Sexuality & ASD: Supporting High School Students Who Demonstrate Inappropriate or Dangerous Sexual Behavior at School
Presented by: Kim Spence, Ph.D.
Hosted by: FAU CARD

About the Presenter
Dr. Kim Spence has served as the Clinical Director of Autism Support Services for Specialized Treatment & Assessment Resources since 2017 and continues to work as an Autism Disorders Specialist for the University of Central Florida (UCF) Center for Autism & Related Disabilities (CARD). Dr. Spence developed and began providing specialized sexuality education training for parents, teachers, and care providers of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in 2000, and has lectured internationally about creating visual supports, discriminating between maladaptive sexual behaviors versus mental health issues, and specialized educational and behavioral interventions to support healthy sexual knowledge for individuals with ASD across the life-span.

Training Description
**Target Audience:** Teachers, parents, caretakers, and professionals who work with students with ASD.

This training will provide information and suggested strategies for high school teachers and other school-based personnel supporting high school-aged students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) who may be engaging in sexually maladaptive behavior at school including touching others without permission, attempting to masturbate, unwanted attempts to engage in romantic relationships, and difficulty understanding physical boundaries with others. Current research regarding individuals with ASD who engage in sexually inappropriate behavior, as well as evidence-based teaching techniques to improve appropriate social interactions between students with ASD and their same-aged peers will be reviewed, along with case study illustrations. Examples of intervention plans and suggestions for program development will be discussed in addition to recommendations for: differentiating various types of friendships, developing personal safety plans, and assisting students in avoiding behavior defined as sexual harassment. This training is not appropriate for children, youth, or adults diagnosed with ASD.

**CAUTION:** Language, pictures, and images presented will be graphic in nature and may be offensive to some individuals.

Training Objectives
Participants will be able to identify:

- Three evidence-based interventions for high school students with ASD who engage in sexually maladaptive behavior.
- Necessary components for individual safety planning for high school students with ASD who engage in sexually maladaptive behavior.
- Two evidence-based teaching methodologies to employ with high school students with ASD who engage in sexually maladaptive behavior.

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