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Dating Q & A with Dr. Melissa Brown

By: Out of Sync Woman

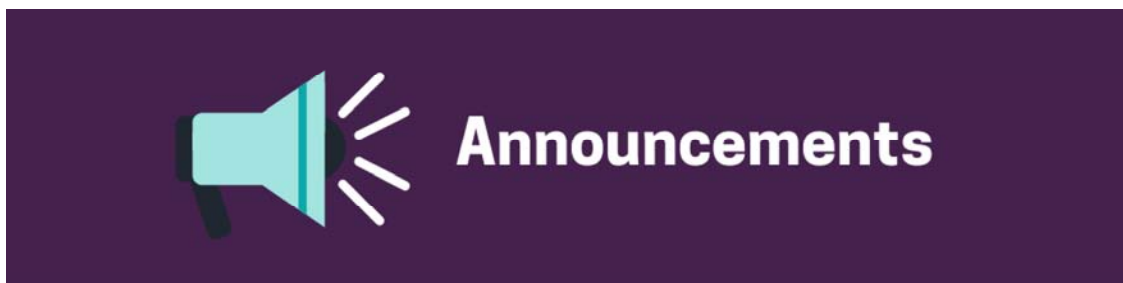
Q: I'm really nervous about dating, especially approaching someone for the first time. I have a hard time reading other people's body language. Do other people not on the Autism Spectrum have similar experiences?

A: *Absolutely. Most people are quite nervous to introduce themselves to someone they are interested in. It is a natural human need to want to fit in and not fail. Most people are afraid of failing so they never really try. And to be honest if we never try, we will never succeed. There will be times if we do approach someone, it does not work out well and then there will be times of success. So, it never hurts to introduce yourself and offer a compliment to someone whom you might want to get to know.*

Q: Dr. Brown, are there any viewing recommendations that you would suggest for the body language of flirting?

A: *I do not have any specific recommendations but books or movies about body language are very helpful. There are many movies in pop culture which demonstrate healthy and unhealthy ways to flirt. It is always important if you are unsure of a behavior to seek out the support of a trusted person and run it by that individual.*

[Click here to read the full interview.](#)



Quality Assessment & Improvement Process Training

With the implementation of the Quality Assessment & Improvement Process in July 2017, each Administrative Entity is expected to have one staff person who is ODP Quality Management Certified on its provider review team. To meet this demand, ODP is offering four classes in the spring of 2019. These classes are located throughout the Commonwealth to make them more accessible. Please read **[ODP Announcement 19-004](#)** for details on the application process.

Virtual Training Offerings

ODP announces continued Virtual Training Offerings for March 2019. These courses are for supports coordination organizations and agencies, other service providers, and other professionals supporting individuals with autism, intellectual disabilities, and other developmental disabilities. Details are available on MyODP, **[Announcement 19-002](#)**.

Certified Investigator Forum

ODP and Temple University are conducting Certified Investigator Forums. These forums are an opportunity for current Certified Investigators and other interested parties to receive up-to-date

information about the Quality Investigation Unit of Temple University. This call will also allow participants to network, share best practices, and receive technical assistance in an effort to improve the quality of all investigations. Details available on MyODP, [Announcement 19-015](#).



The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Office of Developmental Programs recently released two important reports:

The [**Improving the Quality of Residential Services report**](#) outlines ODP's efforts to improve the quality of residential services, particularly in the area of risk management. The purpose of this report is to share with stakeholders ODP's commitment to improved service quality to maintain the health and well-being of individuals residing in community homes.

The [**2018 Information Sharing and Advisory Committee \(ISAC\) Recommendations, Strategies, and Performance Measures report**](#). With its commitment to continuous quality improvement, the ISAC reviewed 2018 accomplishments and performance data for each of the Everyday Lives recommendations, and announces additional areas of focus for 2019 Recommendations, Strategies, and Performance Measures report.

Stay Connected!

Want to receive the latest ODP updates, training opportunities, and newsletters? Subscribe by emailing RA-PWODP_OUTREACH@pa.gov.



