



REACH Region III Newsletter, Volume 1.3, May 2015



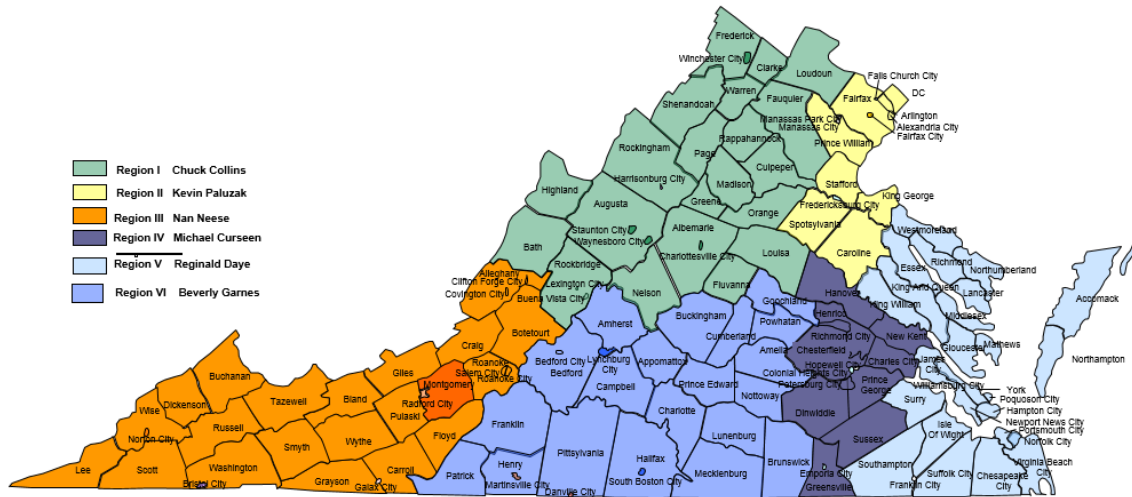
*Welcome back! Spring is here,
along with our May newsletter!*



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.

DBHDS
Office of Human Rights Regions
2012



REACH Region III Updates

REACH Crisis Therapeutic House Updates

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

- 9 Emergency Stays
- 1 Prevention Stay
- 4 Step Downs from Psychiatric Hospitals
- 0 Step Downs from Jail
- 1 Psychiatric Hospitalization Diversion Stay

REACH Community Crisis Services Updates

During the month of April, 2015, we had the following:

Adult Services

- 8 Crisis Plans provided
- 14 New Referrals
- 139 Active cases (those receiving crisis or prevention services)

Children's Services

- 3 Crisis Plans provided
- 4 New Referrals
- 14 Active cases

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.](#)

Save the Date for the Next Advisory Council Meeting!

The next REACH Region III Advisory Council Meeting will be on **Thursday, June 4, 2015.**

Please save this date, and look for more information via email soon.

Useful REACH Resources

[Click here](#) to see a larger version of the Office of Human Rights Regions map pictured above.

[Click here](#) to view REACH regions by city and county.

Spotlight on...

The Shenandoah Autism Center

What is the Shenandoah Autism Center (SAC)?

Shenandoah Autism Center is a regional private day school for students with Autism located in the Clifton Forge area of the Alleghany Highlands. Shenandoah Autism Center was incorporated February 9, 1999 in the Shenandoah Valley by a small group of parents and professionals dedicated to children with autism. SAC relocated due to the high need for services and has been settled in Clifton Forge, Virginia since 2002. Shenandoah Autism Center is licensed by the Virginia Department of Education.

Shenandoah Autism Center's mission is to provide support, information, and appropriate education to children with Autism and their families.

Who does the SAC serve?

All students served have Autism while many have additional disabilities. The Center currently serves twelve students ranging in age from 4 to 22 years placed by three different school divisions.

What makes the SAC unique?

Each student receives one on one support by a paraprofessional who is highly trained in the techniques of Applied Behavior Analyst, under the direction of an Education Coordinator who is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and licensed as a teacher and administrator through the Virginia Department of Education. Student programs emphasize a strong focus on communication, socialization, and adaptive living skills.

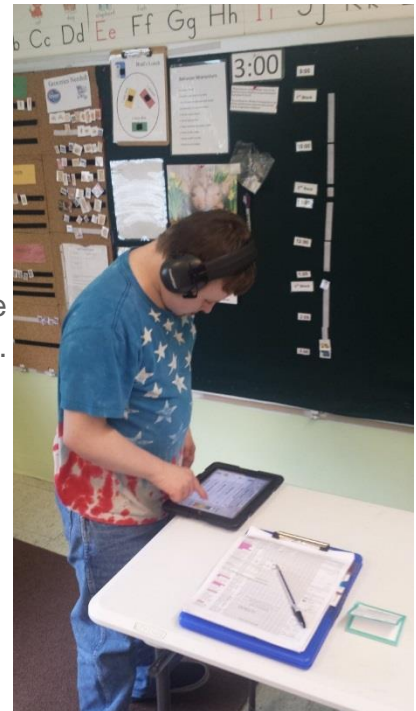
Each student's program is personalized and very unique. Some of the more recent innovative programs that have been developed to use with students include using the Pro-Lo-Quo to Go picture to speak program on the I-pad with nonverbal students of various ages. Students use the program for greetings, requesting, and conversation. A tactile schedule and identification system has been developed for a student who is blind and has Autism. SAC has also paired with local businesses to give students vocational skills. These have recently included a pet groomer, landscaping store, and church.

Who should I contact for more information?

Mindy Gardzinski, Education Coordinator

Mindyg.SAC@gmail.com

540-862-2327



Professional Development / Resources

Youth Advocate Programs is offering FREE Autism Training

Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. (YAP) is excited to offer two days of autism training to youth, families, providers, and educators!

