

# 2012 PRESENTERS: Oklahoma Statewide Autism Conference

View the [2012 Oklahoma Statewide Autism Conference Disclosures \[PDF\]](#) document for information on speakers' financial and non-financial interests relevant to the content of their presentations.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

**Tony Attwood, BA, MSc, PhD, AFBPsS, MCCPs**  
**Clinical Psychologist and Author**  
<http://www.tonyattwood.com.au>

A clinical psychologist from Brisbane, Australia, Dr. Tony Attwood has over thirty years of experience with individuals with autism, Asperger's Syndrome, and Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDD). He has worked with several thousand individuals, from infants to octogenarians, from people with profound disabilities to university professors. Dr. Attwood works in private practice in Brisbane, but is also adjunct professor at Griffith University, Queensland. He presents workshops and training courses all over the world for parents, professionals and individuals with autism. In addition, he is a prolific author of scientific papers and books. His books and videos on Asperger's Syndrome and high-functioning autism are recognized as the best offerings in the field. Over 300,000 copies of his book, *Asperger's Syndrome: A Guide for Parents and Professionals*, have been sold, and it has been translated into 20 languages.

**Lindsey Nebeker, BA Music Technology**  
**Partners in Policymaking Alumnus**  
<http://nakedbrainink.com>

Lindsey Nebeker is a musician, advocate and speaker diagnosed with autism, currently working as a Development Specialist at the Autism Society national headquarters near Washington, D.C. She holds a B.A. Degree in Music Technology from the College of Santa Fe, and is a Partners in Policy making graduate. Since 2005, Ms. Nebeker has been active within the autism community by presenting at numerous conferences and workshops in the United States and Canada. She created a blog called "Naked Brain Ink" (a focus on ASDs, relationships and sexuality), and participated in CREA's Disability, Sexuality and Rights Online Institute. In addition, Ms. Nebeker has been featured in *Glamour Magazine*, ABC's *Good Morning America*, NPR, and recently appeared on the cover of *Autism Spectrum Quarterly* (along with her partner Dave Hamrick).

**Dave Hamrick, MS**  
**Meteorologist**

David Hamrick is a 32-year old person with high-functioning autism and works as a meteorologist for the National Weather Service near Washington, DC. He has given many presentations on the subject of autism since 1999, and has served on the Board of Directors for the Autism Program of Virginia and a past Vice President of a local autism chapter. In addition, Mr. Hamrick has appeared in a story featured in *Glamour Magazine*, *Good Morning America*, *Autism Spectrum Quarterly*, and *National Public Radio*.

## OTHER DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS:

**Jennifer Book, B.A.**  
**K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Autism Resource Teacher**

Jennifer Book is a K-5th grade autism teacher for Norman Public Schools. Jennifer is certified in autism, mild/moderate disabilities, severe/profound/multiple disabilities, early childhood and elementary education and taught 3 ½ years in an autism resource room.

**Julia K. Brazelton, MAcc, MFP, PhD**

Dr. Brazelton is a retired chaired professor of accounting and tax policy. She now pursues her avocation - music. She was diagnosed with Asperger's late in life and is attempting to combine her love of music and her unusual way of perceiving our world in her musical approach to emotions.

**Bill Cannata, Fire Captain, Westwood, Massachusetts**  
**Coordinator for the Autism and Law Enforcement Education Coalition, Massachusetts**  
<http://firerescueautism.com>

Captain Cannata has been a member of the fire service for 34 years, and an officer with the Westwood Fire Department for the past thirteen years. He has also been a Massachusetts Fire Academy instructor for 15 years. Bill is a member and statewide coordinator of the Autism and Law Enforcement Education Coalition (ALEC). ALEC currently educates first responders across the state of Massachusetts about Autism Spectrum Disorder and how to better understand a person with ASD. ALEC has trained over 15,000 first responders in Massachusetts. Captain Cannata has trained responders in 15 states and Australia. He is also the parent of a child with ASD.

**Patrick C. Friman, PhD, ABPP**  
**Director, Boys Town Center for Behavioral Health and**  
**Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, University of Nebraska Medical Center**

Dr. Patrick C. Friman received his Ph.D. from the University of Kansas. He is the current Director of the Boys Town Center for Behavioral Health and a Clinical Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Nebraska, School of Medicine. He was formerly on the faculties of Johns Hopkins, University of Pennsylvania, and Creighton Schools of Medicine. He was also formerly the Director of the Clinical Psychology Program at University of Nevada as well as the Associate Chairman of the Department of Psychology. He is the former Editor of the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis* and former President of the *Association for Behavior Analysis International*. He is also on the editorial boards of six peer reviewed journals. He has published more than 180 scientific articles and chapters and three books and he currently writes a regular column on child behavior for *Family Spectrum Magazine*.

