

2026 CASP CONFERENCE AGENDA

All CASP event space is in the South Convention Center on Level Three

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

12:00 PM–5:00 PM | Palm Foyer – Jasmine
Registration Desk | Attendee Check-In

1:00 PM–5:00 PM | Palm B
Pre-Conference Workshop | Compliance

Part 1: Demystifying Organizational Compliance: From Policies to Practice (Jenna Minton, Andi Waks, Kim Mack Rosenberg, Michele Beal)

Part 2: Fraud, Waste, and Abuse (Melissa Olive, Melissa Saunders)

Part 3: From Denial to Approval: Building a High-Performing Appeals Process (T.J. Couey, Mirella Petersen, Emily Roche)

1:00 PM–5:00 PM | Palm C
Pre-Conference Workshop | Staff Support & Retention

Part 1: Foundations of Effective Caseload Management (T.J. Couey, Sarena Cambrea, Justice Dean, Autumn McKeel)

Part 2: Workforce Growth and Retention: ROI on Belonging (Dallas Star, Maria Solis)

Part 3: Operationalizing RBT Professionalism: Turning Expectations into Teachable Behaviors (Mary Stevenson)

1:00 PM–5:00 PM | Palm D
Pre-Conference Workshop | Outcomes

Part 1: Measuring and Reporting Outcomes of Applied Behavior Analysis Treatment Services (Kristine Rodriguez, Jana Sarno)

Part 2: Promoting Meaningful Outcomes for Adults with Autism (Peter Gerhardt)

Part 3: Quality of Life: Why This Should Be Our Primary Dependent Variable (Ilene Schwartz)

Part 4: ACQ Accreditation Workshop for Healthcare Organizations (Erick Dubuque)

1:00 PM–5:00 PM | Palm A
Pre-Conference Workshop | Serving The Entire Spectrum:
Focus on Profound Autism (Judith Ursitti, Ellen Rhoads, Katherine Johnson, Ronald Moreno, Liz Szczuchura, Amanda Kelly, Cristina Theis)

6:00 PM–8:00 PM | West Lagoon Pool/Lazy River
Welcome Reception
Sponsored by Boost



MONDAY, APRIL 27

7:00 AM–5:00 PM | Palm Foyer – Jasmine
Registration Desk | Registration Open

8:00 AM–5:00 PM | Palm Foyer & South Seas Foyer
Exhibit Hall Open

8:00 AM–9:00 AM | South Seas Ballroom (CDFIJ)
Breakfast

9:00 AM–9:30 AM | South Seas Ballroom (ABEGH)
Welcome Remarks & 10th Anniversary Retrospective

9:30 AM–10:30 AM | South Seas Ballroom (ABEGH)
From Barstools to Boardrooms: The Founding Story of CASP
(Joanne Gerenser, Mary Jane Weiss, Peter Gerhardt, Eileen Hopkins, Steve Anderson, Raymond Romanczyk, Daniel Openden, Emily Callahan, Helen Bloomer)

In celebration of the Council of Autism Service Providers' (CASP) 10th Anniversary, this panel brings together the original founding members to reflect on the organization's inspiring journey. CASP began nearly two decades ago as a conversation between two colleagues—sharing frustrations over the lack of support for autism service providers, especially those in executive leadership roles. That initial conversation sparked the formation of a small but passionate group known then as the Council on Autism Services (CAS), which grew to 10 dedicated members. What started informally evolved into a national organization now representing over 450 member organizations with 23 full-time staff and 4 annual events—including a flagship conference drawing approximately 1,000 attendees. Join us for a candid, behind-the-scenes look at how CASP was built from the ground up. Founders will share stories from the early days, lessons learned along the way, and the values that have remained central to CASP's success: collaboration, leadership, and a deep commitment to improving services for individuals with autism. Whether you're a long-time member or new to CASP, this panel will offer valuable insights into what it takes to grow and sustain a mission-driven organization in a rapidly evolving field.

10:30 AM–10:45 AM | Palm Foyer & South Seas Foyer | Break

10:45 AM–11:45 AM | Breakout Sessions



11:45 AM–1:15 PM | South Seas Ballroom (CDFIJ)
Lunch

1:15 PM–2:15 PM | Breakout Sessions



2:15 PM–2:30 PM | Palm Foyer & South Seas Foyer
Break

2:30 PM–3:30 PM | Breakout Sessions



3:30 PM–3:45 PM | Palm Foyer | Break

3:45 PM–4:15 PM | South Seas Ballroom (ABEGH)
Are You Benchmarking—or Guessing? Inside CASP's Enhanced National Data Platform (Natesh Kumar, Rebecca Giammatti, Julie Adcock, Lani Fritts, and Joanne Gerenser)

In a complex healthcare and funding environment, autism service providers need reliable data—not just intuition—to make strategic decisions using reliable data. That's why CASP has partnered with Dynamic Benchmarking to develop an enhanced, secure national benchmarking platform designed specifically for autism service provider organizations.

