



DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Sent on Behalf of DES/DDD

JOIN THE DDD BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION VIRTUAL LUNCH AND LEARN EVENT

Target Audience - Qualified Vendors and Providers

Transmittal Date - 05/19/2025

Reminder, the Division of Developmental Disabilities is hosting Lunch and Learn Sessions monthly on the third Wednesday of each month.

May's session will focus on Autism Spectrum Disorder: Self Advocacy and Lived Experience. It will feature Lindsey's Experience with the AZ I/DD System and a clip on the Neurodiversity Movement from the *In a Different Key Toolkit: For Autism Understanding*.

- Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Topic: Autism Spectrum Disorder: Self Advocacy and Lived Experience, featuring Lindsey's Experience with the AZ I/DD System
- Presenters:
 - Lindsey Eaton, Self-Advocate, Member of the SARRC ASD Advisory Board
 - Mary DeCarlo, M.Ed., BCBA, LBA, Licensed Behavior Analyst, Program Administrator- Behavior Support and Services, Division of Developmental
- [Register in advance](#)

At one time, the autism diagnosis was reserved primarily for individuals profoundly challenged by their inability to meet their own needs and live fully independent lives. Often (but not always) they were also intellectually disabled. But in the 1980s, the concept of the autism spectrum emerged to include a much broader range of people whose experience presents another picture of being autistic. While facing significant difficulty with social interactions and acceptance by others, people in this group generally are verbally fluent (while possessing average to above-average intelligence) and sometimes markedly creative. Importantly for ongoing conversations about autism, they have become increasingly prominent in advocating for themselves and others

This presentation will be introduced by a clip from the documentary *In A Different Key* which features John Elder Robison, author of the bestseller *Look Me in the Eye*, in which he shares his perspective on his autistic experience and the idea of neurodiversity. Local autistic advocate, Lindsey Eaton will share her lived experience as a young woman with autism navigating the AZ/IDD System. The last few minutes will be an open "Ask me anything" to allow participants to ask questions.

In this session, participants will be able to summarize the concepts of self-advocacy and the neurodiversity movement. Participants will be able to apply the information learned to inform how they can improve their work and interactions with individuals with autism.

Limited space is still available so interested Behavioral Health Providers, Qualified Vendors, and Division employees should register now.

Individuals with questions about this Lunch and Learn series or any suggestions for future topics can email the [DDD Behavioral Health Training Unit](#).