

Clinical Social Work Services

at the Center for Autism and Related Disorders

Who We Are

At the Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD), we know how difficult it can be to learn that your child, family member, or loved one has an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). We recognize that the thoughts, feelings, and questions this diagnosis generates can be overwhelming. You are not alone. Our staff of caring and knowledgeable clinical social workers can provide you with support, information, and access to local and national resources—all of which can help you and your family find the services and strength you need.

We are keenly aware that having a loved one diagnosed with an ASD has an impact on every member of the family, and our clinicians are committed to addressing the needs of individuals on the spectrum, as well as offering support to caregivers and siblings. Meeting with one of our clinical social workers will give you an opportunity to learn more about your child's developmental needs and possible treatment options. You may also benefit from learning about financial and community resources. Following your initial meeting, our doors remain open should you and your family need follow-up visits for additional support and guidance.



Who We Serve

While our clinicians are trained to work closely with individuals with an ASD, we also address the following concerns:

- Anxiety disorder
- Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder
- Family-related concerns
- Grief/loss
- Intellectual disability
- Learning disabilities
- Life transitions
- Mild behavior challenges
- Mood disorders
- Parenting concerns
- Self-esteem

Our Team

Our clinical social workers are a highly valued part of the interdisciplinary teams within the center. Social workers at the center are licensed mental health professionals able to diagnose and treat a variety of mental health conditions. Every clinician working within the center has a wealth of experience working with families of children with a variety of special needs. Through education, research, community outreach, and advocacy, our social workers use their knowledge and understanding of the impact that autism has on the family system to promote optimal development in children with an ASD, as well as for their families.

Our Approach

Clinical social work has a primary focus on the mental, emotional, and behavioral well-being of individuals, couples, families, and groups. It centers on a holistic approach to psychotherapy and

We are all born with great potential.
Shouldn't we all have the chance to achieve it?



Center for Autism and Related Disorders
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the client's relationship to his or her environment. Clinical social workers within the center utilize a strengths-based approach to support families and individuals in achieving their goals. Social workers meet with patients and families to develop a plan that ensures success at home, in the classroom, and in the community.

"I was quite hesitant about reaching out for assistance. It was one of the best decisions I made ... and I continue to reap the benefits of CARD's invaluable support and advice."

– Pam Talley, parent

Our Services

Psychotherapy

We tailor our services to the concerns and goals identified by the client and family. Options include individual, group, and family therapy. The length of treatment is individualized and depends upon the treatment goals and the needs of the individuals, involved. Therapy is usually covered under the mental health benefits of most insurance companies.

Clinical Care Coordination

Clinical care coordination services are designed to align families with community-based services intended to help them successfully meet their needs. Examples include helping families access the services available within their child's current educational placement, connecting families with information regarding financial resources, and obtaining community-based support for managing their child's behaviors. Given the interdisciplinary nature of the services needed by children with autism, many families find these services to be invaluable.

Autism Support and Services

Local/Regional Resources

Pathfinders for Autism

pathfindersforautism.org

Center for Autism and Related Disorders

card.kennedykrieger.org

Baltimore Autism Society of America

baltimoreautismsociety.org

Maryland Department of Education

marylandpublicschools.org

National Resources

Autism Society of America

autism-society.org

Autism Speaks

autismspeaks.org

Autism Speaks has a number of different tool kits to assist families in finding the critical information they need, including First 100 Days Kit, Asperger Syndrome and High-Functioning Autism Tool Kit, School & Community Tool Kit, and Transition Tool Kit.

Research Initiatives

Interactive Autism Network (IAN)

ianproject.org

IAN is an online community that connects researchers to individuals with ASD and their families to learn about the effect and interaction of factors such as genetics, environment, and treatment of those affected by ASD.

"Having our social work team available for children and families provides physicians with the opportunity to work on plans that focus on not only improving the quality of life for children, but also for their families."

– Dr. Anna Maria Wilms-Floet,
developmental pediatrician

Contact Information

Center for Autism and Related Disorders at Kennedy Krieger Institute

To make a referral or schedule an appointment, please call **888-554-2080**.

For more information about our program, call **443-923-7680**.

TTY: **443-923-2645** or Maryland Relay **711**

card.kennedykrieger.org

Physicians & Healthcare Professionals

To make a referral, call our Physician Referral Line at **443-923-9403**.

Clinic Locations:

3901 Greenspring Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21211

1130 Annapolis Road, Suite 200
Odenton, MD 21113

Kennedy Krieger Institute recognizes and respects the rights of patients and their families and treats them with courtesy and dignity. Care is provided in a manner that preserves cultural, psychosocial, spiritual and personal values, beliefs, and preferences. We encourage patients and families to become active partners in their care by asking questions, requesting resources, and advocating for the services and support they need.



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