



# Speaker of the Month

April 20, 2022

9:30AM – 11:30AM

## Building Awareness in the LGBTQIA Community and Understanding Gender Identity

*presented by*

**Shawn McGill**

People with disabilities are not exempt from identifying as LGBTQIA. *Building Awareness in the LGBTQIA Community* takes a hard look at some of the statistics surrounding persons who identify as LGBTQIA, as well as some of the challenges faced by not only people who identify as other than “straight” but also the people who care for them.

*Understanding Gender Identity* provides information on understanding what constitutes transgenderism and gender dysphoria. It helps the participant discriminate differences between sex and gender as well as gender identity vs. sexual orientation. The participant will also learn simple strategies on how to best support someone who may identify as being transgender.

It’s important to note that while the focus is on supporting those we serve, Shawn will be sharing his own personal journey in gender identity to help others learn. As Shawn says, “We have to embrace groups of people who are “different” in order to really feel and learn but this also means an incredible amount of vulnerability and trust.”



Shawn McGill has a B.A. in Psychology and Sociology with Counseling Certification from Carlow University and a Master of Social Work (Direct Practice) with Gerontology Certification from the University of Pittsburgh. Shawn’s specialties and strengths include Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorders, Problematic Sexual Behaviors, Person-Centered Planning, Positive Approaches, and Trauma-Informed Care, in addition to many others.

In 1998, Shawn began providing direct support to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who expressed themselves via challenging behaviors. He began his own consulting group in 2012, specializing in intellectual and developmental disabilities, autism spectrum disorders, problematic sexual behaviors, and trauma informed care, among other things.

To register for this **free** event, please visit our Learning Center at <http://northwesthcu.learnupon.com>.

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