

Autism Foundations Training Presenter Biographies

Boswell Regional Center – May 29-30, 2014

Lisa Bryant

Ms. Bryant's first introduction to Autism was as a classroom teacher in Germany (1984). Through the years since then, she has worked with individuals with autism and participated in Autism Training. In 1998, Boswell Regional Center (BRC) opened the first Intermediate Care Facility Group Home for eight males with Autism. She served as Director of the Community ICF Group Home and served as a member of the Autism Task Force with Mississippi's Department of Mental Health. While serving on the Autism Task Force, training was developed and presented across the state to build awareness and educate professionals, para-professionals, families and communities. In 2012, Ms. Bryant became the Director of Autism Services at BRC. As a volunteer, she serves as an Advocate for families who are having difficulty getting the supports needed for their child with Autism. In addition to presenting with the Autism Task Force, she has presented at the Southeastern AAIDD Conference, the Mississippi AAIDD Conference and provided Autism training to the BRC staff and private providers within our state. Currently, she is furthering her knowledge through various life-long learning opportunities.

Crystal Toche

Crystal Toche is a graduate of William Carey University in Counseling Psychology. She is currently a Behavioral Health Specialist for Boswell Regional Center in the Autism Services Department. Ms. Toche currently holds a Mississippi Mental Health Therapist Certification. She has been working in the mental health field for over eight years. Ms. Toche started her employment, working her way through college, as a Direct Care Worker. After receiving her Bachelor's Degree, she then moved into a Case Manager position. As a Case Manager, Ms. Toche decided to enroll in graduate school. In graduate school, she gained professional experience through her internship at an inpatient hospital program. Since joining the Autism Services Department at Boswell Regional Center, Ms. Toche has been involved with Autism training for employees, specifically focusing on Judevine techniques.

Janna Von Francke

Ms. Von Francke has over 20 years of experience with Behavior Management programming. She has worked with individuals with mental illness and intellectual and development disabilities of all ages, especially with her current emphasis in Autism Services for adults with ASD. Her understanding of utilizing Behavior Analysis techniques in Functional Assessment and development and implementation of Behavior Support Plans is an invaluable asset. She has earned her Level One Certification in Rational Living Cognitive Behavior Therapy and is experienced in the Learning Breakthrough technique. Ms. Von Francke is currently the Behavior Support Coordinator for Boswell Regional Center and is a Master's Level Psychologist.

**South MS Regional Center, June 12 - 13, 2014
and at Pass Christian Public Library - July 31-August 1, 2014**

Jeàn Marie Johnson, M.S. CFY-SLP is a graduate of the University of South Alabama with her Master's degree in Speech Language Pathology (SLP). Jeàn Marie completed an internship at Memorial Hospital Gulfport and an externship at the Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System in Biloxi, Mississippi. She is currently a speech language pathologist at South Mississippi Regional Center in Long Beach, Mississippi, where she works to provide new communication opportunities to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Ms. Johnson is devoted to ensuring that the individuals that she works with are given every opportunity to communicate to the best of their ability in every setting. She manages the use of iPads in order to provide continued learning of communication and social skills, as well as introduction to AAC applications to give non-verbal individuals their voice. Ms. Johnson takes every opportunity to further her education in the field of ASD.