

March 2019

Special Evening Meeting in March - All Are Welcome!

CRAAG is holding its next evening meeting on the topic of employment needs of people with ASD and other developmental disabilities. CRAAG wants to identify common issues and develop possible solutions from our stories. If you can't attend the meeting, but want to share your thoughts in writing, please [email](#) CRAAG.

We will also provide an update on our advocacy efforts.

The meeting is on **Wednesday, March 27th from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** in **Room 502-A** (in the Administrative wing) at Region Ten CSB, 500 Old Lynchburg Road in Charlottesville. **There is no daytime CRAAG meeting in March.**



CRAAG invited representatives from Department of Aging and Rehabilitation Services (DARS), FutureWorks, The Choice Group, and WorkSource Enterprises.

Useful background information from DBHDS's Family Listening Sessions in November 2018 is found in [Employment First: Family Listening Sessions Report](#).

Meeting Topics:

- What we want from a job
- What are barriers to attaining that job
- What works
- What doesn't work
- What we wish we had known earlier
- What the school did well
- What the school didn't do but we wish should have done

We want a headcount for refreshments and handouts. Please RSVP below to let us know if you'll be there.

RSVP for the CRAAG evening meeting!

LOCATION

Region Ten Community Service Board, 500 Old Lynchburg Road, Room 500-A

DATE AND TIME

03/27/19 6:00pm-03/27/19 8:00pm



Advocacy Updates



1) A Victory for Autism Insurance - No Age Cap

Legislation requiring coverage for individuals with autism passed overwhelmingly in both houses in the General Assembly and is now expected to be signed by Governor Northam. The **Virginia Autism Project (VAP)**, organizers of the initiative to require autism insurance in Virginia, led this successful campaign for 12 years! This year's legislation finally closes the age cap by adding coverage for individuals ages 11 and older. The age cap was particularly unfair since the

need for services continues into adulthood. Advocates for this change pointed out that no age cap exists for other health conditions, such as diabetes, asthma, or cancer. Coverage for all those health conditions are based on *medical necessity, not age*. An estimated 10,000 individuals will benefit from this new legislation. This discrimination against individuals with ASD will end with the Governor's signature. The law will take effect in January 2020. The VAP is exploring options to celebrate the signing and will announce their plans soon.

2) Public Comment Period Opens for CL Waiver Renewal

A [notice of a 30 day comment period](#) (February 20, 2019 to close of business EST on March 22, 2019) was posted by the **Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)**. The 1915(c) HCBS waiver renewal applications (356 pages) is posted on DBHDS's [website](#). The highlighted changes include:

- a revision to the required frequency of the administration of the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) from every three years to every four years for individuals 22 years of age or older;
- provider qualifications for peer mentor supports and employment and community transportation services have been updated to permit employment services organizations to perform these services; and
- updates to the cost-neutrality demonstration.

CRAAG plans to draft a statement around the SIS for this public comment period. Please [email](#) CRAAG any information that might be helpful in drafting such a statement.

3) CRAAG's Findings and Solutions Assessments

CRAAG has reprinted our assessments. Download and share with your networks. [Virginia's DD Waiver System #1](#) and [Adult Supports Intensity Scale #2](#). CRAAG is holding an evening meeting on March 27th (see above) to assess the employment supports for individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities. What we learn will become the content of our next Findings and Solutions assessment.

4) CRAAG's Next Activities

So far about a dozen CRAAG supporters have offered to assist CRAAG in telling their stories to local legislators. This is extremely helpful as we organize face-to-face meetings. Now that the General Assembly is over, CRAAG's goal is to meet with as many of the 11 legislators from our region as possible before the General Assembly. While we are aware that a few of the local legislators (David Toscano and Dickie Bell) have announced their retirement from the GA, they may still have valuable information to share with CRAAG. If you want to participate in any of these meetings, [email](#) CRAAG to get involved.

DELEGATES:

Richard P. "Dickie" Bell - R-20th House District, includes part of Nelson
540-332-3998
[email](#)

Robert B. Bell, III - R-58th House District, includes part of Albemarle, Greene and Fluvanna
434-245-8900
[email](#)

C. Matthew Farris - R-59th House District, includes part of Albemarle and Nelson
434-821-5929
[email](#)

R. Steven Landes - R-25th House District, includes part of Albemarle
540-245-5540
[email](#)

John J. McGuire, III - R-56th House District,

SENATORS:

R. Creigh Deeds - D-25th Senate District, includes Charlottesville City, Nelson, and part of Albemarle
434-296-5491
[email](#)

Emmett W. Hanger, Jr. - R-24th Senate District, includes Greene
540-885-6898
[email](#)

Mark J. Peake - R-22nd Senate District, includes Fluvanna, and part of Louisa
804-698-7522
[email](#)

Bryce E. Reeves - R-17th Senate District, includes part of Albemarle and Louisa
540-891-5473
[email](#)

includes part of Louisa
804-389-8601
[email](#)

[Click to find a list of General Assembly legislators who are on disability-related committees.](#)

R. Lee Ware, Jr. - R-65th House District,
includes part of Fluvanna
804-598-6696
[email](#)

David J. Toscano - D-57th House District,
includes Charlottesville City and part of
Albemarle
434-220-1660
[email](#)

CRAAG and Partner Updates

ADOLESCENT WELL BEING RESEARCH STUDY:

Researchers at Virginia Commonwealth University are conducting a study on the well being of teenagers (ages 13 to 17) with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and their female caregivers. An in-person interview of the teen and their caregiver at VCU is required. Caregivers and teens will be compensated for their time. [More information.](#)



ART EXHIBIT OPENING: A [visual arts show](#), that promotes opportunities for art and creative expression for people of all ages and abilities, will open for viewing on March 9th.

