

## **Session A: “A Crash Course on Goal Writing for Autistic Clients”**

### **Session Description:**

With the rise of knowledge of the Neurodiversity Movement in speech-language discourse, clinicians find themselves tasked to affirm their autistic students' identities through creative, compassionate, and patient speech-language practice. Simultaneously, educator, clinician, and student burnout post the Covid-19 Pandemic is rampant, making such a radical shift in practice and outcomes difficult to realistically obtain. In this presentation, Rachel Dorsey, MS, CCC-SLP will examine the roles of mental and sensory wellbeing in the functional outcomes for autistic clients. Discussion will focus on the complexities and nuances of real life clinical decision-making in several case studies, ultimately landing on goals that are both client and clinician-affirming.

### **Objectives:**

- Analyze how an Autistic child’s mental health impacts selection of an obtainable goal
- Select a meaningful targeted skill for an Autistic client given their current skills and challenges

### **Speaker:**

**Rachel Dorsey is a Speech-Language Pathologist, educator, consultant, and autism rights advocate.** Through her private practice and consultancy, Rachel Dorsey: Autistic SLP, LLC, she provides education to parents, professionals, school districts, and organizations through coaching, consultations, in-services, professional developments, and courses on neurodiversity-affirming therapeutic practice. Rachel serves autistic clients of all ages in her private practice. The services she offers as a provider and consultant draw upon her own experience as an Autistic person and her seven years of clinical experience working within early intervention, preschool, post-secondary, and clinic settings.

### **Speaker Disclosures:**

#### **Rachel Dorsey**

**FINANCIAL:** Rachel is the owner of Rachel Dorsey: Autistic SLP, LLC and receives a salary. Rachel is a paid consultant for Responsive Feeding Pro, LLC and Learn Play Thrive, LLC. Rachel will receive an honorarium for this presentation and appearance in a panel discussion.

**NONFINANCIAL:** Rachel is Autistic and has friends and family members who are Autistic.