



REACH Newsletter, Volume 1.2, April 2015

REACH utilizes a team approach to provide: clinical assessment; crisis prevention, stabilization, and intervention planning and education; community and home based crisis intervention and stabilization to both adults and children diagnosed with an intellectual or developmental disability and a co-occurring mental health diagnosis or challenging behavior; and facility-based, therapeutic, emergency, and limited planned stays for individuals 18 and over.

The goal of REACH is to stabilize current or emerging crisis events and strengthen the individuals' support systems. With intervention and training, REACH increases capacity to support individuals served and promote person-centered positive outcomes. REACH serves adults and children with an intellectual or developmental disability and a co-occurring mental health diagnosis or challenging behavior that is affecting their quality of life.

REACH Region III Updates

REACH Crisis Therapeutic House Updates

During the month of March, 2015, we had the following house stays:

- 5 Emergency Stays
- 5 Prevention Stays
- 4 Step Downs from Psychiatric Hospitals

REACH Trainings

REACH offers trainings tailored to fit the needs of your agency/program. If you would like to request a training, please [fill out this form.](#)

Website

[REACH has a link](#) on the NRVCS website! We will keep you posted with new information and resources monthly. Archived copies of this newsletter will be available. If you missed last month's newsletter, [click here](#).

Crisis Services Satisfaction Survey

We've implemented a Crisis Services Satisfaction Survey to help us evaluate our program as we provide crisis services. You can expect to receive a survey link after each crisis event. We appreciate you taking the time to complete the survey. We will include the data in our Advisory Council presentations, and on a quarterly basis in the newsletter.

Professional Development / Resources

Second Annual VT Autism Clinic Outreach Conference

Friday, April 17, 2015 from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Squires Student Center on Virginia Tech's campus. This year, the theme focuses on parent empowerment and will include a morning keynote address from Dr. Angela Scarpa on the importance of parent training in the success of ASD treatments. Additional talks will cover topics from parent stress, to parent mentoring and mindfulness. In addition, Dana Yarbrough, the director of the Center for Family Involvement at VCU will present on the development of parent empowerment plans.

All proceeds directly benefit VTAC and Psychological Services Center (PSC). Minimum donations of \$5 requested. Please RSVP to Deanna Swain (swaindm@vt.edu) to reserve a spot.

[Click here to view the flier](#)

VTCAR Spring 2015 Speaker Series

The Virginia Tech Center for Autism Research (VTCAR) hosts a speaker series that is FREE and open to the community. The next speaker, Dana Yarbrough, is on **Friday, April 17, 2015** from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in Squires Hall on Virginia Tech's campus. For more details visit: <http://www.vtcar.science.vt.edu/>

Virginia Tech Center for Autism Research Autism Assessments

VTCAR offers clinical assessments via participation in the Assessment Database. You can receive a comprehensive ASD assessment battery through VTCAR via participation in the VTCAR Assessment Database. In this case, you would complete ASD measures and assessments and receive a diagnostic clinical summary. Following your assessment, if additional assessments or evaluations are necessary you would then receive a priority referral for a full evaluation at the Child Assessment Clinic (CAC), Virginia Tech Autism Clinic (VTAC), or the

Psychological Services Center (PSC). Learn more here: <http://www.vtcar.science.vt.edu/Assessments/Assessments.html>

TechKnowledge: Special Topics in Assistive Technology

This is a FREE Virtual Conference that highlights evidence-based practices in assistive technology (AT) and practical AT strategies for students with disabilities. Archived copies available.

<http://vconf.gmu.edu/Conference/TechKnowledge2014>

Mental Health First Aid Training

New River Valley Community Services offers Mental Health First Aid training FREE to community members and providers. Mental Health First Aid is an eight-hour course that teaches participants how to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. [Click here](#) for upcoming dates.

To register, contact Christine Hatchett at CHatchett@nrvc.org.

Autism Community Training Videos

ACT's videos provide practical information for parents and teams. Watch them when, where, and as often as you'd like!

<http://www.actcommunity.ca/education/videos/>

Autism Awareness Month

April is [National Autism Awareness Month!](#) Visit www.autism-society.org to learn more.

Community Events / Information for Families

Intellectual Disabilities Agency Spring Events

IDA offers inclusive programs for those with and without intellectual disabilities. All are challenged to improve skills, develop friendships & understanding of each other's capabilities through a spirit of equality & team unity.

[Click here to view the schedule](#)

[Click here to download the registration form](#)

SAFE children's concert at Moss Arts Center - FREE EVENT!

Saturday, April 18th at 10:30 a.m.

Special performance will include softened acoustics/ volume, social cues for audience during performance, low lights, instrument "petting zoo" for children, autism sensitive/ child friendly content, special training for volunteers, quiet, low sensory space available. Doors open 30 minutes prior to show.

[Click here](#) for the flier, or Contact Dr. Amy Azano: azano@vt.edu or 540-231-8889.

Friends of Infinity Acres Ranch Open House - FREE EVENT!

Musical entertainment by Elliott Stone, Animal Displays, Exhibits, Raptor Demos, Vendors, Games & Prizes!

Saturday, April 18, 2015, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

136 Joppa Road, Ridgeway, VA 24148

Contact Laura and Rick Steere: 276-358-2378 or infinityacresva@gmail.com

NRVCS Autism Support Group

Members of the NRVCS Autism Team facilitate a monthly support group meeting for local families. Meetings are educational, parent-driven, and supportive. Individuals with Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, Pervasive Developmental Disorder, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder, Rett's Disorder, and other developmental and/or intellectual disabilities are welcomed to join. Children/siblings are welcome, but please RSVP for supervised child socialization by calling 540.320.9281 or 540.443.7522.

If you have any questions regarding the Autism Family Support Group with NRVCS, please contact Latrelle Rogers at 540.357.0058.

Intellectual Disabilities Agency Silent Auction and Wine/Beer Tasting

Monday, April 30, 2015 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Blacksburg Country Club.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.

[Click here to view the flier](#)

[Click here for more opportunities to support the IDA](#)

Online Survey for Parents

The Partnership for People with Disabilities at Virginia Commonwealth University is conducting an online survey to learn how parents in Virginia who have children 1 to 8 years old with Autism Spectrum Disorder make decisions about services for their children. Respondents will receive a \$30 Visa card for their participation in the survey. Gift cards will take 2-3 weeks to process.

[Click here to take the survey](#). You can take it in either English or Spanish.

If you have any questions, please contact Parthy Dinora (padinora@vcu.edu).

Newsletter Submissions

If you or your organization has other information that would be of interest to those working with ID/DD populations, please submit that information to Barbara Tait (btait@nrvc.org) with as much detail as possible (date, time, duration, cost, description, relevant links, etc.). This can include articles, trainings, events, etc.

Please keep in mind that submissions need to be made by the first of each month in order to be included in that month's newsletter. For example, if you

want a submission included in May's newsletter (which goes out in the second week of May), please send your information/nomination by **May 1**.

Submit a spotlight nomination

We'd like to begin to highlight one person, organization, or program (in each monthly newsletter) who has gone above and beyond in serving the ID/DD population. If you'd like to make a nomination, please [click here](#).

Contact REACH Region III

824 W. Main Street, Radford, VA 24141

Crisis Line - 1-855-887-8278 | Local Calls - 540-267-3435 | Fax - 540-267-3403

Email - info@swvaREACH.org

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Our mailing address is:

824 W. Main St., Radford, VA 241412

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