AUISM COLLECT 2024

Bringing together the autism community for a day filled with connections, support, and understanding!

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Message from the DDSN Autism Director

I am thrilled to extend a warm welcome to all our attendees and exhibitors participating in this year's AutismConnect conference. Your presence signifies a shared commitment to enhancing the lives of individuals diagnosed with Autism and their families.

In collaboration with the University of South Carolina's Carolina Autism and Neurodevelopment (CAN) Research Center, we are taking one day to embark on a journey filled with learning, sharing, and community building. Our event is designed to be a comprehensive resource, providing valuable insights into the latest trends, research, and services available to support those with Autism.



To our esteemed exhibitors and sponsors, thank you for your invaluable support and for sharing your expertise, services, and resources with our community. Your contributions enrich our collective understanding and capacity to help those who need our services.

To our dedicated attendees, including experts, caregivers, family members, and all those interested in autism support, your participation today is the heartbeat of this event. Your engagement and eagerness to learn and connect are what make AutismConnect a meaningful and transformative experience.

Together, we will explore a wide range of topics, engage in enriching discussions, and foster connections that will continue to inspire and drive progress in our communities. Today, we can all play a role in making our community better for our loved ones on the spectrum.

Thank you for joining us at AutismConnect2024. Let's make this a memorable and impactful event for everyone involved!

Stephanie Turner Autism Division Director

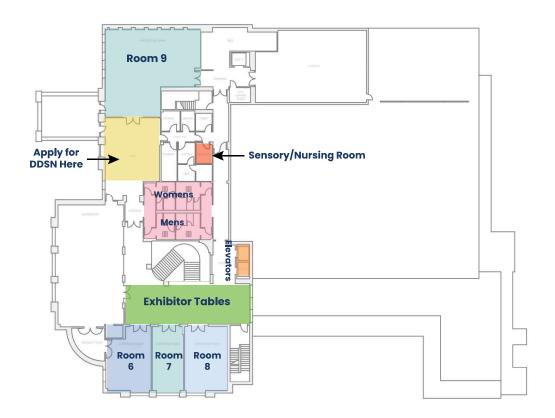
South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs



Floorplans



Level One



Level Two

Session One (9:30am - 10:30am)

Dispelling the Common Myths of Working While Receiving Social Security Benefits

Amber Lydford

- South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation

Room 3

Many parents, caretakers, advocates, and individuals are unaware of the benefits of working while getting SSI or SSDI, the application process, age 18 redeterminations, TEFRA Medicaid, and so much more.

SC Parents: Empowering Parents & Nurturing Kids

Brittany Crowley, MPA

- Children's Trust of South Carolina

Room 9

Children's Trust of South Carolina has created a bevy of robust resources for parents and caregivers. Come learn how your organization can join the SC Parent Community.

Mental Health Treatment (CBT) and Autism Spectrum Disorder Christopher Moylan, Psy.D. - PRISMA

Room 5

Teens with ASD often face anxiety and depression. Intervention for ASD typically includes behavioral therapy like ABA and social skills programs. This presentation focuses on adapting CBT for ASD.

College Ready?

Tom Beeson, Ed.S. – Clemson University **Room 2**

Many students and parents are unsure about college readiness. In this workshop, we will consider skills that are often essential, ways to promote success in college, and parental and student roles and responsibilities.

Preschool Suspension and Expulsion: Shared Definitions and Next Steps

Heather Googe, Ph.D.

& Meghan Trowbridge, LISW-AP, CBIST
South Carolina Child Care Inclusion Collaborative

Room 4

Learn about addressing preschool suspension or expulsion in South Carolina and supporting the workforce to reduce these practices in early childhood settings.

Cultivating Compassionate Connections: A Guide for Caregivers and Professionals

Jacqui Williams, M.S., BCBA - Meaningful Milestones

Room 1

Explore strategies for empathy, kindness, and understanding. Ideal for caregivers and professionals, focusing on communication, compassion, and supportive environments.

