

CURRICULUM VITAE

Brian Scott Gordon, B.A.



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Education

B.A., 1994 Skidmore College

Awards: 2006 Mentor of the Year by the ARC of East Middlesex (nominated by the parent of a student with Asperger's/PDD)

Publication: "Comedy and Autism: A Parallel Universe," *Journal of the International Association of Theatre for Autism*, Winter 2010

Work History

December 2009 – Present

BSG Social Learning - Salem, MA

Founder, Educational Consultant

- Provide the following services to families, schools, and organizations: social assessments, individual and group mentoring, professional development/training, mediation, transition services, intervention strategies, and community-based program/curriculum design.

May 2007 – December 2009

Spotlight Program - North Shore Arc Danvers, MA

Program Director

- Supervised original social pragmatics program and intervention for over 250 adolescents with Asperger's Syndrome, bipolar disorder, ADHD, and other disabilities that affect pragmatic language processing.
- Collaborated on research into effectiveness and mechanisms of change in social pragmatic intervention.
- Oversaw and administered intake, referral, and admission process for the program.
- Provided school and individualized behavioral and academic consultation for individuals with Asperger's Syndrome and other core forms of social/emotional deficit.
- Offered presentations and trainings on the drama-based social pragmatic program/intervention to schools and service organizations.
- Hired and supervised over two dozen relief and salaried staff.
- Managed budget of program.
- Developed, conducted, and administered curriculum for specialized drama-based social-emotional therapy for adolescents with developmental disabilities.
- Created vocational/community-based transition services program.

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October/2006 – February/2007

School-to-Work Transition Services Program - ARC of East Middlesex (EMARC)/EMI Reading, MA
Program Director

- Responsible for the development, implementation, supervision, and management of a program created to aid students with developmental disabilities on a 1:1 basis in learning the necessary life, social, and vocational skills necessary to transition back into their communities once their state-funded education has ended.
- Managed a staff of 5 specialists, providing weekly individual supervisions, as well as bi-weekly staff meetings to brainstorm and discuss the progress of clients, staff issues, and program needs.
- Acted as liaison to 5 public high schools and 1 private school.
- Provided direct service hours to 4 students (3 with various diagnoses of Autism)
- Discovered, developed, and shared teaching methods and ideologies to aid in progress of clients in the program
- Successfully lobbied for the creation of learning facility for the School-to-Work Program
- Maintained effective communication with all parents of clients to ensure that there was carryover of progress into the home whenever possible.

July/2004 – October/2006

School-to-Work Transition Services Program - ARC of East Middlesex (EMARC)/EMI Reading, MA
Mentor/Vocational Specialist

- Worked closely with a male high school student with Asperger's Syndrome, Pervasive Development, Obsessive Compulsive, and Anxiety Disorders
- Saw this student, who had little to no success in the public schools system since elementary level, finish his first full year at public high school and enthusiastically begin his second.
- Aided in volunteer/paid work, as well as continued assisting in a previously held position at a cat shelter twice a week.
- Based on erratically threatening behavior, the managers of the shelter were unsure whether my student would be allowed to continue on as a volunteer. Eight months later, the student was awarded a certificate of appreciation for superlative work as a volunteer; he was also given the option to volunteer on any day the shelter operates (for as many days as he so desired).
- developing necessary social/life skills for each student.
- Attended classes and accompanied students to lunch on a daily basis, assisting them in understanding the social dynamic that exists within each of these activities
- Acted as job developer for internships and permanent/part-time placement

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Sept/2004 – Sept/2005

Wellmet Project, Inc. Cambridge, MA
Mental Health Counselor

The Wellmet Project is a program that operates cooperative households for people with mental illness. All direct care staff live at the residences as a means to de-stigmatize mental illness in addition to serving as role models and a source of support and encouragement.

- Chosen by residents and the other staff based on empathy and listening skills, decision-making ability, and personal characteristics.
- Provided supportive counseling that supplements psychotherapy.
- Facilitated social interaction and provided oversight to each resident.
- Met each week on a 1:1 basis with residents to counsel their professional and personal goals, ranging from personal advocacy to budgeting money, problem-solving everyday issues, and addressing hygiene issues.
- Coordinated treatment with individuals' outside therapists and psychiatric treaters.
- Responsible for the safety of up to twelve residents with major mental illness on a nightly basis.

1997 – 2008

STAND-UP COMEDIAN

United States

- Inclusive by nature, a holistically-minded, performance-oriented comedian with the proven ability to assess and access the minds of all people in a manner that creates positive public outcome.
- Work in the New England area, and have extensive experience in clubs in New York City and Los Angeles.
- Most requested comedian - The Comedy Studio in Cambridge, MA.
- Appeared on NBC's "Last Comic Standing"

Presentations

Presenter locally and nationally on topics related to the social/emotional development of children with developmental disabilities and their families including the following:

Faculty Speaker: Changing Behaviors Through Social Skills Groups: A Drama/Relationship-Based Intervention, Harvard Medical School, Dept. of Continuing Education, Conference: Autism Spectrum Disorders: From Childhood to Adulthood, November 20-21, 2009

Speaker: Gray Matter(s): Good Perspective Taking Goes Beyond Black and White, International Association of Theatre for Autism, Conference: 2nd Annual Symposium of the Applied Theatre Research and Autism Network (American Society of Autism), July 2010