



REFLECTIONS

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | NOVEMBER 2023 ISSUE

ECHO AUTISM COMMUNITIES PARTNER LAUNCH CLASS OF OCTOBER 2023



We had an incredible turnout for our October 2023 ECHO Autism Communities Partner Launch Training! Look at these organizations who are changing the world!

- Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist and Brenner's Children's Hospital
- The University of Iowa - Scanlan Center for School Mental Health
- Baylor College of Medicine
- Virginia Tech Autism Clinic & Center for Autism Research
- University of Virginia
- Sunny Hill Health Centre at BC Children's Hospital - Canada
- Christus Children's Hospital of San Antonio
- Saskatchewan Health Authority Provincial Autism Strategy
- University of California, Los Angeles



SAVE THE DATE!

2024 ECHO AUTISM COMMUNITIES SYMPOSIUM

APRIL 11, 2024

ECHO AUTISM 2024 SYMPOSIUM

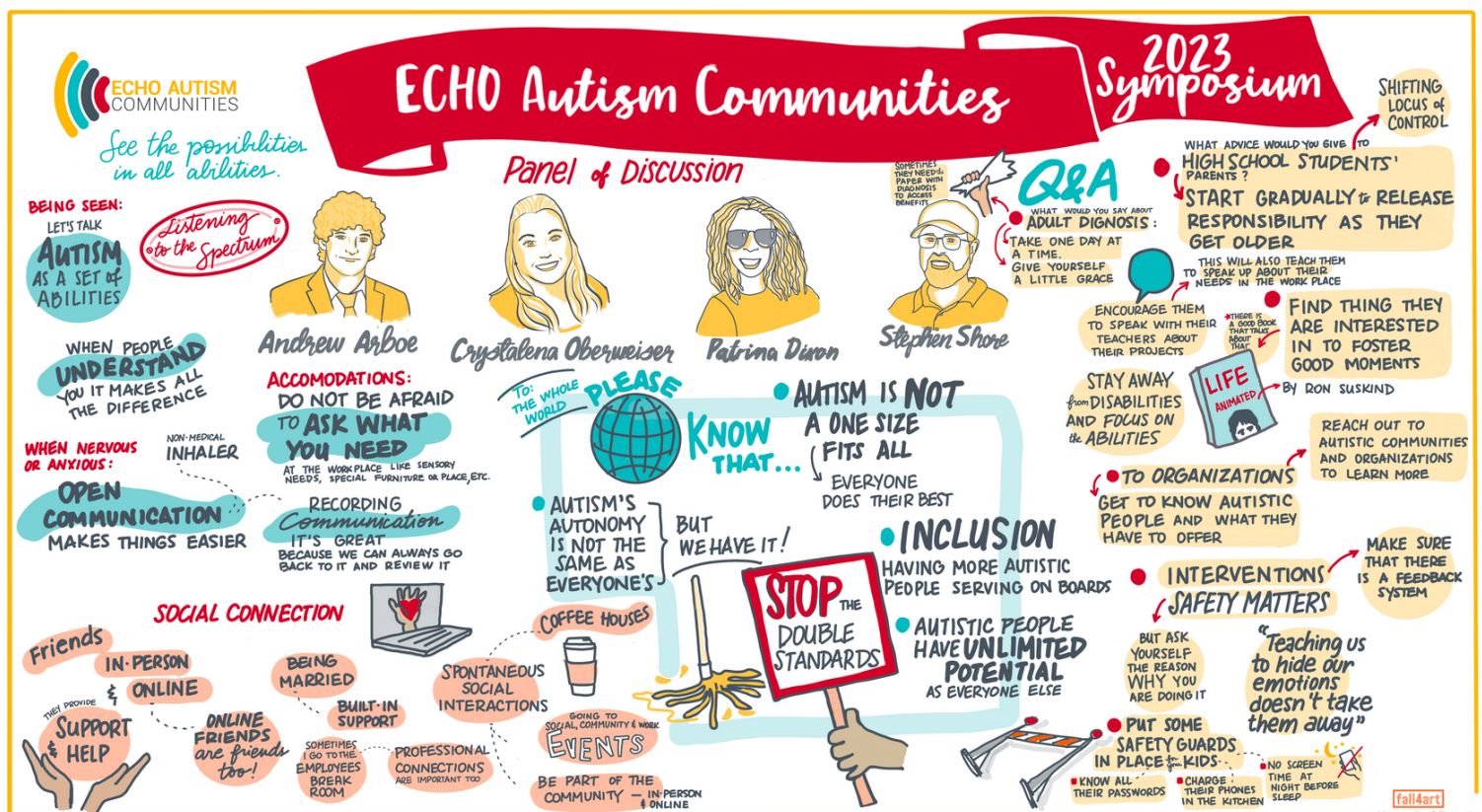
ECHO Autism Communities is excited to announce the 2024 Symposium date: April 11, 2024. Each month, we are highlighting presentations from our 2023 Symposium. This month, we are featuring graphic recordings and participant quotes from the presentation "Listen to the Spectrum: See Possibilities in All Abilities", which was presented by Stephen Shore, Crystalena Oberweiser, Andrew Arboe & Patrina Dixon.

