



Interagency Work  
Group on Autism

Race, Ethnicity, and Early Identification  
August 28, 2020

# Today



Closed captions



Q & A



Survey



Certificate



Recording

# Learning Objectives

- Raise awareness of the racial and ethnic disparities that exist in the early identification of autism.
- Gain understanding of the barriers that exist for families of color with concerns about their child's development.
- Identify ways families and professionals can address barriers and promote the early identification of autism.

# IWGA Members

- Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) – Lead Agency
- OCALI – Convener
- Ohio Department of Education (ODE)
- Ohio Department of Health (ODH)
- Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS)
- Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM)
- Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS)
- Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD)

# Pursuing Quality Lives 2020

- **Get a good start:** early identification and diagnosis
- Obtain needed services: access to high quality services
- Develop skills to succeed: skill development across the lifespan
- Strengthen support along the way: family
- Help others understand: community awareness
- Live well: navigating community resources
- Sustain the future: planning and coordination



## Targeted Priorities

The following have been identified as priorities for the IWGA over the next two years:

1. Culturally competent outreach to **families**.
2. Capacity-building specific to screening and diagnosis in the **medical community**.
3. Capacity-building specific to screening and identification in the **educational community**.

# Panelists

Gwen Harshaw



Tif Huber



# What We Know

- 1 in 54
- Most children diagnosed around age 4
- Can be reliably diagnosed as early as 2
- Intervening early is key
- Gender disparities
- Racial and ethnic disparities

# Racial and Ethnic Disparities

- Substantial delays in diagnosis
- Black children are diagnosed almost 3 years after parents' first concerns
- More likely to be misdiagnosed
- Fewer therapies/hours
- More unmet therapy needs
- More severe symptoms

*"...it is incumbent upon insurers and health systems to resolve [delays in diagnosis and access to quality intervention services] as a first approach to ameliorating this serious health disparity."*

*- Pediatrics, August 2020*