Supporting Transition and Employability Skills through a Plant Nursery Business and Al

Lisa Kershaw, Ed.D. – Joyful Souls Heirloom Nursery **Room 6**

Learn about supporting transition skills through home-based businesses, aiding individuals with autism, and enhancing skills with AI; experience a mother and son's venture in Columbia supporting employability and social needs.

Unveiling Excellence: Navigating Impact Inclusivity and Empowerment Through Innovation and Leadership

Marcus McClearn, M.Ed.- Arc of the Midlands

Room 8

Discover key insights, accomplishments, and vision of IDD/RD advocates, emphasizing impact, inspiration, inclusivity, and collaborative strategies shaping success.

South Carolina Equipment Distribution Program: Products to Make Communication Easier

Ouantella Perry

South Carolina Equipment Distribution ProgramRoom 7

Learn how SCEDP partners with organizations and professional to help speech impaired individuals with autism. Apply for a free iPad and speech app!

Session Two (10:45am - 11:45am)

Transportation: Creating Access to Independence

Ali Ruegamer - able South Carolina

Room 4

This presentation will highlight barriers to transportation for individuals with disabilities in South Carolina, emphasizing its importance and options available in the Midlands.

DDSN 101 and Transition Services

Carrie Walker, Angela McGinty, MS, & Octavia Graham, MS

- SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs

DDSN Transition Coordinators will present who DDSN serves, DDSN services, how to become eligible with DDSN, the roles of Transition Coordinators, and resources that are available for you to use today!

MUSC SPARK and Autism Research Opportunities in South Carolina

Catherine Bradley, Ph.D., Jessica Bradshaw, Ph.D., Abby Hogan, Ph.D., & Robert Hock Ph.D., LiSW-CP

- Medical University of South Carolina

Room 7

This presentation will cover information about the SPARK study at MUSC and other research opportunities available throughout South Carolina.

Continuum of Care: Serving Children with Serious Emotional or Behavioral Health Diagnoses

Gregory Wright, LPC - Continuum of Care

Room '

Learn how the COC program in South Carolina helps children with behavioral health issues stay in their homes, schools, and communities using the team-based High Fidelity Wraparound Model.

The Palmetto ABLE Savings Program: Saving for the Future

Karen Crider

- Palmetto ABLE Savings Program, State Treasurer's Office

Room 3

Palmetto ABLE accounts help individuals with disabilities save without losing benefits. This presentation covers federal and state legislation, eligibility, opening accounts, benefits, and more.

The Nuts & Bolts of a Genetics Evaluation for Autism Spectrum Disorder

Katy Drazba, MPH, MS, CGC

- Greenwood Genetics Center

Room 2

Explore the essentials of genetic evaluations for autism spectrum disorders. This talk will cover the basics of the evaluation, including dysmorphology, genetic testing, associated conditions, family history red flags, and outlining future treatment opportunities.

Enhancing Family Engagement in IEP Meetings: A Vital Partnership

Sally Baker, M.Ed., CCLS

- Family Connection of South Carolina

Room 6

This presentation highlights the importance of family involvement in Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings to help students succeed through collaboration and effective communication.

Meltdowns and Tantrums: Helping Parents Support Emotion Regulation in Toddlers with Autism

Sara Edmunds, Ph.D. - University of South Carolina

Room 5

Parents will learn strategies to manage autism-related tantrums in toddlers and promote coping skills.

Common Misconceptions about the College Experience for Individuals with Intellectual Disability

Shayla Anderson, M.Ed.

- SC Inclusive Postsecondary Education Consortium

Room 8

College IS possible for individuals with intellectual disability through inclusive programs in South Carolina that focus on academic, functional domains, affording college, transitioning preparation, and necessary skills for IPSE success.

Session Three (1:00pm - 2:00pm)

Parent and Researcher Perspectives on Parent-Peer Support Programs

Abigail Mojica, M.A.T., Robert Hock, Ph.D., LiSW-CP, Anja Wilson, BA, Cortney Heuer, & MSW, Laura Shugart Sigman - University of South Carolina

Room 7

Parent-peer support programs improve caregiver mental health, social support, and service navigation skills for families of children with ASD, according to a study in South Carolina.