Events and Trainings

Featured Events

3/7/19- [Waiver Workshop, Washington County](#)

3/7/19- [Waiver Workshop, Centre County](#)

3/8/19- [Capital Area Transition Fair](#)

3/9/19- [Waiver Workshop, Lehigh County](#)

3/11/19- [Creating a Vision for a Good Life
Workshop, Schuylkill County](#)

3/13-15/19- [Dan Miller's 6th Annual Disability
& Mental Health Summit](#)

3/18/19- [Glade Run Lutheran Services
Transition Vendor Fair](#)

3/23/19- [Philadelphia Interagency
Coordinating Council: Family Friendly
Sensory Cooking Class](#)

3/23/19- [Super Fair of Centre County](#)

[Click here for a full list of events.](#)



March 21, 2019 | 3:00-4:30 | Drexel University
Limited free parking will be available and light refreshments will be served.

Autism Insurance in Schools: A Panel Discussion of the Landmark Case Burke v. IBC

Doors open at 2pm

Bossone Mitchell Auditorium | 3140 Market St, Philadelphia, PA 19104

For details and to register: www.phillyautismproject.org/Burke

The landmark Pennsylvania Supreme Court case of Burke v. Independence Blue Cross solidified insurance coverage for autism services for students in Pennsylvania schools. This panel will bring together the key players to explain its importance for students with autism and their families. Panelists will include David Gates, Esq., the attorney who took up the fight; John Burke, the plaintiff and father of a student who had been denied services; Dennis M. O'Brien, Former Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives; and Nina Wall, Director of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Autism Services.

Continuing Legal Education credits will be available.



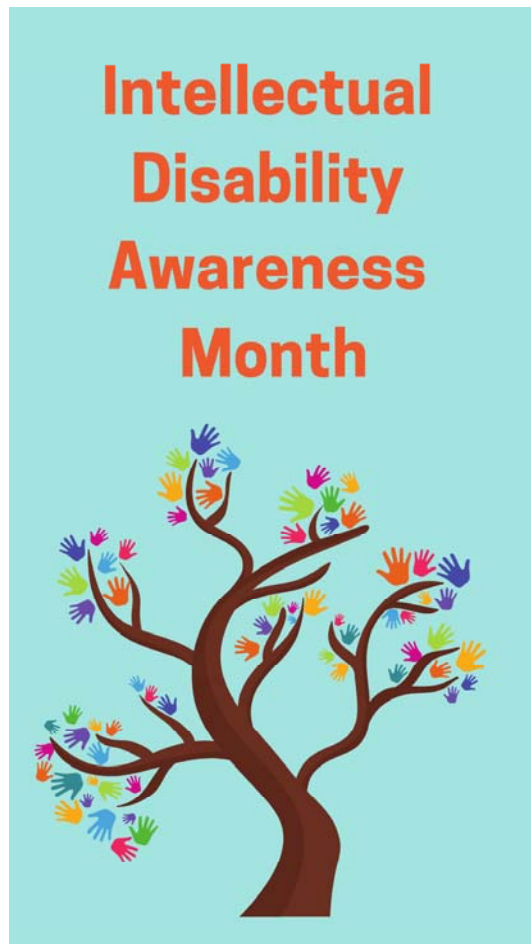
Resource Spotlight

Health Care Quality Units (HCQU)

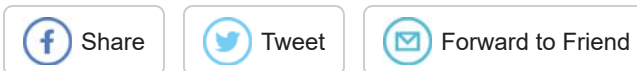
The Health Care Quality Units (HCQUs) work to support and improve the health information and knowledge for the intellectual disabilities community service system by building capacity and competency within the physical and behavioral health care systems as well as the stakeholders of the ID system.

Direct Support Professional Resources

As direct support professionals working with individuals with autism on a daily basis, you may be working to address a variety of concerns, collaborate with different family members and professionals, and coordinate services from a number of systems. This resource collection was created with the goal of providing accessible training and content for direct support professionals.



Help us spread the word!



website: www.PAutism.org | email: info@PAutism.org | phone: 877-231-4244

Funded by the Bureau of Autism Services, Department of Human Services.

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