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THE OHIO CENTER FOR DEAFBLIND EDUCATION

Professional Learning Opportunity

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Neurobiological Basis for Behavior
Put into Practice for Children with Dual Sensory Impairments and/or Low Incidence Disabilities

Presented by Melinda Wolford PhD, NCSP

Children with combined vision-hearing loss (deafblindness) and/or more complex delays and deficits present unique learning characteristics. These complex needs can often pose assessment and intervention challenges for those working to increase children's skill levels, functional communication, and overall quality of life. As a student's needs may be masked by the severity of a vision-hearing loss or by concomitant multiple disabilities, gaining a deeper understanding of the neurobiological basis for behavior can assist professionals in identifying and implementing more practical and effective interventions.

This series is designed to assist school psychologists, interventionists, educators, parents, and caretakers to better understand the less obvious reasons for why a child may present unwanted behaviors, poor communication, or lack of educational progress. Learning about the neurobiology and sensory systems of the child will promote the use of more practical and effective interventions across settings.

Speaker: Melinda Wolford, PhD, NCSP is an experienced school psychologist and neuropsychologist. She previously served as an assistant professor in school psychology and has expertise in assessment, intervention, parent training, staff development, and consultation.

Session 1: **September 28** **4:00 – 5:00 pm (EST)**	***Neurological and Biological Basis of Behavior*** ***Registration link:*** https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OCDBESept28
Learning Objectives:	• Structures of the brain and nervous system and how they alert the body to the environment, as well as produce and direct actions and thoughts; • Interconnections between brain and body; • Mirroring each other-interpersonal neurobiology;

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	• Development of the sensory systems and how the nervous system learns to integrate sensations; and • Intervention strategies aligned with neurobiological concepts and development of the sensory systems.

Session 2: **October 11** **4:00 – 5:00 pm (EST)**	***What Trauma Research Has Taught Us*** ***Registration link:*** https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OCDBEOct11
Learning Objectives:	• Fundamentals of the effects of trauma on the neurobiological system; • In-depth look at fight or flight responses; • The importance of creating safety and reciprocity; • The brain bottom-up and top-down: the importance of breath, movement, and touch; and • Intervention strategies aligned with what we have learned about trauma.

Session 3: **October 25** **4:00 – 5:00 pm (EST)**	***Disrupted Sensory Systems: Understanding the Vestibular, Proprioceptive and Interoception Sensory Systems*** ***Registration link:*** https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OCDBEOct25
Learning Objectives:	• The vestibular system: development, organization, underreaction, and overreaction; • The proprioceptive system: its role in body perception and motor planning; • The interoception system: its role in self-regulation of emotion and bodily functions; and • Intervention strategies for disrupted vestibular, proprioceptive, and interoceptive sensory systems.

Questions or additional information needed? Contact Jodi Dowell at dowelljr@ucmail.uc.edu

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