Understanding Behavior

Alexandra Newcomb, M.Ed., BCBA - Behavior Co Room 5

Understanding Behavior: Why does behavior happen?

Making the "Transition" from Special Education to Postsecondary Education and Employment

Amanda Hess, J.D. - Disability Rights South Carolina Room 1

The presentation will cover transition services for students with IEPs and emphasize the need for students to request accommodations before leaving high school.

Guardianship and Alternatives

Anna Maria Conner, J.D.

- Disability Rights of South Carolina

Room 4

Objectives include defining guardianship, exploring its impact on families and care recipients, and discussing supportive alternatives that empower individuals to decide.

Making Connection through Special Olympics

Barbara Oswald - SC Special Olympics

Room 8

This session will showcase Special Olympics opportunities that promote active lifestyles, healthy relationships, and meaningful inclusion for individuals with disabilities, targeting caregivers and professionals.

Investing in our Future: Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health

Mackenzie Soniak, Psy.D.

South Carolina Infant Mental Health Association
 Room 2

Learn about the collaborative SC Infant Mental Health Association provides professional development opportunities, resources, and services for infant and early care professionals and families in SC.

Fine-Tuning Tools to Help Providers Support Emotion Regulation in Very Young Autistic Children

Sara Edmunds, Ph.D.- University of South Carolina Room 9

Professionals will learn evidence based strategies to reduce autistic meltdowns in toddlers, addressing common family concerns.

Homeschooling the Child with Special Needs

Susan Blackwell

- Homeschooling the Special Needs Child

Room 3

We'll cover legal aspects, learner types, grading options, and help you choose the best for your student by guiding you to helpful resources for your homeschooling journey.

Clarifying Misconceptions About Special Education in Charter Schools

Wendy Ward, MAT

- South Carolina Public Charter District

Room 6

School choice is on the rise in South Carolina. Historically, misconceptions exist regarding charter schools and special education. This session will explain student enrollment, funding, accountability, teacher licensure, and programming as it pertains to special education in charter schools

Exhibitor Info









706-842-5330

ABLE provides intensive ABA therapy for children with autism in a preschool-like environment.







2725 Banny Jones Ave., West Columbia, SC 29170

803-799-1970

The Babcock Center provides residential and vocational training for people with autism.











About Play offers Early Intervention Services in 44 counties of South Carolina for infants and children up to six years old. They provide Family Training and Service Coordination to teach children through play and everyday routines, promoting social, emotional, communication, motor, adaptive, and cognitive development.





BabyNet@scdhhs.gov



1801 Main Street, Columbia, SC 29201



1-866-512-8881

BabyNet is South Carolina's program providing services to infants and toddlers aged 0-3 years with developmental delays or conditions like











Early Intervention company in upstate offers Babynet and DDSN plans for children, including assessments, therapy, and school transitions.











Behaviors A Go-Go offers comprehensive ABA treatment, addressing cognitive, communicative, social, emotional, and adaptive functioning, implementing individualized care plans for meaningful, positive changes for each child and their family.







4727C Sunset Blvd. Lexington, SC 29072

803-951-0771

AllCaregivers provides personal care aides to assist with activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing, meal preparation, and more. Also provides aides for respite care.









803-730-0324

BGR8 Martial Arts offers a family-oriented program for children with autism, enhancing coordination, physical conditioning, and social skills through a safe environment.









803-750-6988

SCAS is a non-profit organization in South Carolina dedicated to assisting individuals with autism spectrum disorders through initiatives like Parent-School Partnership, Case Management, Information and Referral, and Advocacy.



brightstartsc.com

columbia@ brightstartsc.com





Bright Start offers early intervention and case management services for individuals on the autism spectrum, enhancing quality of life through compassion, excellence, integrity, and leadership.





caringhealthcaresc.com



caringinc1995@yahoo.com



6B Bush River Care, Columbia, SC 29210



803-772-2231

Provides in-home care and support for the autistic community, offering assistance with hygiene, grooming, supervision, companionship, meal prep, and housekeeping, while also providing parental downtime.





