

2026 ARA CARY LECTURE SERIES

When Talk Therapy isn't Enough; Supporting the Needs of Neurodivergent Clients Through a Comprehensive Lens

In recent years, neurodivergence has become a hot topic of conversation in our field and in the public sphere. Despite this, many people still don't understand how the term is defined or how effective treatment of this population differs from others. This presentation will provide background on the neuroscientific differences that set neurodivergent clients apart. Although medication and talk therapy can both be helpful in treating neurodivergent clients, additional interventions that target their unique challenges are needed. Utilizing a comprehensive approach, Marissa will ensure that each presentation participant leaves with a better sense of how to meet the sensory, educational, executive, and kinesthetic needs of this incredible population. It is also Marissa's hope that participants leave the training with a better understanding of themselves and their role in this work.

\$40 per
person

6.0
Social Work
CE Credits



Marissa Miars, MS, LCPC

Marissa is the great granddaughter of Ara Cary. She set out in high school to continue her great grandmother's work of supporting vulnerable children. After attending GVSU, eventually transferring to University of Michigan, and graduating in 2015, Marissa worked as a 1st grade teacher in Washington D.C. with Teach for America. Her students lived in a community with high levels of gun violence, and many were experiencing interpersonal trauma while in her class. It was through this experience that Marissa realized she wanted to work with children as a child therapist, rather than a teacher. She returned to school at Johns Hopkins University, obtaining a Master's Degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling in 2021. Marissa is an ADHD specialist with extensive additional training in supporting neurodivergent clients. Her work with neurodivergent clients is informed by her own experiences as a late-diagnosed ADHD woman.

Friday
October 9
9AM - 4PM

**DeVos Center for
Interprofessional Health**
333 Michigan Street NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Register: www.gvsu.edu/swce