**Sandy Ingraham, JD, MSW**  
**Attorney-at-Law**

Current professional activities for Sandy include practicing law as a sole practitioner and maintaining an active practice as a social policy consultant. She consults and trains in Oklahoma and throughout the nation on advocacy, legislative process, lobbying, legal issues, dispute mediation, needs and asset assessment, community capacity building, addressing poverty, strategic planning, policy development and creative financing for social programs.

As an attorney, Sandy spends most of her time in the areas of adoption and estate planning. Sandy combines her legal skills with her knowledge of social policy and programs in several areas, including facilitating special needs adoptions, creating trusts to help protect and provide for people with disabilities, estate planning for non-traditional families and protecting children being raised by their grandparents. Sandy is legal counsel for several state, national and international charitable, non-profit organizations.

**Bonnie J. McBride, PhD, BCBA-D**  
**Assistant Professor of Pediatrics**  
**University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center**  
**Department of Pediatrics, Section of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics**

Dr. McBride is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. She completed her doctoral work at the University of Washington, one of the National Institute of Health's Centers of Excellence in Autism. In addition to her faculty position, she is a LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities) core faculty in ASD, teaches ASD content in other graduate programs on campus and provides professional development to educators and other professionals throughout the state. Dr. McBride's research interests have focused on effective treatment and intervention for young children with ASD. She is the Principal Investigator of a model program for toddlers with autism, recently

receiving a multisite federally funded grant to conduct a randomized controlled trial of the model. She was recently selected by the CDC (Center for Disease Control) to be Oklahoma's Ambassador for the Act Early Campaign to raise awareness about the importance of early identification of autism and related disorders.

**Judy A. Lay - McCarter, OTR/L**

**Occupational Therapist, Fun-ctional Therapy, Inc.**

Judy McCarter has been an Occupational Therapist for 30 years and has specialization in sensory processing disorder, behavior and autism spectrum disorders. She has presented at local, regional, national and international conferences on sensory processing disorder and behavior. Judy has consulted on many pilot projects locally. In Sept. of 2010 The American Occupational Therapy Association published an article about her growing up and living with significant sensory processing disorder. She has done consultations in Kansas, Arkansas, and Missouri and has done telerehabilitation for patients living in other countries who have sensory processing disorders. She currently is employed at Town and Country which is a school for children with challenges which include: Sensory processing disorder, Asperger syndrome, Dyslexia, ADD/ADHD and Learning Disabilities. She is also consulting with the graduate speech and language pathology students at The University of Tulsa.

**Diana Mobley, PhD**

**Licensed Psychologist**

Dr. Diana Mobley has been in private practice in Norman for 25 years where she specializes in working with children and young adolescents with autism spectrum disorders. She graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1984 after completing an internship at Division TEACCH at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her current work emphasizes assessment and treatment of individuals with autism spectrum disorders and training in the area of autism assessment.

**Kimberly Osmani, MEd**

**Transition Coordinator, Department of Rehabilitation Services**

Kim Osmani has a master's degree in Special Education and another master's in Educational Administration. She was a special education teacher for 10 years before she went to work at the State Department of Education. There, she served as a monitoring coordinator, complaint investigator, grant writer/supervisor, and Associate State Director. In that position, Kim was the main contact for transition, chaired the Oklahoma Transition Council, provided training and resources to schools and families, and partnered with other state agencies and organizations to improve transition practices. Currently, Kim is the transition coordinator for the Department of Rehabilitation Services. In this position, she provides technical assistance and training to DRS staff, develops and monitors contracts with schools, and engages in all aspects of improving transition services to youth with disabilities.

**Jesse A. Saperstein, BA**

**Author and Anti-Bullying Activist**

**<http://www.jessesaperstein.com>**

Jesse A. Saperstein is a best-selling author, autism advocate and motivational speaker. He is considered one of the most respected leaders in the Anti-Bullying movement of his generation. Jesse also has a form of autism called Asperger's syndrome (AS). Jesse's story, "Atypical: Life with Asperger's in 20 1/3 Chapters," was published by Penguin Group (USA) in April 2010 and immediately became a popular memoir due to its practical advice and outrageous humor. He chronicles his misadventures and extremes to improve his social skills. The book quickly rose to the top of Amazon.com and placed Jesse as a dynamic media personality, motivational speaker and most important, an advocate for people with disabilities.