comop.org



craig.scott@comop.org



16 Woodcross Drive, Columbia, SC 29212



803-750-8998

Community Options promotes disability inclusion through residential services, day programs, social enterprises, high school transition programs, and specialized programs, enhancing accessibility and collaboration with community partners.





sc.edu (Search Carolina **Autism and Neurodevelopment** Research Center)



can@sc.edu



1800 Gervais Street, Columbia, SC 29201

USC's Carolina Autism and Neuodevelopment Research Center is an interdisciplinary hub for research and education on autism and neurodevelopmental disorders, led by Jane Roberts and Jeff Twiss.





prismahealthchildrens.org



9 Medical Park Drive, Suite 210 Columbia, SC 29203



803-434-6598

At Prisma Health Developmental Pediatrics, we provide consultations and evaluations for children with developmental, academic or behavioral difficulties. We believe in taking an interdisciplinary approach to helping children with disabilities and their families thrive!

Center for **Disability Resources** SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA



sc.edu (Search Center of Disability Resources)



david.rotholz @uscmed.sc.edu



8301 Farrow Road, Columbia, SC 29208



803-935-7819

Our center bridges university-community relations for intellectual, developmental, and related disabilities, providing interdisciplinary training, technical assistance, community services, research, and dissemination services.





www.scpartnerships forinclusion.org



scpi@mailbox.sc.edu



1530 Wheat Street Columbia, SC 29208



803-429-0519

South Carolina Partnerships for Inclusion (SCPI) is an early childhood technical assistance (TA) center focused on increasing inclusive opportunities and school readiness for preschool children with disabilities.





scinclusion.org



scic@mailbox.sc.edu



1530 Wheat Street, Columbia, SC 29208



803-777-8483

The South Carolina Child Care Inclusion Collaborative offers tailored training and technical support to child care providers to facilitate the inclusion of children with disabilities or developmental delays.





disabilityrightssc.org



info@disabilityrightssc.org



3710 Landmark Drive, Suite 208, Columbia, SC 29204



866-275-7273

DRSC, South Carolina's designated Protection and Advocacy system, safeguards and promotes the rights of people with disabilities through free services, including legal support, self-advocacy training, and system change.





scparents.org



bcrowley@scchildren.org





1330 Lady Street Suite 310, Columbia, SC 29201



803-733-5430

SC Parents, developed by Children's Trust of South Carolina, provides parents and caregivers with social care resources, trusted advice, and statewide parent-to-parent support.





epworthchildrenshome.org



erodgers@epworthsc.org



2900 Millwood Avenue, Columbia, SC 29205



803-256-7394

Epworth's Counseling Center offers licensed therapists for mental, behavioral, and substance use concerns, while its Early Intervention Center focuses on children with developmental delays and disabilities.











Family Connection of South Carolina (FCSC) is the state's Parent Training and Information Center, providing peer support, training, outreach, and advocacy for families with disabilities.











Mighty Kidz Services offers ABA and Speech Therapy programs for neurodivergent children aged 2–6, including preschool prep, school programs, and individualized after-school services in various settings.



greenvillelearning collective.com







Greenville Learning Collective provides speech-language evaluations, therapy, and educational advocacy for autistic individuals and co-occurring disabilities, while also offering individualized therapy and mental health services.



npusa.org







nP Online provides virtual Art and Design training for students, fostering creativity, work readiness, and social interest-based clubs, allowing them to apply knowledge and apply their skills.











We assist families with all homeschooling services. These include curricular choices, implementing accommodations, testing services, and much more!



newell.org



7 Arleys Way, Suite 102A, Bluffton, SC 29910

843-781-8927

OneWell of South Carolina, LLC offers IHCS and nursing services, focusing on a unique participant-centered approach to help those stay home as long as possible.











JusticeWorks BehavioralCare offers a range of services including individual and family therapy, psycho-social skills, behavior modification, and parenting skills, aiming to support personal growth and functioning.











