Tues. January 27, 2015 - 6:00 - 8:00 pm
“A Parent’s Guide to Testing”
With Kelly Powell, Ph.D.

Learn more about testing and evaluations for persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Beyond the diagnosis of ASD, there are many different kinds of tests that can help to flesh out more specifics about how autism presents itself in each individual. Testing can help determine learning styles, diagnosis additional learning challenges, provide insight into speech and language issues, behavioral challenges and more. Good testing can help set educational and intervention priorities. In this presentation you will learn about what kinds of tests are available, what questions testing can answer, who should administer tests and how to use test results to set goals and objectives.

Kelly Powell, Ph.D., is an Associate Research Scientist at the Yale Child Study Center. She received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from American University and did her pre and post doctoral fellowships at the Yale Child Study Center. Dr. Powell specializes in the assessment and treatment of individuals with ASD from birth to young adulthood and their families. Her current research focus is in developing, implementing and evaluating evidenced-based parenting interventions for children with ASD. In addition, she is actively involved in research projects focused on further understanding phenotypic expression, developmental trajectories and outcomes in ASD including co-morbid disorders. Clinical pursuits at the Yale Child Study Center include multidisciplinary evaluations of children with ASD and related disorders and disseminating and implementing evidenced based treatment into the community.

Mon. February 23, 2015 - 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
“Extended School Year Services—What to do about summer vacation”
With Jen Laviano, Esq. and Julie Swanson, Educational Advocate

Summer vacation. In the deep cold of winter, summer may seem far away, but it will be here before you know it. It isn’t uncommon for districts to offer fixed extended school year services, especially for students with ASD. This presentation will examine how the IDEA guides appropriate ESY services and how that often differs from the typical practices of many districts. Jen and Julie will provide you with the tools you will need to help you secure appropriate ESY services.

Attorney Jennifer Laviano is in private practice here in CT and her practice is dedicated entirely to the representation of children and adolescents with disabilities whose families are in disagreement with their public school districts. Julie Swanson is a Special Education Advocate working for families. The two co-founded the website YourSpecialEducationRights.com a free video-based online resource for parents of children with disabilities and have been helping families in CT receive appropriate services for their children with disabilities for many years.