

Primary Contact

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AUTISM TRAINING OFFERED IN SEPTEMBER

Center of Excellence Certification Training

Seattle Children's will present Center of Excellence (COE) Certification Training on Autism Spectrum Disorder on Friday, September 24, 2021. COE certification allows eligible providers to diagnose autism spectrum disorder for pediatric patients with Medicaid.

Local Nurse Practitioner Liz Vossenkemper shared her experience with the training:

In 2017, I came to the Tri-Cities as a new graduate pediatric NP from a major metropolitan with all the resources you could want for any child with any ability. I began to see children in a primary care setting and immediately noticed the significant lack of autism services/care in our community. This wasn't a new problem, and thus the HCA and Seattle Children's Hospital had been partnering to restructure the way the state of WA assesses and diagnoses autism. The Autism Center of Excellence status can be obtained by primary care providers after a short training.

In 2018, I went through this two-day training with many experts in autism. I learned so much and felt called to start this much needed work. In Oct 2018, I started a one-woman autism clinic at Tri-Cities Community Health in Pasco. I imbedded this diagnostic work into my primary care model and since 2018 have only grown my waiting list and my primary care panel. Fast forward to today and my clinic is the same size (one-woman), but the patient volume is much higher, and the need is still so large. One person cannot handle all of the need.

If you have any interest in autism, it would really be worth your time to go to the COE training offered by SCH and the HCA. The learning is invaluable and the support you can then provide to our neurodiverse community is ever reaching. There is also a formal ECHO program comprised of autism COEs from around the state. We meet bi-weekly and share cases and brainstorm care-planning ideas, and ultimately are better developmental providers for it. There is a ton of support for this work so you never feel alone in it. I really hope you consider this training!

Liz Vossenkemper, MSN, RN, CPNP-PC

Information on the training, including the link to register, is on the attached flyer.