



Dual Diagnosis Professional Conference Series

Testing and Assessment for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities/Autism (ID/A) and Mental Health Conditions

November 12, 2026

10:00am – 1:30pm

What is the Dual Diagnosis Professional Conference Series?

The Department of Human Services' **Office of Developmental Programs (ODP)** and the **Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS)** are pleased to announce the Dual Diagnosis Professional Conference Series, which offers presentations focused on supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism (ID/A) and mental health needs. The selected presenters share their expertise on best and promising practices as well as providing general knowledge. Session topics, which focus on increasing capacity to serve individuals with dual diagnosis in the community, are chosen based on identified needs and with input from the field of professional stakeholders.

- The invited audience of all professional stakeholders, including direct and clinical supporters for individuals with ID/A, are encouraged to attend.
- Registration is required and at no charge to attendees.
- Three (3) hours of training credit and a certificate of achievement are provided.

**Testing and Assessment for People with Intellectual and Developmental
Disabilities/Autism (ID/A) and Mental Health Conditions**

November 12, 2026, 10:00am – 1:30pm

DESCRIPTION

Morning Session: Assessment of Mental Health Conditions in People with ID/A

In this session, you will learn about varied assessments and evaluations, as well as ones that are specifically designed for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities and autism, and discover how to obtain these, as well as how professionals select, buy, and ethically use specialized assessment tools for intervention.

This presentation will intersect with the Pennsylvania Intermediate Units (IUs), using the Capital Area Intermediate Unit (IU 15) and its Diagnostic Program as an example for understanding assessments for this dual diagnosis population and the unique services they provide and what assessments are available in the educational setting.

Afternoon Session: Psychological Testing for People with ID/A and Mental Health Conditions

When assessing individuals who have both ID/A and Mental Health diagnoses, standard psychological testing procedures often require significant modification and careful interpretation. The central question is frequently not "What is the diagnosis?" but rather "How do cognitive limitations, psychiatric symptoms, communication abilities, adaptive functioning, and environmental factors

interact?" This presentation will focus on the development of a fundamental understanding of psychological testing for individuals with ID/A and Mental Health diagnoses, including basics of how referral questions shape the assessment battery, what contributions different tests make within a testing battery, and understanding the process of testing from referral to outcome report.

AGENDA

10:00am - 11:30am: Dr. Patrick Rieker - *Assessment of Mental Health Conditions in People with ID/A*

11:30am - 12:00pm: Break

12:00pm - 2:00pm: Dr. Brian Rabian - *Psychological Testing for People with ID/A and Mental Health Conditions*

PRESENTERS

Dr. Patrick Rieker has worked in the field of mental health for 35 years and has been a licensed psychologist for 25 years. He has worked extensively with various populations and across various settings over those years, although the bulk of his career has involved working with children and adolescents, including a long history of work with schools and within the education system.

Dr. Rieker is in his 15th year with the Capital Area Intermediate Unit, where he is employed as a clinical psychologist. His primary roles are as a psychological

evaluator and diagnostician, as well as providing professional consultation to his IU's programs and mental health staff.

Brian Rabian, PhD, is a licensed clinical psychologist in Pennsylvania. Over a 25-year career in academia, he taught graduate-level courses in psychological assessment, behavior therapy, and clinical interventions for children and adults. While at Penn State, Dr. Rabian co-led practice activities focused on individuals dually diagnosed with intellectual disorders and mental health disorders. Since joining Community Care Behavioral Health in 2016, Dr. Rabian has regularly offered continuing education training opportunities on a variety of topics, including psychological assessment for adults and geriatric populations.

Dr. Rabian completed his undergraduate work at the University of Delaware, his graduate work at George Washington University, and his internship and postdoctoral fellowship at Children's National Medical Center, and Florida International University, respectively.

HOW TO ATTEND

REGISTRATION LINK: [**DUAL DIAGNOSIS PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE SERIES**](#)

The session will be offered virtually via the Zoom© platform. The Zoom link for joining the session will be sent to the email you used to register using the registration link above. The join link will be unique to your registration. Please do not share this link.

For questions on registration, email: patraining@columbusorg.com