

BETTER TOGETHER

2018 ATSA Conference | Wednesday October 17 | 1:30 PM – 5:00 PM

P-24

FASD: Uncovering the Hidden Disability

Dorothy Reid, MA
Reid Wellness Consulting
Marsha Wilson, MA
Douglas College

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is the most common and the most underdiagnosed neurodevelopmental disability. A recent study from 4 U.S. areas suggested an incidence **rate** of between 2-5%. Individuals with FASD are over-represented in the justice system not only in perpetrators, but in victims and witnesses. The cognitive challenges associated with the disorder provide challenges for intervenors and treatment providers. This session will provide information on the identification of individuals suspected of having FASD, cognitive challenges associated with FASD with an emphasis on strategies to enhance intervention success. Examples of strength based interventions will be provided.

Learning Goals:

- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to identify some of the common characteristics of individuals with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to identify factors which contribute to the over-representation of individuals with FASD involved in the justice system.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to assess the potential impact of language deficits and the impact of these deficits on interventions.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to identify areas in their practice which may need to be adapted for individuals with suspected or diagnosed FASD.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to identify strength based approaches to interventions with individuals with FASD.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to share fundamental information about FASD with their colleagues.

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Dorothy Reid is the owner of Reid Wellness Consulting, providing consultation and training to individuals and organizations on maintaining wellness. Dorothy worked with the Correctional System primarily in the area of mental health service development and delivery. She has extensive professional experience in working with individuals with FASD and other mental health concerns and developed interventions for offenders with cognitive deficits. After obtaining a diagnosis of FASD for their two sons, Dorothy and her husband have been involved in the development of support groups for parent and caregivers of children with disabilities.

Marsha Wilson has been working with individuals with disabilities for over 30 years now. She has a Master's degree in Leadership as well as credentials in Early Childhood Education and Teaching English as a Second Language. In addition, Marsha has a personal connection to the field as the parent of a son with FASD. Other areas of strength include relationship building, parent support, mental health, and foster-adopted support. Marsha has an acute awareness of the sensitivities of children, and excels at creating repertoire with both students and parents. Currently, Marsha works part time consulting, as she is also a post-secondary educator in the Classroom and Community Support Program at Douglas College. She is the founder of the Langley FASD Parent Support Group and is actively involved with numerous sectors of the FASD community.