

# CT BHP Training Series Highlights



## Crisis Support and Suicide Prevention for Individuals with Autism

Carelon Behavioral Health CT recently hosted a three-part training series titled "Crisis Support and Suicide Prevention for Individuals with Autism," attracting over 1,000 participants from all 50 states. Led by expert Lisa Morgan, MSW, M.Ed. CAS, a trauma-informed consultant and founder of the Autism and Suicide Prevention Workgroup, the series focused on autism-specific resources for crisis communication and support. Lisa, a passionate self-advocate and author, offers her insights through her website: [www.autismcrisissupport.com](http://www.autismcrisissupport.com).

### Session Highlights:

- ✓ Research and Risk Factors: Lisa discussed the link between autism and suicide, highlighting unique risk factors, the impact of "masking," stigma, and potential harm within the autistic community.
- ✓ Communication and Support in Crisis: This session provided strategies for effectively engaging with distressed autistic individuals, recognizing suicide warning signs, and evaluating the use of the 988 lifeline. The 'Reasons for Living' resource was introduced as a vital suicide prevention tool.
- ✓ Fireside Chat Hosted by Jennifer Krom: The final session featured a discussion on key insights and strategies for supporting individuals with autism in crisis.

### Participant Feedback:

"The presenter was very knowledgeable and thorough with her work. Also, as an autistic person, I appreciated seeing another autistic person discussing this topic."

"I am a mother of an autistic son, and I am constantly trying to learn more and find resources to deal and communicate with my child to help support him. Navigating this terrain as a parent is difficult and this was very helpful for me both professionally and in my personal life."

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## **Educational Forum: Healing Journeys Post – Incarceration: Integrating Clinical Insights and Lived Experience**

On September 17th, the Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership (CT BHP) and the Connecticut Hospital Association hosted a virtual forum to enhance access to behavioral health treatment for individuals with substance use disorders reintegrating post-incarceration. The event, which attracted over 350 participants nationwide, focused on strategies for successful reintegration, combining clinical insights with firsthand experiences to promote health equity and recovery.

Dr. Kimberly Sue from Yale University highlighted the severe impacts of mass incarceration, particularly on women, and its ties to systemic racism in drug policies. She noted that the U.S. has the highest incarceration rates globally, with many imprisoned for nonviolent substance-related offenses, and called for systemic changes to address healthcare deficiencies in prisons.

Susan Burton, founder of "A New Way of Life," shared her journey from addiction and incarceration to advocacy. Her organization provides essential reentry support for women, including housing, family reunification, workforce development, and legal assistance, successfully reuniting over 400 families since 1998.

Both speakers stressed the urgent need for criminal justice reforms, particularly in improving healthcare access in prisons and using compassionate, trauma-informed approaches for those with substance use disorders. They highlighted the benefits of comprehensive support, like peer recovery programs that offer safe housing, education, and legal aid. These initiatives can reduce reoffending, promote health equity, and support long-term recovery.

### **Participant Feedback:**

"Susan was amazing. Her inspirational story is the definition of why many of us choose to work in this field and help others. . . . [She] reminds me of Maya Angelou because they have the same will to help others even though their prior... [paths were very challenging], but they made the choice to be different and help others with their struggles."

"I really enjoyed and appreciated the woman who shared with us her story, experiences, and accomplishments. It helped connect the dots with the information provided from the other facilitators. I also learn better that way. So, thank you!"

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For information on these educational forums, recordings, and information on past and upcoming training opportunities from Carent Behavioral Health CT, visit the below website links:

Educational Forums

<https://providers.ctbhp.com/providers/educational-forums/>

Events and Trainings

<https://providers.ctbhp.com/providers/events-trainings-publications-2/>