"I loved hearing their experiences and how they wish their care was different when they were younger."

"I love their ability to showcase their gifts. Too often, the focus is on how the diagnosis impairs a person."

"Listening to and encouraging client driven approach - valuing the lived experience as real and valid."

"Advocate for accommodations if you need it. Having ASD does not mean you cannot go to college"



ANDERSON CENTER FOR AUTISM

This month's highlight is on the Anderson Center for Autism.

The Anderson Center for Autism has been working over the past year to support school personnel in New York State, and beyond, in the education and support of school-age autistic children. They launched their first ECHO Autism program, ECHO Autism: Autism Best Practices, in the fall of 2022 to help increase educator knowledge in evidence-based practices for treatment of autism, address common educational and behavioral concerns in autistic children, and support successful IEP meetings.

The hub team consists of the following disciplines: Speech Language Pathologist, Behavior Analyst, Social worker, Licensed Psychologist, Education Expert, Autistic Individual, Mental Health, Occupational Therapist, School Counselor.

The team at the Anderson Center for Autism offers ECHO Autism: Best Practices sessions monthly for 90-minutes. Their first year was a phenomenal success, yielding 259 unique participants from 83 different schools/organizations. They also reached a global audience with attendees from Slovakia, Tasmania, Zambia, Chile, United Kingdom, New Delhi, and Puerto Rico. With that success, they are now offering a second series of this ECHO Autism program!

Register for this program [HERE](#).

Thank you to the dedicated team at the Anderson Center for Autism who are bringing best practice information to teachers and the education system!

EVALUATING AUTISM DIAGNOSIS AGREEMENT BETWEEN PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS/PRACTITIONERS AND EXPERTS THROUGH ECHO AUTISM STAT

Research in Autism Spectrum Disorder recently published an article about a study that evaluated how accurate and reliable primary care providers (PCPs) were at diagnosing unambiguous autism spectrum disorder (ASD) after completing the ECHO Autism STAT training program.

Even though early intervention leads to improved outcomes for children with autism, delays in diagnosis can have an impact on both children and families. ECHO Autism STAT is one innovative model that increased the capacity of community primary care providers (PCPs) to reliably diagnose autism within their own practices via hands-on training and virtual guidance and support from autism specialists.

This study found that with ECHO Autism STAT training, PCPs can develop clinical expertise in the evaluation and diagnosis of young children with unambiguous autism symptoms that is both accurate and reliable. This is exciting because development of this expertise can expand access for community-based diagnosis that is critical for early detection of autism. Check out the study [HERE](#).



THE AUTISM & GRIEF PROJECT WEBSITE



One of our goals at ECHO Autism Communities is to bring resources to autistic individuals, their families, community members, and healthcare professionals. One of these resources we'd like to share, and we encourage you to share with others, is the The Autism & Grief Project Website.

[The Autism & Grief Project Website](#) is dedicated to supporting autistic adults in grief and loss. The goal of the website is to validate the grief experiences of autistic adults while recognizing the many strengths and challenges of autism. The project recognizes that autism and grief are both highly individualized, making each person's life experience and grief journey unique.

The website was designed to help visitors navigate and support the often-rocky journey of grief and loss. Their intent is to provide reliable information and helpful suggestions that respect and acknowledge the grief experiences of adults with autism and fully involve them in the grief process. The website includes information and resources for autistic people, family, friends, support people, clergy, and other professionals.

Explore the website [HERE](#).

The Autism & Grief project website was created by the Hospice Foundation of America in Partnership with the NLM Family Foundation.