

# Virtual Speaker Series

## Neurodivergence: A Review of Current Themes, Societal Impacts, and Impacts in Healthcare

In 1998, sociologist Judy Singer first used the term “neurodiversity” to recognize that each person’s brain is as unique as their fingerprints. Within the range of human neurocognitive possibilities, strengths and challenges can differ widely between individuals but still be part of healthy human functioning. “Neurotypical” and “neurodivergent” are terms we often use for individual differences, but it can help to consider the social contexts in which these terms arise.<sup>1</sup>



Join this presentation to explore:

- Neurodivergence as a social construct
- Perspectives on neurodivergence across different environments, including healthcare and office settings
- Neurodivergence from a biopsychosocial perspective to better understand and accept those who identify as neurodivergent
- Varying abilities, needs, societal accommodations, and common behaviors related to neurodivergence
- Additional diagnoses and behaviors that fall under the umbrella of neurodivergence
- Treatment modalities for neurodivergent individuals who meet that level of need
- Symbolology and specific terminology used throughout the world related to neurodivergence and preferred self-identity

Additionally, we will use a mini-mental status exam as an experiential tool to explore behaviors that may be present when working with a neurodivergent individual.

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**Date:** May 21, 2025     **Time:** 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

**Presenter:** Jason Rechtman, MA, MBA, LPC, NADD-DDS

**Jason Rechtman** is a licensed professional counselor who has spent most of his career working with children and adults living with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD). Before taking his current role as Strategic Development Director of ID/DD for PerformCare and AmeriHealth Caritas®, he worked for PerformCare of New Jersey for 10 years, where his roles included Manager of Clinical Quality Management, Care Coordination Supervisor, and Clinical Care Coordinator. Jason was the point person for clinical and systemic ID/DD issues.

Previously, Jason was a Clinician Supervisor for a statewide crisis intervention team for adults who had been dual-diagnosed with a mental health condition and a developmental disability. Besides his work in clinical intervention and psychiatric screening, Jason has brought his passion for training to educating families, students, psychiatric hospital staff, first responders, law enforcement, and state government entities.

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**Register by May 14.** To sign up, visit [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Neurodivergence\\_Training\\_5\\_21\\_25\\_SR](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Neurodivergence_Training_5_21_25_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 details and a session link one week before the training.

**Questions?** Please email Stacey Rivenburg at [srivenburg@performcare.org](mailto:srivenburg@performcare.org).

<sup>1</sup> “Neurodivergent,” Cleveland Clinic, <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/symptoms/23154-neurodivergent>, accessed March 11, 2025.