After receiving a grant from the Anderson Center for Autism (ACA) in Staatsburg, New York, Jesse completed his first skydiving jump in front of his community in an effort to eradicate bullying. "Free-Falling to End Bullying in 2012" is currently a popular video on YouTube. Jesse visits schools on a regular basis and has been successful with wiping out bullying or at least dramatically alleviating it with every presentation. He is currently working on initiatives to pioneer a middle/high school class in New York State that will be similar to

Health, but will focus on educating young people about misunderstood disabilities as well as the psychological and legal consequences of bullying.

**Emily Tichenor, MA,**

**Tulsa City-County Library Youth Services Coordinator**

Emily Tichenor is an outspoken advocate for children, families, and literacy. She graduated from Oklahoma State University in 2005 with a B.A. in Print Journalism and a minor in History. In 2008, she graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a Masters of Library and Information Studies. She spent 2 years working at the University of Oklahoma-Tulsa Library as an associate. Emily has worked at the Tulsa City-County Library for 5 years in a variety of roles. She has worked for the last three years as the Youth Services Coordinator for the Tulsa City-County Library where she coordinates all system-wide initiatives for children and teens that take place at 26 library locations throughout Tulsa County. This includes a Summer Reading Program with over 45,000 participants, ongoing literacy initiatives, hosting quarterly training and coordination meetings for over 70 youth staff, creation of new programming, and much more. Emily is also involved in advocacy for children and families through her role as Youth Services Coordinator. She works with over 200 schools in Tulsa County, serves as a Community Representative on the Tulsa Headstart Policy Council, and participates in a number of boards and committees. Emily was named an American Library Association Emerging Leader in 2010 and is a current member of the Association of Library Services to Children Carnegie Award Committee.

**Karen Wagner, MEd, CCC-SLP**

**Speech-Language Pathologist**

Karen Wagner is a speech-language pathologist and have over 20 years of experience working in the field with over 15 years of experience working with children with Autism. A graduate of the University of Central Oklahoma, Karen obtained her bachelor's degree in speech-language pathology in 1990 and she completed her master's degree in special-language pathology in 1991. After obtaining her degree, Karen worked in several different settings including schools, SoonerStart, hospitals, home-health, and in-patient rehabilitation. She currently is a contract providers for Today's Therapy Solutions where she provide in-home therapy to children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and is the consultant for Augmentative Alternative Communication. Karen's area of expertise relating to autism include developing functional communication systems, augmentative-alternative communication devices, parent training and home programming.

**Tara Warwick, MS, OTR/L**

**Project PEAK**

Tara Warwick is an occupational therapist who graduated from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in 2006 with her Master of Science in Rehab Sciences. She received a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy in 2000 also from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. She has spent her entire career focusing on improving the quality of services for children, primarily targeting children with autism. She currently owns a pediatric therapy practice called Today's Therapy Solutions and is a consultant for Project PEAK through the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center – Child Study Center. She practices as an occupational therapist in home settings, clinic settings, and school settings. Her specialty includes working with children with autism and challenging behavior.

**Valerie Yelverton, MEd**

**Autism Program Specialist, Tulsa Public Schools**

Valerie Yelverton began her journey as an educator in 2000 at The University of Southern Mississippi Honors College. There that she found a true passion for teaching and service through the various classes and organizations. Her research for her senior thesis: *Multicultural Literature in the Middle School and High School Settings* gave her a chance to see and experience many classrooms first hand. In 2004, Valerie graduated *Cum Laude* with a Bachelor's degree in English Licensure. Valerie's first job was teaching 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade English at Pascagoula High School in Pascagoula, MS. She continued teaching English in Mississippi and in Tulsa until 2008. Valerie then became a special education teacher and started the first high school Autism program in Tulsa School District where she is

currently an Autism program teacher and co-department chair at Memorial High School. Valerie also has a Master's degree in School Administration from Grand Canyon University. She has completed training at the TEACCH center at UNC, Chapel Hill, NC and has attended numerous workshops and trainings on Autism and related disorders. In 2010, she received the Tulsa Advocates for the Rights of Citizens with disabilities (TARC) educator advocate of the year award. In 2011 she was a finalist for the Professional Oklahoma Educator's (POE) special education teacher of the year award.