

## **BETTER TOGETHER**

2018 ATSA Conference | Wednesday October 17 | 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

**A-17**

### **Disability Informed Therapy As It Applies to Offenders with Intellectual Disabilities**

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An intellectual disability is essentially a significant problem with learning; once recognized it becomes obvious that no matter how much you 'slow it down' or how much 'plain language' is used, people with intellectual disabilities don't learn in typical ways.

This presentation will discuss and provide examples of some of the common barriers to learning for people with intellectual disabilities and outline "cognitive ramping" techniques to present concepts and ideas in a manner accessible to people with disabilities.

This presentation will also examine the history of sexuality and disability; how the sexuality of people with disabilities is held captive, controlled and/or suppressed; the feasibility of teaching healthy sexuality within the current system, the treatment that resulted from the myths and misconceptions surrounding people with disabilities; and the power relationship between the therapist and the person with a disability.

#### **Learning Goals:**

- Upon completion of this educational activity the participants will be able to enunciate 3 barriers to learning for people with intellectual disabilities.
- The participants will be able to use cognitive ramping in designing therapeutic approaches for offenders with disabilities.
- The participants will understand the interaction between the individual with a disability, the system they live in, and the tension and discord that arises when sexuality intersects between those two and from there establish meaningful and possible goals for the individual or for the system in which they live.
- The participants will be able to incorporate the research about the lived experience of people with disabilities in relationship to the community and to community helpers, like the police, and use that research in designing outcomes that are safe.
- The participants will be able to develop therapeutic rapport with people with intellectual disabilities by understanding the power base within the therapeutic dynamic.
- The participants will be able to approach the people they serve with an understanding of the differences between the personal history of people with disabilities regarding sexuality as compared to those without disabilities.

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**Dave Hingsburger** is the Director of Clinical and Educational Services for Vita Community Living Services. He has worked with sex offenders with intellectual disabilities for over twenty years and has been an author, consultant and trainer on the subject of sexuality and disability.

**Chanelle Salonia** is the Manager of Clinical and Educational Services for Vita Community Living, where she has been providing services for individuals with intellectual disabilities and complex mental illness for over 10 years. She has an interest in research and service provision in the area of treatment for sexual offenders with intellectual disabilities. Chanelle also teaches in the Forensic Practice and Behaviour Science Program at Humber College in Toronto, Ontario.

**Heather Hermans** is the Program Supervisor and Co Therapist of a treatment home supporting individuals with ID who have engaged in sexually offensive behaviours. Heather has over 25 years of experience in the field of disabilities and has supported individuals with a variety of support needs. Heather has Developmental Services Worker diploma and post graduate certificates in Human Resource Management and Teaching and Training Adults. She is currently a student of the Ryerson University Disabilities studies program.