

Strength in Diversity: Building Community Through Advocacy
"SPACES THAT FIT:" CREATING
COMMUNITY AT THE INTERSECTION OF
QUEER AND AUTISTIC
 BY TIFFANY SHIELDS, LPC

This session is designed to equip counselors with the introductory knowledge needed to advocate for and support individuals who are both queer and autistic, whether colleagues or clients.

Saturday, October 18th, 2025 10:15 - 11:15 am Zoom	A LA CARTE REGISTRATION \$5 - OCA Student Members \$15 - OCA Professional Members \$20 - General Students \$25 - General Public
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Approved for ONE General CSWMFT CEU

REGISTRATION OPEN!

 **OCA** OHIO COUNSELING ASSOCIATION
 


Event Description

Although there is still emerging research on the underlying mechanism, there is ample evidence supporting a higher overlap between queerness and autism than is seen in allistic and cisnet people. This relationship is bidirectional and inherently requires education and sensitivity to the nuances of each identity and their relationship. Similarly, while there are some singularly autistic affirming spaces and LGBTQIA+ spaces, these may not support the unique needs of those who hold both identities. Community and connection help to build resilience, positive identity development, and reduce mental health distress. Therefore, there is a call to action for us as counselors to actively advocate for and build community spaces that can uplift this population.

This lecture seeks to provide counselors with the knowledge necessary to promote advocacy and community for those individuals who are both queer and autistic, whether colleague or client. The audience will learn about the reasoning for and the implementation of strategies necessary to accommodate the unique needs and wants of this underserved population.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Counselors will be able to identify how being autistic and queer warrants unique consideration in creating community spaces for this population.
2. Counselors will acquire at least two guidelines they can utilize in their work to promote safe and affirming accommodations for their colleagues or clients who exist at the intersection of autistic and queer, as it relates to community interaction.
3. Counselors will be able to utilize their new knowledge to shape their advocacy and leadership efforts in queer spaces to accommodate autistic queer folx.