

## Shema Kolainu – Hear Our Voices Webinar Shares Telehealth Advice for Children with Autism

Hundreds of participants from around the world took part in the workshop that focused on assisting children with autism who are receiving telehealth services.

BROOKLYN, NY, UNITED STATES, August 13, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ --On Wednesday, Shema Kolainu – Hear Our Voices (<u>SKHOV</u>) hosted another installment of its long running workshop series.

The presentation titled "Occupational Therapy for Students with Autism Through the Telehealth Lens" was introduced by Alexa Moses, M.S., OTR/L., an Occupational Therapist at

Goal: Helps people across the lifespan to do the things they want and need to do through the therapeutic use of daily activities (occupations).

Services Included:

• Evaluations: To determine needs and develop client-centered goals

• Interventions: To improve abilities in order to reach goals

• Outcomes Evaluation: To ensure that goals are being met and/or make changes to the intervention plan

Ot's utilize a holistic perspective, in order to adapt the environment and/or task to fit the person, making sure the client is involved in the therapy process.

This workshop went over the definitions of Occupational Therapy, Telehealth, and explore the implementation of OT strategies within the telehealth platform in relation to the pediatric autism population.

SKHOV. Moses gave participants an overview on Occupational Therapy (OT) as it pertains to helping children with autism learn and practice OT-based strategies during the current situation that has pushed services online.



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Alexa Moses, M.S., OTR/L.

"This type of collaborative approach between school and home is really vital to ensure a student is able to progress in OT, and really in every discipline," said Moses.

D'Youville College Masters students Julie Araujo, OTS., and Eliza De Armas, OTS., are currently completing their Level II Fieldwork rotation at SKHOV under the supervision of Moses. Araujo and De Armas worked together to present their knowledge of four main areas of pediatric OT and how it is conducted online with the assistance of parents at

home.

"Via telehealth, the parents can actually see what is going on in therapy and what the occupational therapist is doing to help the child meet their goals," said Araujo.

There are nine Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) that revolve around taking care of one's own body. Because autism is a spectrum, it manifests itself in different ways for each individual and occupational therapists find strategies to help the child work on these skills on a case-by-base basis.

"Children with autism usually experience a lower level of independence, increased level of caregiver dependence, and difficulty transitioning to Post-Secondary Education and Employment," said De Armas. "Our interventions would really depend on what specific ADLs the individual is struggling with, what their strengths are, and creating a client-specific treatment based on that."

The workshop was provided free of charge by the New York City Council Autism Initiative and a full video of the presentation, along with many others, is available here: <a href="https://www.shemakolainu.org/workshops">https://www.shemakolainu.org/workshops</a>.

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<u>Shema Kolainu - Hear Our Voices</u> founded by Dr. Joshua Weinstein, offers a broad spectrum of evidence-based education and therapeutic programs to children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and related disabilities in a warm and nurturing environment. As a nonpublic, nonprofit, multi-cultural school, we provide quality treatment, education, professional training and mentoring.

Joshua Santos Shema Kolainu - Hear Our Voices +1 718-686-9600 email us here

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