



Pennsylvania  
Department of Human Services

## Dual Diagnosis Professional Conference Series

[More than a Label:](#)

[Lived Perspectives, Screening, and Strategies for](#)

[Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder \(FASD\) Support](#)

**September 18, 2025**

**9:00 AM – 12:30 PM**

## **What is the Dual Diagnosis Professional Conference Series?**

The Department of Human Services' **Office of Developmental Programs (ODP)** and the **Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS)** are pleased to announce the Dual Diagnosis Professional Conference Series, which offers presentations focused on supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism (ID/A) and mental health needs. The selected presenters share their expertise on the best and most promising practices as well as providing general knowledge. Session topics, which focus on increasing capacity to serve individuals with dual diagnosis in the community, are chosen based on identified needs and with input from the field of professional stakeholders.

- The invited audience of all professional stakeholders, including direct and clinical supporters for individuals with ID/A, are encouraged to attend.
- Registration is required and at no charge to attendees.
- Three and a half (3.5) hours of training credit and a certificate of achievement are provided.

## **DESCRIPTION**

This presentation will review the clinical clues for identifying the effects of FASD, suggestions for screening, current research, and statistics. We will explore daily supportive strategies and positive approaches including sensory integration and emotional regulation techniques. The information will be shared through a trauma-informed lens that incorporates the voice of lived perspectives.

## **PRESENTERS**

**Dr. Kimberly Katruska, Ed.D. NADD-CC** has worked in the field of social services and higher education for over twenty years, starting out as a direct support professional. She earned her doctorate in education in the areas of Leadership and Administration from Point Park University, focusing on adult learning and training. She is a national presenter and consultant, working with community-based providers, various counties, and states to explore best practices and evidence-based supports. She has partnered with international and national universities to develop human services curriculums for students and professionals.

Currently, Dr. Katruska is the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Clinical Coordinator at Merakey of PA, conducting multiple assessments that focus on meeting the complex needs of people, such as problematic sexual behavior, sensory integration, and FASD screenings. She provides specialized training and consultation to teams to improve the quality of community-based supports.

**Robin VanEerden MS, LPC, NADD-DDS, CC** earned her Master of Science Degree from Shippensburg University in Community Counseling and acquired her License in Professional Counseling (LPC). She has served adults with Dual Diagnoses for over 45 years. She has acquired the first ever Dual Diagnosis Certified Clinician credential awarded by the National Association for Dual Diagnosis. Robin is an Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing Therapist and has received a certificate in Trauma through Drexel University. Robin has served as the Clinical Director for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Human Services, Office of Developmental Disabilities, Central Region. She is the former Vice President of Integrative Counseling Services, PC in Harrisburg, PA. In 2019, Robin won the National Association for the Dually Diagnosed (NADD) Earl L. Loschen Award for contributions that have resulted in significant improvement in the quality of life for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as mental health needs. Robin has developed the Risk Screening for Best Practices Tool. She is a subject matter expert on FASD “The Invisible Disability” and has articles published on the topic. Robin administers sexuality assessments for consent, knowledge, and attitudes. She also administers trauma informed assessment for people with problematic and sex offending behavior. She is currently the Executive Director of Clinical Services for Merakey and assists with consultation services that include Merakey in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and California.

## HOW TO ATTEND

### [REGISTRATION LINK](#)

The session will be offered virtually via the Zoom© platform. To participate, you will need access to a computer that meets the Zoom system requirements. Read about [Zoom Technology Requirements](#) to be able to participate in the session.

For questions on registration, email: [patraining@columbusorg.com](mailto:patraining@columbusorg.com)