The Palmetto ABLE Savings Program provides tax-advantaged savings and investment accounts for people with disabilities, ensuring eligibility for critical needs-based benefits without jeopardizing their financial stability.





lexrich5.org



spedrecords@lexrich5.org



1020 Dutch Fork Road, Irmo, SC 29063



803-476-8222

District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties Special Education Services offers free public education to children with disabilities, utilizing over 200 trained teachers and specialists to meet individual needs.





rldsn.org



RLDSNB@aol.com



301 Greystone Blvd., Columbia, SC 29210



803-252-5179

The Richland/Lexington Disabilities and Special Needs Board provides quality services to individuals with disabilities, focusing on individualized needs and identifying appropriate providers.











Continuum of Care, a division of SC Department of Children's Advocacy, offers High Fidelity Wraparound for children with serious emotional, behavioral, and psychiatric issues.











SC DDSN's Autism Division aims to improve quality of life for individuals with autism spectrum disorder, promoting early intervention, diagnosis, treatment, and support.









A program offering comprehensive services for children with special healthcare needs, promoting their health and well-being.

The South Carolina Philharmonic's inclusive concert "A Work of Heart"

allows audience members to freely experience orchestral music and



ed.sc.gov







The OSES works to build local capacity to improve educational results and functional outcomes for children with disabilities in the state and to ensure that local education agencies (LEAs) meet program requirements under IDEA.









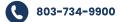


South Carolina **DEPARTMENT** ON AGING

aging.sc.gov







We provide support and resources for programs that help aging citizens and adults with disabilities live independently.



welcomes sensory-sensitive listeners.









The SC Public Charter School District authorizes 39 charter schools across the state, serving 18,500 students with about 17% being students with exceptionalities. SCPCSD prides itself in being a champion for all students.





scddc.sc.gov



Valarie.bishop@admin.sc.gov



1205 Pendleton Street, Suite 372, Columbia, SC 29201



803-734-0465

The Council works towards a comprehensive system that includes community services, individualized support, and other assistance to promote self-determination for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.





schomeschooling.com



scaihs@scaihs.org



613 St. Andrews Road. Columbia, SC 29210



803-814-0353

SCAIHS Special Needs department supports exceptional learners with tailored resources and techniques from diverse experts.





first5sc.org



636 Rosewood Drive, Columbia, SC 29201



803-734-0479

First Five SC offers free resources and services for expecting or raising children, including food assistance, child care, special needs services, and parenting support. Visit first5sc.org for more information.





SCIPSEC supports South Carolina college students with disabilities in academics, independent living, socializing, and employment.







admissions@ springbrookbhs.com



One Havenwood Lane, Travelers Rest, SC 29690



864-660-6220

Springbrook Autism Behavioral Health offers compassionate, multidisciplinary care for children and adolescents with autism, providing a nurturing, stable, and therapeutic environment tailored to their unique needs.







of South Carolina

arcsc.org



thearc@arcsc.org



254 Corley Mill Road, Lexington, SC 29072



803-748-5020

TBSBooks@statelibrary.sc.gov

1500 Senate Street, Columbia SC 29201

803-734-4611

Talking Book Services offers accessible reading materials for individuals with visual, physical, and print disabilities, including audiobooks, braille, and assistive technology, to improve their reading experience.

We offer statewide case management services and host various programs, including Wings for All, Disability Advocacy Day, Elephant in the Room, and ALERT for first responders.





scmuseum.org



accessibility@scmuseum.org



301 Gervais Street, Columbia, SC 29201



803-898-5033

The South Carolina State Museum is an innovative institution showcasing South Carolina's diversity, offering monthly Accessibility Mornings, sensory-friendly shows, and a Wellness Room for guests.







director@aikentdc.org



1016 Vaucluse Road, **Aiken, SC 29801**



803-642-8800

Tri-Development Center of Aiken County, Inc. is a leading provider of services and support for citizens with disabilities, including day, employment, residential, and rep payee services, as well as a commercial bakery.





musckids.org



sparkautism@musc.edu



135 Rutledge Ave, Charleston, SC 29425



843-714-1352

so-sc.org

SPARK, the largest autism study, is a community of families, autistic adults, and researchers, with over 300,000 participants, addressing gaps in research and transforming the field.





scdmh.net



Mobilecrisis@scdmh.org



2414 Bull Street, Ste 309, Columbia SC



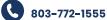
833-364-2274

Mobile Crisis is available 24/7 for mental health emergencies. Services may be provided telephonically, on-site, or via telehealth. The Office of Suicide Prevention provides training, education, and resources for South Carolinians and oversees the implementation of the 988 National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline in SC.





acorley@so-sc.org



Special Olympics South Carolina offers year-round sports training and competition for children and adults with IDD, promoting physical fitness, courage, joy, and inclusivity in schools and communities.

