

Speaker Summary: Dr. Violeta Gomez

Speaker Bio: Dr. Violeta M Gomez FAAP, COE, opened Winlock Pediatrics in Kitsap County out of a passion for supporting children and their families through the evaluation and diagnosis of an autism spectrum disorder.

Her purpose is to provide timely developmental assessments to establish or confirm an ASD diagnosis and develop a multidisciplinary treatment plan suitable for children. Their mission is to decrease disparities in early detection and treatment of Autism in all Medicaid eligible children and the Hispanic community within Kitsap County and Washington State.

She has been a caring, compassionate and reliable General Pediatrician for over 16 years, and has received the Center Of Excellence training authorized by the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) and the necessary preparations to administer and score the 2 tests that are considered the gold-standard for diagnosing Autism Spectrum Disorder, the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule-2 (ADOS-2) and the Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised.

Session Title: Autism Diagnosis, Communication Challenges, Cultural Awareness, and Navigating the Diagnostic Process.

Session Description: This session, presented in Spanish, will focus on educating attendees about what autism is, why it is often not recognized as early in certain cultures, and the barriers to receiving an autism diagnosis. Dr. Gomez will also cover communication challenges and the importance of cultural awareness and humility in the diagnostic process. While the session will be delivered in Spanish, all are welcome to attend! Interpreters and headsets will be available to ensure accessibility for non-Spanish-speaking participants. The goal is to foster greater empathy and understanding by exploring the added complexities of navigating autism within diverse cultural and linguistic contexts.

Learning Objectives:

Participants will;

- Gain insight into the autism diagnosis for Hispanic/Latino cultures and the cultural and communication challenges faced by individuals who face multiple barriers to navigating understanding and implementing action geared towards improving outcomes.
- Explore concepts of autism empowerment and how these can be applied across diverse cultural contexts, particularly in Hispanic communities.
- Develop empathy and understanding through real-time language processing exercises.
- Learn about strategies for sensitively addressing cultural biases and stigmas that may affect the support of neurodiverse individuals.
- Gain tools to advocate for and empower autistic voices within their communities, with a special focus on the Hispanic community.