



JOIN THE DDD BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION VIRTUAL LUNCH AND LEARN EVENT

Target Audience - Qualified Vendors and Providers

Transmittal Date - 06/30/2025

The Division of Developmental Disabilities is hosting monthly Lunch and Learn Sessions.

Next Session

- Date: Wednesday, July 16, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Topic: Police (Mis)Understanding, Resources to Support Interactions with First Responders
- Presenters:
 - Dr. Diana Davis-Wilson, DBH, LBA, BCBA, IBA, Chief Executive Advisor, Aspen Behavioral Consulting
 - Mary DeCarlo, M.Ed., BCBA, LBA, CTSS-I, Program Administrator - Behavior Support and Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities
- [Register in advance](#)
 - A confirmation email will be sent to the email address registered with the option to add the event as a calendar listing on the user's default calendar application. Users who experience a delay in receiving the email should check their spam folder.

Session Description

There was a time when autistic people were not as visible in society as they are today. One reason for that was the practice of institutionalizing them, which was common as recently as the 1970s. That is no longer the case, and in theory, at least, autistic individuals are encouraged to spend as much time out among the public as anyone else. But there is still misunderstanding among many about how autistic people behave, speak and respond and that misunderstanding can lead to dangerous situations for them. This session, featuring a scene from IN A DIFFERENT KEY shows an example when a person with autism encounters police, and either the person with autism does not understand police instructions or intentions, or the police misinterpret the person with autism's behaviors. (Note: this session includes a video that contains a brief sequence of an autistic man being subject to use of force by law enforcement).

This session will provide information on local and national resources, training opportunities, and considerations when supporting individuals with autism spectrum disorder or other intellectual disabilities who may have interactions with law enforcement or other first responders.