

# Clinical Techniques for Working with Autism Spectrum Disorder



## DESCRIPTION

This training prepares clinicians and other health providers to better understand and support teens and adults across the autism spectrum, with particular attention to current clinical challenges and evolving terminology. Attendees will examine persistent myths surrounding ASD, learn to differentiate “look-a-like” diagnoses, and develop skills in identifying traits that may signal a need for further assessment. The course will also highlight key shifts in terminology, assessment and prevalence, including the move from labels like Asperger’s Disorder to more inclusive concepts such as neurodivergence and neurodiverse. Clinicians will strengthen rapport-building strategies and learn to optimize therapeutic environments to better engage and serve the ASD population.

## OBJECTIVES

*Upon completion of this course, the participant should be able to:*

- 1. Understand past myths about Autism Spectrum Disorder.*
- 2. Develop competencies regarding "look a like" diagnosis.*
- 3. Develop ability to recognize common traits in teens and adults (vs diagnostic criteria) that should indicate need for further assessment.*
- 4. Develop competencies for working with the more common traits in ASD to improve rapport with ASD population and improve engagement.*
- 5. Learn some ways that they can set up their office to improve the therapeutic setting for ASD population, and optimize rapport as well as opportunity for the patient to benefit from therapy.*

## TARGET AUDIENCE

Counselors & Therapists, Psychologists, Social Workers, and any other interested healthcare professionals

**FEE** \$35 Consortium Member \$ 70 Non-consortium Member

Deadline to register: 1/8/2026

**Cancellations and Refund Policy:** Cancellations must be made prior to each program’s cancellation deadline date as listed on its program details page in order to be eligible for a refund. If you paid a registration fee for your in-person or webinar program and cancel via the registration system by the cancellation refund deadline, you are eligible for a full refund (minus any material fee, if applicable) Refunds are typically processed within 10-15 business days after that.

## INSTRUCTOR:

Thomas Walsh is the Content Creator for The Official Mental Health Matters YouTube Channel and Instagram Account, a Licensed Independent Social Work Clinical Practitioner and Supervisor. He has been working in the field of mental health for over 27 years. He graduated from Bridgewater State University in 1995 with a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology and a minor in Sociology. Mr. Walsh attended Salem State University and graduated with a Master’s degree in Social Work in 1998. After graduation, Mr. Walsh was a student of Dr. Salvatore Minuchin. Early in his career, he focused on working with children with autism. Over the course of his career, Mr. Walsh has been licensed in three States and served the field of social work in a variety of sectors. He currently specializes in EMDR and trauma therapy for First Responders and their families. Over the course of his career, Mr. Walsh has led public trainings on topics such as Assessing Risk, Working with ASD Populations, and Motivational Interviewing. He has been featured on several podcasts and been published in Offgrid Magazine for his work helping others manage their trauma following emergencies and disasters.

**Friday, January 9, 2026**

**9:00 am - 12:15 pm**

**Webinar via WebEx**

## CREDIT

**AHEC:** This program is approved for 0.3 CEU's (3.0 clock hours) by Pee Dee AHEC and meets SC AHEC Best Practice standards. Participants must attend 90% of the program and complete an evaluation in order to receive a certificate of attendance. No partial credit will be given.

**Counselors and Therapists:** This program is approved for 3.0 hours of continuing education credit. The South Carolina AHEC system is recognized as a permanent sponsor of continuing education by the South Carolina Board of Examiners of Licensure of Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and PsychoEducational Specialists. {Provider number is #65

**Social Workers:** Pee Dee AHEC, as part of the SC AHEC System, is an approved provider of CE for social workers. This social work program is approved for 3.0 hours of non-social work credit hours.



Building and Supporting the Healthcare Workforce South Carolina Needs

To register please visit  
[www.scahec.net/learn/login](http://www.scahec.net/learn/login)  
For questions please contact  
**Kimberly Morris**  
at 843-777-5352

[Kimberlymorris@mcleodhealth.org](mailto:Kimberlymorris@mcleodhealth.org)