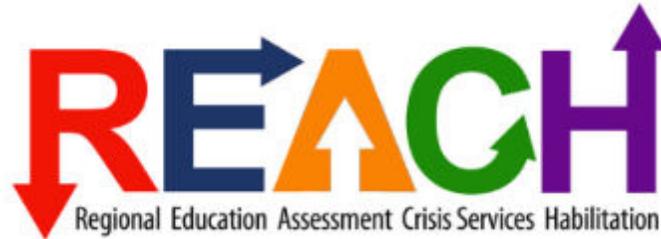


[View this email in your browser](#)

**New in this Issue:**

*Psychotropic Medication, Sun Safety, & Sensory Processing*



*REACH Region III Newsletter, Volume 1.5, July 2015*

**Summer is officially here, and our Regional Nurses have put together some interesting facts and helpful tips for understanding symptoms, beating the heat, & staying safe in the sun! Also checkout the Child Mind Institute's article about making your summer sensory friendly!**



**REACH  
Region III  
June 2015**

*Crisis  
Therapeutic*

## Clinical Corner



Psychotropic medication use can interfere with the body's ability to regulate heat. Individuals who use these medications are also at a higher

## House

7 Emergency Stays  
5 Prevention Stay  
4 Step Downs from  
Psychiatric Hospitals

## Community Crisis Services

### Adult Services

16 Crisis Plans  
14 New Referrals  
163 Total active  
cases

### Children's Services

0 Crisis Plans  
2 New Referrals  
21 Total active cases

risk for heat-related illnesses and sun sensitivity.

**[Click here to learn how to prevent heat related illness & counteract sun sensitivity!](#)**

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Did you know that **heat stroke can**

**sometimes mimic mental health**

**symptoms?** Individuals experiencing heat stroke may exhibit strange behaviors, be agitated & confused, and even have hallucinations! **[Learn to recognize the common signs of heat stroke and ways to prevent heat stroke here!](#)**

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## **Upcoming Events:**

**July 30, 2015**

**Strategies for Supporting  
Adolescents & Adults with  
Autism Spectrum Disorders**

**@**

**New River Valley  
Community Services**

**[Read more >>](#)**



Summer can be a fun time for many people, but for individuals with sensory processing issues, summer can be overwhelming and challenging -- unstructured days, sand in your shoes, loud fireworks, and new activities, to name a few. Check out this **[Child Mind Institute article](#)** about sensory processing and ways to help individuals stay comfortable and have a great summer!

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**August 6, 2015**  
Suicide Prevention  
Conference in Southwest  
Virginia

[Read more >>](#)

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**September 21-25, 2015**

HPR III Annual Conference

THE JOURNEY: Fostering  
Hope, Creating Change --  
Recovery for All

[Read more >>](#)

### **New Mental Health Laws Took Effect**

**July 1, 2015**

Unless otherwise stated in legislation, all bills passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor take effect on July 1 of each year. [Click here](#) for a list of all of the bills relating to mental health, DD, and substance use that have just become law - from the DBHDS All In Newsletter (June 2015).



Governor McAuliffe kicked off a 100-Day challenge to improve housing for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. [Read more >>](#)

## **DBHDS Facts & Figures**

**Excerpts from July's ALL IN! Monthly Newsletter from Commissioner Ferguson**

[Read More >>](#)

**Training Center Census (July 13, 2015)**

Name	July 2012 Census	July 2013 Census	July 2014 Census	July 13, 2015 Census
NVTC - Closure: By 3/30/2016	153	135	107	56
SWVTC - Closure: By 6/30/2018	173	156	144	124
CVTC - Closure: By 6/30 2020	350	301	288	231
SEVTC - Remains open	106	84	75	69
<b>Total</b>	<b>983</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>480</b>

### ID and DD Waiver Enrollment & Waiting Lists (July 13, 2015)

	ID Waiver	DD Waiver
<b>Total Slots</b>	<b>10,307</b>	<b>1,013</b>
Urgent Waitlist	4,960	
Non-Urgent Waitlist	3,106	
<b>Total Waitlist</b>	<b>8,066</b>	<b>1,993</b>

## Stay Connected to DBHDS!

**Waiver Updates Email List** – If you would like to be added to the email list to receive waiver redesign communications, please send your email address and your stakeholder status (e.g., self advocate, family member, provider agency representative, advocacy organization, etc.) to [waiverupdates@dbhds.virginia.gov](mailto:waiverupdates@dbhds.virginia.gov).

**ALL IN! Email List** – Anyone interested in being included on this list can simply send his or her email to [cmsnewsletter@dbhds.virginia.gov](mailto:cmsnewsletter@dbhds.virginia.gov)

## SUPPORT GROUPS

### Adult Asperger/Autism Spectrum Social Group

This group is for adults of all ages on the higher functioning end of the Autism Spectrum who would like support for strengthening communication, social, work, and communication skills. The group usually includes a mixture of aspies and their friends, caregivers, and/or parents.

Meets on the second Thursday of each month from 7-8:30 PM at the College Lutheran Church building, 210 S. College Ave., Salem, VA. [Click here](#) for the flier.

### NRVCS Autism Support Group

Members of the Autism Team facilitate a monthly support group 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. 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

## RESEARCH & SURVEYS

### Paid research Opportunity at the Virginia Tech Autism Clinic

The Virginia Tech Autism Clinic in Blacksburg, VA is recruiting parents of children with autism to participate in a long-distance research study.

**Who:** Parents with 1) a child with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (Autism, Asperger's, or PDD-NOS) and 2) another typically-developing child. Children must currently live in the same home, and sibling without ASD must attend a public or private school. Participating parent must be primary caregiver.

**What:** Complete surveys by mail (60 minutes). You will be compensated \$15 for your time.

**Contact:** Tyler Hassenfeldt - [thassen@vt.edu](mailto:thassen@vt.edu) or (412) 600-8304. [Click here](#) for the flier.

### **2014-2015 Special Education Parent Involvement Survey**

All parents of school-aged children and youth who receive special education services in Virginia's schools are encouraged to complete the Virginia Department of Education's **annual** Parent Involvement Survey. This survey is not intended to measure satisfaction with the special education program. It is designed to determine whether or not the school facilitated parent involvement. The English and Spanish versions of the survey have been combined into one survey with both languages.

If you are unable to take the survey online, your child's school will provide paper versions for your use. All paper versions of the survey will include a pre-addressed, postage-paid return envelope. All responses will be sent directly to the Virginia Department of Education.

If you have questions related to the Parent Involvement Survey, please contact Hank Millward [hank.millward@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:hank.millward@doe.virginia.gov) at the Virginia Department of Education (804) 371-0525.

This survey will be available **May 1, 2015 to September 30, 2015**

This online survey may be found at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VDOEParentInvolvementSurvey2014-2015>

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## **About REACH**

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.

## 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](mailto:info@swvaREACH.org)

**[Visit our Website!](#)**

## Newsletter Submissions

If you or your organization has information that would be of interest to those working with I/DD populations, please submit that information to REACH ([info@swvaREACH.org](mailto:info@swvaREACH.org)) with the subject line NEWSLETTER. Please include as much detail as possible (date, time, duration, cost, description, attachments, 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 **August's** newsletter, please send your information/nomination by **August 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 I/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](#).*



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**Our mailing address is:** 824 W. Main St., Radford, VA 24141

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