifecourse Ambassador, and Capacity Building Institute graduate. Lea is also a mother to two wonderful, neurodiverse children.

Register by October 23. To sign up, visit https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Exploring_Neurodiversity_103024_SR.

Free training and continuing education units (CEUs): LCSWs, LSWs, LPCs, and LMFTs may earn **two CEU credits** (pending approval). Registered participants will receive an email with session details and a session link during the week of the training.

Questions? Please email Stacey Rivenburg at srivenburg@performcare.org.

* Source: "Neurodiversity," National Cancer Institute, <https://dceg.cancer.gov/about/diversity-inclusion/inclusivity-minute/2022/neurodiversity>.

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