HANK TO ALL OF OUR EXHIBITORS!

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Center for **Disability Resources**

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA



South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs



The South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs and the **UofSC's Carolina Autism and Neurodevelopment Research Center** are beyond grateful for the businesses and organizations who donated prizes for AutismConnect.

These prizes allow attendees the opportunity to not only walk away with a wealth of knowledge and resources, but possibly with a fun activity, helpful shopping experience, or another awesome gift!

Again, we say thank you to the following prize donors:





































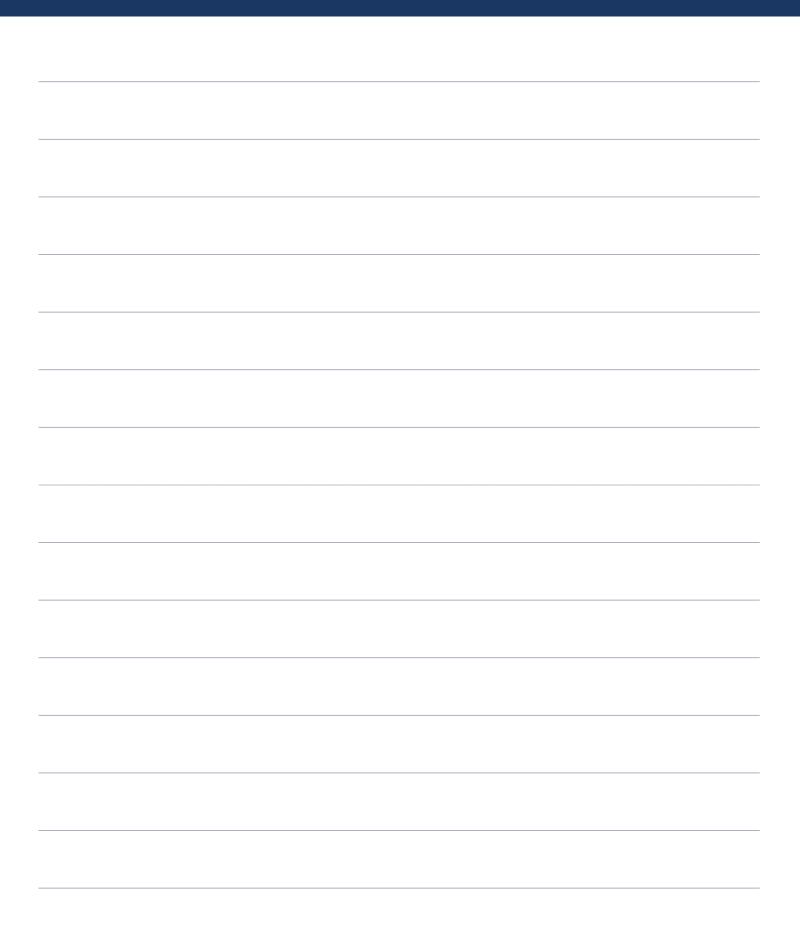
Stay Tuned For

Follow us on social media for updates!

@SCDDSN



NOTES



CONNECT

Find an Exhibitor Win a Prize!

В	I	N	G	0
I.M.P.A.C.T. S.C.	Residential Program	Developmental Disabilities Council	Assistive Technology Program	Caring Healthcare
Early Intervention	DDSN	Employment Support	Personal Care Aid	Education Agency
Applied Behavior Analysis	Disability Library	Free Space	Mental Health	Financial Support
Healthcare	Recreation	Resource Database	THE CAN CENTER UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH GAROLINA	Autism Evaluators
Case Management	Autism Research	OneWell	Trainers for Childcare Providers	Disability Rights

Show your completed board to registration for a prize.