

RIBHT Social Work Month Event

Barriers to Diagnosis and Support of Rural Families with Children on the Autism Spectrum

This workshop will address barriers to diagnosis and support of rural families with children on the Autism Spectrum. Studies show that families with a child with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) who live in rural areas receive a diagnosis of ASD up to five months later than families living in more urban areas. This compounds delays families already face from the time of parent report of initial concerns to the time of a formal diagnosis. Further, diagnosis does not ensure services; most autism services providers and clinics in West Virginia have long waiting lists, often only work with children up to a certain age, and may not work with children with challenging behaviors. Families with lower socioeconomic status face further barriers to obtaining a diagnosis and services for their children with ASD and associated developmental delays. Additionally, West Virginia families may struggle to access adequate special education services in the public school system. This workshop will focus on how behavioral health providers can best support rural families impacted by autism.

Presented by:

Joseph R. Scotti, PhD & Claudia S. Neely, MA, MEd, MDiv

DATE: 03/27/2026

TIME: 11:00 – 12:30 pm

Location: Zoom – [Click Here to Register](#)

Approved for 1.5 CE Hours for WV Licensed Social Workers

