The School Psychologist as Qualified Examiner for OHI/ADHD: Perspectives from the Field
Claudia Weiss, NCSP, Ed.S, & Lindsay Balles, Ph.D., NCSP. - Co-Facilitators
Panel Participants:
Heather Pierson, J.D. - Udall Shumway, PLC
Wanda Fernandez, Psy.S - Lead Psychologist, Laveen Public Schools
Tracey Sridharan, NCSP - Arizona Department of Education
David Wodrich, Ph.D. ABPP - University of Arizona

*CPD Session Golden Poppy Room

Abstract: On August 27, 2018 the Arizona State Board of Education approved an updated list of qualified examiners that permits certified school psychologists to verify ADD/ADHD for an educational eligibility of Other Health Impairment. With this update, it is essential that certified school psychologists are confident in their abilities to diagnose ADD/ADHD in the schools, both clinically and legally. During this presentation and panel discussion, we will focus on best practices for school psychologists in evaluating and diagnosing ADHD in the schools. Procedures and policies will be reviewed and our panelists will share their expertise on this matter. The panelists will include practicing school psychologists, professors, a school attorney, and a program director from the Arizona Department of Education. The panel discussion will be open to questions from the participants regarding diagnosis and evaluation for ADD/ADHD and other related OHI concerns.

Learning Objectives:

1. Participants will learn the parameters for school psychologists diagnosing/verifying ADHD in the educational setting.

2. Participants will learn best practices for school psychologists diagnosing/verifying ADHD in the educational setting.

3. Participants will learn how to develop procedures for school psychologists to diagnose/ verify ADHD in the education setting.

Biographies:

Lindsay Balles, Ph.D. N.C.S.P. is currently an adjunct professor with The University of Arizona at Chandler Campus. Dr. Balles completed her training in school psychology with Arizona State University and is a nationally certified school psychologist. She has previously worked in the
Scottsdale Unified School District and Gilbert Public Schools. Presently, Dr. Balles is teaching and working as an independent contractor. Dr. Balles has presented at NASP, the Arizona Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers, and the Association of Behavior Analysis. She is currently serving her seventh year as a Central Region Director for the Arizona Association of School Psychologists and is active in the promotion of the field of school psychology at the local, state, and national level.

**Claudia Weiss, N.C.S.P.,** earned her educational specialist degree in School Psychology at Florida State University in Tallahassee, FL. She worked in Florida, New Hampshire, and Tennessee before moving to Arizona in 2003. Claudia has worked in the Agua Fria Union High School District for twelve years. A Past-President of AASP, Claudia currently serves as AASP’s Communications Chairperson and Intervention Editor. She has presented at NASP, the Arizona Department of Education’s Directors’ Institute, ADE’s Early Childhood Conference, Arizona’s Transition Conference, and the ADE’s Response to Intervention Conference. Claudia was AASP’s liaison with the agencies responsible for Arizona’s Developmental Delay legislation and was a member of the ADE Rules SLD Sub-Committee. Claudia served on ADE’s Dyslexia Handbook Committee and advocated for revisions to the Qualified Examiners List to ensure all school psychologists are considered qualified examiners for ADHD/OHI.