

Professional Development

Suicide Prevention in ASD

Presented by: Jack Scott, PhD, BCBA-D Hosted by: FAU CARD

About the Presenter

Jack Scott is the executive director of the Florida Atlantic University Center for Autism and Related Disabilities. He is an associate professor in the Department of Special Education and teaches courses on autism, inclusion, and behavior analysis. Dr. Scott received his doctoral degree from the University of Florida. His most recent book, safeguarding your child with autism, is published by Woodbine and provides a toolkit for parents to reduce risks their child with autism will face. Dr. Scott has research interests in individualized instruction, suicide prevention for autistic people, police training and elopement prevention. He also has several grants examining the rates of participation by African American children in school autism programs and for educating parents of newly identified children with autism. As a behavior analyst, he is active in linking behavioral analysts with emerging issues in safety and autism. He serves on the boards of several charter schools and as chair of the Panel of Professional Advisors and as a board member for the Autism Society of America.

Training Description

Target Audience: mental/behavioral providers, educators, clinicians, professionals

Suicide among persons with ASD is much higher than suicide among the population in general. Persons with ASD may have a three times greater risk for suicide and females with autism may have a 4.4 times greater risk. Many or the core characteristics of the disorder may suggest that suicide will be an important issue for this population. For example, efforts to "mask" or "camouflage" their autism may make it difficult for teachers or family to realize that the person with ASD is suffering at an increased level until their level of distress is very high. This presentation will explore some recent research on suicide prevention and the autistic population as well as offering several resources for helping reduce the risk of suicide for students with ASD.

Training Objectives

Participants will be able to state:

- The suicide rate for persons with ASD and the rate for those persons with ASD who have a co-occurring psychiatric condition.
- How masking and camouflaging of their ASD condition can make traditional suicide prevention measures less effective.
- The key partners within a school, school district, community, and region, to help strengthen suicide prevention measures for persons with ASD.

FAU Center for Autism and Related Disabilities

Date: May 1-31, 2022

Registration begins: May 1 at 10:00 am

Location: Online, pre-recorded webinar

Duration: 60 minutes

Registration Deadline: May 31, 2022 Limited to first 500 participants

Register <u>here</u> Registration is mandatory.

For more information contact: Contact Name <u>paganom@fau.edu</u> or (561) 212-8058

Be sure to contact your ESE District Staff or Staff Development Contact to determine the process for receiving in-service.

Regional Trainings are hosted by the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities, through the Partnership for Effective Programs for Students with Autism (PEPSA), a program funded by the State of Florida, Department of Education, K-12 Public Schools, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, through federal assistance under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B.

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