Friday May 15, 2015 from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

AND

Saturday May 16, 2015 from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

[Click here](#) to learn more

[Click here](#) to register

Questions? Contact Roanoke YAP Program Director Valerie Koeppel at 540-342-1261 or vkoeppel@yapinc.org.

NADD Webinars

The National Association for the Dually Diagnosed (NADD) has a great upcoming [webinar series](#). REACH Region III is sponsoring registration for select webinars. Please join us at once of the locations listed below to hear the webinar live, for FREE.

- *Management and Redirection of Destructive Behavior -Thursday, May 14, 2015 from 3:00-4:00 p.m.* in Radford, Galax, and Abingdon
- *Trauma Informed Care Support for Individuals with I/DD & Co-Occurring Behavioral Disorders - Tuesday, May 19, 2015 from 3:00-4:00 p.m.* in Radford and Wytheville
- *Community Capacity to Provide Mental Health and Behavioral Health Services to People with I/DD - Monday, June 8, 2015 from 3:00-4:00 p.m.* in Radford
- *Autism, Asperger = Autism Spectrum Disorder: It's not just another Mental Illness - Thursday, June 18, 2015 from 3:00-4:00 p.m.* in Radford and Galax

[Click here](#) to view the flier for more details

To register, email Barbara Tait at btait@nrvc.org

Building the Foundation for a Youth MOVEment of Peer Support Webinar Series

Georgetown National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health offers an open discussion prompted by ongoing interest in a [previous three-part webinar series on youth peer-support](#). The discussion will be held **Wednesday, June 10, 2015 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. EDT**. Come with your questions related to program development processes, implementation questions regarding hiring, training and supervision and more.

[Click here to register.](#)

Recognizing Medical Causes for Behavior - FREE Training

This training, sponsored by REACH Region III and Virginia DBHDS, is open to residential providers, day support providers, and family members. Through participating, attendees will be able to identify five medical conditions that result in increased behaviors in ID and DD populations, recognize psychotropic medication side effects unique to individuals with ID and DD, acquire skills to facilitate communication with healthcare professionals, and gain knowledge in objective documentation

strategies to improve the quality of and reduce the time required for documentation.

There are two training options:

- **Thursday, June 11, 2015 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.** at the SWVA Higher Education Center - 1 Partnership Circle, Abingdon, VA 24210
 - *Only 25 spaces left in this training!*

OR

- **Friday, June 12, 2015 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.** at NRVCS, Montgomery Center - 700 University City Boulevard, Blacksburg, VA 24060
 - *Only 18 spaces left in this training!*

Email Barbara Tait at btait@nrvc.org to register

[Click here to view the flier](#)

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 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/>

Article: A New Look at Racial/Ethnic Differences in Mental Health Service Use Among Adults

[Click here](#) to read this interesting article that details a recent report by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Using data from 2008 to 2012, the article outlines the racial/ethnic breakdown of service use and some of the barriers to utilizing services.

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. **There are two craft classes open still for this season - July 1 and August 5, 2015.** Cost is \$4 per class.

[Click here to view the schedule](#)

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

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.

Peer Support Group for Adults with Depression/Bipolar Disorder

Mental Health America of New River Valley (MHA-NRV) is now offering a peer support group for adults (age 18 and over) who are living with depression and bipolar disorder. The support group is peer-led and focuses on self-help through the sharing of experiences, information and strategies for living successfully with a mood disorder. Meetings are held on the **third Tuesday of each month from 6:00-7:30 p.m.** at MHA-NRV's office in Christiansburg (1200 Elm Street, Suite A). Meetings are free and confidential. No advance notice is required for attendance.

Goodwill's "Career Connection" Facility

Goodwill Industries recently opened a new "Career Connection" facility in the former location of the Goodwill Bookstore (next to Goodwill's retail store in Christiansburg on Peppers Ferry Road).

The Goodwill Career Connection provides:

- Resume and cover letter development
- Referral to local job openings
- Assistance with job applications
- Access to computers, printer and internet
- Interviewing tips and mock interviews
- Encouragement and support in career searches
- Referral to job training workshops and other community resources

Services are provided at no cost and appointments are not necessary. All skill levels and educational backgrounds are welcome. Hours are **Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.**

The program is also in need of volunteer assistants to help with daily operation of the facility. If you or someone you know would be interested in volunteering, call Jeffrey Kinder at 540-585-3276 or e-mail him at jkinder@goodwillvalleys.com.

iCanShine Bike Camp

iCanShine Bike Camp is from **June 22-26, 2015**. Rider comes for one session (same time each day). The sessions are one hour and 15 minutes each. Participants must be 8 years old. There is no maximum age – several 20 year olds learned to ride a bike previously! Participants must not weigh more than 220 lbs. (for safety of the spotters). Participants must be able to walk without a cane or assistive device and be able to side step to both sides. Cost is \$200 – scholarships available.

For information or questions about this bike camp please e-mail Ginny Riddle directly at icanshineranoke@gmail.com or call 540-529-2721.

To register, click below to download a registration form:

- [Rider Registration Form](#)
- [Volunteer Registration Form](#)

VA CHIP - Child Identification Program

The VA CHIP program is a comprehensive child identification and protection tool designed to give families a measure of protection against the ever increasing problem of missing children. Not only do they include children, but teenagers, adults and senior citizens in the event that they go missing. Because EVERY ONE IS SOMEONES CHILD. This program is provided "free of charge" to every Virginia family who wishes to participate.

For more information, [click here](#).

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 June's newsletter, please send your information/nomination by **June 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](#).

To view a copy of last month's newsletter, [click here](#).

To subscribe to REACH Region III's monthly newsletter, [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

[Click here to visit our website](#)

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