



Presents

Autism v Emotional Disability: Differences, Comorbidity, Eligibility, & Services

Dr. Charity Plaxton-Hennings, PhD

Virtual Online Conference

September 24, 2025

8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Cost: Registration \$50.00 on or before September 17, 2025

Course Objectives/Summary/Description

This workshop will provide school psychologists and speech language pathologists training in understanding the differences, comorbidity, evaluation procedures and services for children suspected of an emotional disability and/or autism.

Learner Outcomes

- Identify common elements in the developmental history of children with emotional disabilities and autism that aid in differential diagnosis.
- Understand and identify behaviors which commonly overlap children with autism spectrum and emotional disorders.
- Identify key characteristics and assessment strategies to differentiate between autism spectrum disorder and major mental disorders such as bipolar disorder and schizophrenia
- Utilize assessment tools such as the ADOS as to conduct high quality assessments and targeted interventions for students presenting neurodivergence.

Speaker Description:

Dr. Charity Plaxton-Hennings is a licensed clinical psychologist, who completed a post-doctoral fellowship in Pediatric Neuropsychology and Early Intervention through Loma Linda Children's Hospital. She has an extensive background in mental health including being a Certified Trauma Professional, Certified Critical Incident Stress Manager and a Trainer of Trainer in NASP PrePare Model. Dr. Plaxton-Hennings is currently serving as Superintendent of Temecula Valley Charter and has historically served as the Senior Director of Special Education for Desert Sands Unified and the Director of Mental Health and Psychological Services for Riverside Unified School District. She has previously had a private practice specializing in pediatric /neuro psychology, served as a police and fire psychologist, and school psychologist. She began her career as full-time faculty in Child and Health Psychology at Azusa Pacific University. She continues to serve as adjunct faculty at a number of universities. Dr. Hennings holds a Doctorate of Psychology, a Master's of Public Health (M.P.H.), a Master's of Psychology (M.A.), a credential in School Psychology and her Bachelor's Degree in Speech Communication and Psychology.

Speaker Disclosure:

Dr. Plaxton-Hennings is *receiving an honorarium for this presentation. No Non-Financial Disclosure.*

Cost: \$50.00 via CREDIT CARD ONLY – NO PO's Accepted
FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE but could be TRANSFERABLE
Maximum Number of Participants: #1000
In the event the training is canceled, fees will be refunded within 30 days.

You can only register online through OMS by clicking on the URL below.
Registration opens 05/20/2025 thru 9/17/2025 - NO late registrations accepted
<https://socalsea.k12oms.org/2486-265635>

You MUST use this Password in order to register: 09242025

Registrants are provided the opportunity to evaluate CE programs with additional narrative space provided for individual feedback regarding the quality of the course. The feedback from individuals not satisfied with the presentation will be taken into consideration when planning future trainings. Feedback from the participants will be summarized and provided to the presenter via email. The ASHA CE administrator and board members are available before, throughout, and after the training via email to socalseapd@gmail.com, chat, and phone. Complaints that cannot be resolved at the conference must be submitted in writing to socalseapd@gmail.com within two weeks to the ASHA CE Administrator and/or a board member of SoCalSEA.

Time Ordered Agenda

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|---------------------|--|
| 8:30 am - 10:00 am | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Context of Autism and Mental Disorders • Developmental and Genetic Correlates of Autism, ADHD, Schizophrenia and other depressive disorders |
| 10:00 - 10:15 am | Break |
| 10:15am – 11:30 am | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autism vs. Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder: Comorbidities Across the Lifespan • Assessment Tools and Strategies for Understanding/Identifying Neurodivergence~Going Beyond the "Standard Scores" |
| 11:30 am - 12:00 pm | Lunch |
| 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anxiety, Depression and Trauma: Implications for School-Based Interventions for Autism |
| 1:15 pm - 1:30 pm | Break |
| 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case Study Application for Differentiating Autism versus Emotional Disorders |

Please provide your California SLP or SLPA license number and ASHA account number when you register. ***Login and logout times will be recorded and documented. The Evaluation Form is turned in to verify your full attendance. The certificate is given out at that time for the same reason. The course evaluation for this course MUST be completed within 7 days of the event, by October 1, 2025. Specify ADA Accommodations if needed.***

This course is offered for 0.5 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate level; Professional area)



ASHA CE
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Intermediate Level
.5 ASHA CEUs