Jillian Nelson was diagnosed with autism as a young adult. With a degree in human services and a background in self-advocacy, she has dedicated her career to helping others with autism achieve their goals, advocating for system change, and spreading a message of education and autism acceptance. Nelson currently sits on the Governor’s Council for Developmental Disabilities and the State Rehabilitation Council in Minnesota. As Community Resource and Policy advocate she leads the policy committee and information and resource services for the Autism Society of Minnesota.

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Jillian will also be doing a brief presentation prior to the teen panel!

WORDS MATTER: THE POWER OF LANGUAGE IN CREATING A UNIFIED COMMUNITY

Addressing the role that words have on self acceptance and social impact related to autism. Examining how the language choices we make, and how and where we talk about autistic people impacts us on multiple levels.