The show is being put on by **Access Arts**

Charlottesville/Albemarle (formally known as **VSA**), at the **Carver Recreation Center**. This is the 19th year for the show, which allows more than 100 artists to display their work. Many of the pieces will be available to purchase. "This show is a unique opportunity for individuals with disabilities to be recognized for their creativity and talent," said Diana Wilson, the coordinator for the art show. "The variety of medium is amazing." The show opens to the public at 6:30 p.m. on the 9th. Many artists will be on hand to talk about their work and meet the public. It will remain on display until Aug. 23 and be available for viewing anytime the center is open.

FUN RUN FOR AUTISM: Virginia Institute of Autism's (VIA) annual *Run 5K for Autism* at Charlottesville High School is coming up on Saturday, April 13th. [Register](#) now! The day starts at 7:30 a.m. with a *Kid's Race*, followed by an 8:00 a.m. start of the *Run 5K*. Proceeds benefit VIA's local outpatient and adult programs. Help make this a successful event!

FUN FREE EVENTS: On Saturday, March 16th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., **Virginia Institute of Autism (VIA)** in collaboration with **Charlottesville Parks and Recreation**, offers [Fun Day to Support Siblings](#) (ages 6 to 14). Another family-friendly event, [Autism Day at Wildrock](#), takes place on Saturday, March 23rd from 10 a.m. to Noon. Wildrock, a nature play and discovery center in the heart of the Valley. Bring the whole family, including your child with ASD, to enjoy a day of exploring three acres of fenced in playscape, experience support from other families, and relax in the beauty of this out-door discovery center. All ages welcome. Please bring a snack to share. Limited to 32 families.

TRANSITION FAIR: Plan to attend the **PREP Parent Resource Center's** annual *Life After High School Transition and Resource Fair* from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 16th in Charlottesville. [More information.](#) Also, on March 22 from Noon to 1:30 p.m., PREP Parent Resource Center is holding *Lunch and Learn* on Virginia DD waivers, including CCC+ and the IFSP program. [More information.](#)

TRANSITION TOOL KIT: The **Autism Speaks Transition Tool Kit** will help guide you on the journey from adolescence to adulthood. This kit will provide you with suggestions and options for you to consider as you set out to find your child's own unique path to adulthood. Click to download a [Virginia timeline](#). The full kit can be ordered as follows:

- 1) Family members of adolescents and young adults with autism between the ages of 13 and 22 in the United States may request a complimentary hard copy of the Transition Tool Kit by filling out the [Transition Tool Kit order form](#).
- 2) For professionals, service providers and family members of individuals with autism outside the U.S. and those who do not fall in the age range, we encourage you to [download the kit](#) free of charge. The sections:

- Introduction
- Self-Advocacy

- Developing Independent Living Skills
- Planning for Transition
- Legal Matters to Consider
- Community Living
- Employment and Other Options
- Post-secondary Educational Opportunities
- Housing and Residential Supports
- Health
- Technology
- Conclusion
- Resources

Support Groups

Cville Special Needs Support Group: Parents and grandparents of children with special needs join Catherine Lochner and Katherine Jenkins each month for support and resource sharing. **This month there is a special speaker: Jack Maxwell, a young adult living life with autism**
 Time: 2nd Friday of the month from 12:30-2:30 p.m.
 Location: First Presbyterian Church, 500 Park Street, Charlottesville
 More information: [Monthly flyer](#)



Fun On The Spectrum: For parents and youths ages 18 to young adult
 Time: 2nd Thursday of the month from 7:00-9:00 p.m.
 Location: Maple Grove Christian Church Youth Center, Profitt Road, Charlottesville
 More information: [Flyer](#)

Recreation



ATA Martial Arts for Children with Autism
 For children ages 3+
 Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3:30-4:00 p.m.
 Location: 243 Zan Road, Charlottesville
[Flyer](#)



Autism Class at the Little Gym
 For children ages 4 to 10
 Time: Fridays, 5:00-5:45 p.m.
 Location: Stonefield, 2075 Bond St., Suite 140, Charlottesville
[Flyer](#)



**Adaptive Recreation
 Charlottesville Parks & Recreation**
[Newsletter](#)



Special Olympics - Virginia
 Provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.
[Website](#)



Connect - Engage - Learn - Change