This session will provide an inside look at the platform's development, structure, and practical applications. Presenters will demonstrate how participating organizations securely contribute

and access data; review key financial, operational, clinical, and workforce benchmarks; and illustrate how benchmarking can support organizational decision making, quality improvement, and sustainable growth.

You'll learn how benchmarking strengthens leadership conversations, informs strategic planning, and advances industry transparency. The session will also outline the national expansion roadmap, including future metric development and opportunities for provider engagement, emphasizing how collective participation drives more meaningful and actionable insights across the field. That's how you move from reactive decision making to evidence-informed leadership.

4:15 PM–5:00 PM | South Seas Ballroom (ABEGH)
I'm Proof of Why Your Work Matters (Leland Vittert)

Leland Vittert—TV journalist, NewsNation anchor, and New York Times best selling author of *Born Lucky*—shares his personal story of being diagnosed on the autism spectrum at age 8 and how his father's unconventional approach mirrors the principles of ABA therapy. Without formal training, his father implemented goal-setting with positive reinforcement, real-time behavioral feedback, and intensive social skills training over 15 years. Leland is living proof that this work changes lives.

This talk validates the work CASP members do every day, provides hope they can share with struggling families, and positions *Born Lucky* as a resource for their clients.

6:00 PM–9:00 PM | Offsite | Foodie & Friends

6:30 PM–9:30 PM | APEX 64
Founders Gala (Invitation Only)

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

7:00 AM–7:30 AM | Banyan F
Sin City Strength – A bodyweight strength training session!
Sponsored by Empower Behavioral Health



7:30 AM–4:00 PM | Palm Foyer – Jasmine
Registration Desk | Registration Open

8:00 AM–5:00 PM | Palm Foyer & South Seas Foyer
Exhibit Hall Open

8:00 AM–9:00 AM | South Seas Ballroom (CDFIJ)
Breakfast

9:00 AM–10:00 AM | South Seas Ballroom (ABEGH)
OIG Audits of State Medicaid Applied Behavior Analysis Programs (Lonie Kim, Annie Weber)

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General (HHS OIG), Office of Audit Services conducts audits of state Medicaid programs to assess compliance, strengthen program integrity, and ensure proper stewardship of federal funds. This presentation highlights recent audit work focused on applied behavior analysis (ABA) services provided to Medicaid-eligible children with autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disabilities. It outlines key findings related to service eligibility determinations, documentation and billing

accuracy, provider qualifications, and oversight by state Medicaid agencies. The presentation also reviews OIG's internal compliance recommendations to help state Medicaid agencies enhance program safeguards and ensure they are doing their due diligence to address program integrity. Attendees will gain an understanding of the audit methodologies, risk indicators, and federal and state requirements that guide OIG assessments as well as practical steps providers can take to strengthen compliance and ensure that Medicaid-funded ABA services are appropriate, well-documented, and aligned with clinical and regulatory standards.

10:00 AM–10:15 AM | Palm Foyer & South Seas Foyer | Break

10:15 AM–11:15 AM | Breakout Sessions



11:15 AM–11:30 AM | Palm Foyer & South Seas Foyer | Break

11:30 AM–12:30 PM | Breakout Sessions



12:30 PM–2:30 PM | Lunch (on your own)

2:30 PM–3:30 PM | Breakout Sessions



3:30 PM–3:45 PM | Palm Foyer & South Seas Foyer Break

3:45 PM–4:45 PM | South Seas Ballroom (ABEGH)
Remembering Your Why: An Hour with Autism Parents
(Lorri Unumb, Jim Hamilton, Thea Davis, Mirella Peterson)

In our closing session, a panel of autism parents will reflect on how ABA impacted their children's and families' lives. Moderator and autism mother Lorri Unumb will guide three remarkable parents through a heartfelt conversation about the role of ABA professionals in the development of their children and the transformation of their family journeys.

This powerful discussion will include personal stories of early uncertainty, pivotal moments of progress, and the profound changes that evidence-based intervention made possible. From first words and increased independence to improved social connections and meaningful participation in school and community life, these families will describe how ABA opened doors they once feared would remain closed.

The panel will also explore the human side of care: trust between families and clinicians, the importance of individualized treatment, and the resilience that emerges when parents and professionals work as partners. Panelists will speak candidly about challenges, misconceptions, and the critical role of high-quality, ethical ABA services in helping children reach their full potential.

This session offers both inspiration and insight—highlighting not only the science of behavior analysis, but also the hope, empowerment, and lasting impact it can have on children with autism and the families who love them.

4:45 PM
2027 Conference Registration Raffle (must be present to win)

Agenda sponsored by **kind**
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