

# Inclusive Mental Health Symposium

Transforming Care: Inclusive Mental Health Practices for People with Disabilities

June 18, 2026 | 9:15 am - 5:15 pm | Online via Zoom

This project is funded by the New Jersey Division of Disability Services through the Inclusive Healthy Communities Initiative.

Inclusive Healthy Communities  
NJ Division of Disability Services



**Philip Smith, PhD, LMHC, LMFT, LPC**

**Presentation:**

*Autism and Co-occurring Anxiety Disorders: A Hidden Challenge in Problem Behavior*



**Melissa Cheplic, MPH, NADD-CC, DrPH(c)**

**Presentation:**

*Creating Accessible and Inclusive Clinical Settings*



**Elizabeth Hill, Exec. Dir., NJHS DDHH**

**Presentation:**

*Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Mental Health*



**Jessica Bacon, Ph.D.**

**Presentation:**

*The Connection Between Inclusion and Positive Disability Identity*



**Priya Lalvani, Ph.D.**

**Presentation:**

*From Advocate to Ally: Supporting positive identities among children and youth with disabilities*



**Samantha Messeck, LSW**

**Presentation:**

*Masking, Misdiagnosis, and Mental Health: Supporting Neurodivergent Clients Authentically*

The symposium is a culmination of a four-year IHC grant driven by a community advisory group made up of persons with disabilities and/or lived experience with disabilities, community partners, a community observational assessment and surveying area service providers.

**SYMPOSIUM TICKETS ARE FREE**

View the schedule and reserve your tickets on our website



[NutleyFamily.org](https://www.NutleyFamily.org)

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