

## Update

## Clinical Corner



VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

### February Data

#### Adults

Referrals: 28  
 Active Clients: 157  
 Crisis Plans: 5  
 Prevention hours: 454

#### **Calls to Crisis Line**

Information: 15  
 Prevention: 60  
 Crisis/Face to Face  
 Response: 21

#### **Crisis Therapeutic Home**

Emergency Bed Days: 68  
 Step-down Bed Days: 63  
 Prevention Bed Days: 20

#### **Self-Paced Online Course:**

#### **Foundations of Autism Spectrum Disorder**

VCU Autism Center for Excellence

The course will discuss the myths and facts surrounding ASD as well as the supports and services available to those with ASD and their families.

#### **Who Should Take This Course**

This course is designed for general education teachers, special education teachers, related service providers, paraprofessionals, administrators, family members and other service providers.

[Click here](#) to learn more and to register.

## **Children**

Referrals: 21  
 Active Clients: 68  
 Crisis Plans: 6  
 Prevention hours: 230

### **Calls to Crisis Line**

Information: 12  
 Prevention: 8  
 Crisis/Face to Face  
 Response: 8

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**To download current  
 REACH Referral Form -  
[Click here.](#)**

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## **Apps**



### **Find My Family**

Life360 GPS Locator &  
 Tracker

Find My Family Locator by Life360 is an intuitive tracker app to keep family, friends and caregivers connected.

Life360 runs on your mobile device and allows you to view your family members on a map, communicate with them, and receive alerts when your loved ones leave and arrive at home, school or work. **Free.**

[Click here](#) to learn more.

## **The Parent Playbook**

This course is designed to introduce families to information about Autism Spectrum Disorder, including tips specifically for caregivers, information about the DSM-5, characteristics, interventions, and recommended programs and services.

### **Who Should Take This Course**

This course is designed for parents and caregivers who have children identified with an Autism Spectrum Disorder within the past year.

However, the content is applicable to any parents who are looking for strategies to support their child with an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

[Click here](#) to learn more and to register.

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## **In the News**



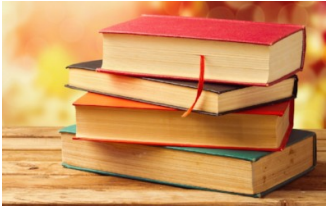
### **National DD Awareness Month**

NACDD

The goal for this month is to create awareness about developmental disabilities, teach the importance of inclusion within every aspect of life, and to share the stories of individuals with a disability. [Click here](#) to continue reading.

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## Reading



### **Teaching Children with Down Syndrome about Their Bodies, Boundaries, and Sexuality: A Guide for Parents and Professionals**

*Terri Couwenhoven, M.S.*

Drawing on her unique background as both a sexual educator and mother of a child with Down syndrome, the author blends factual information and practical ideas for teaching children with Down syndrome and other intellectual disabilities about their bodies, puberty, and sexuality.

[Click here](#) to learn more.

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## Diversity & Inclusion



### **Podcast: Inclusion Roundtable**

Topics will include K-12

**This guide has a ton of awesome videos and resources, check it out!** [Click here](#) for the 2018 DD Awareness Month Resource Guide/Calendar.

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### **World Autism Awareness Day - April 2nd** Autism Speaks

The eleventh annual World Autism Awareness Day is April 2, 2018.

Joined by the international community, hundreds of thousands of landmarks, buildings, homes and communities around the world, light blue in recognition of people living with autism.

Autism-friendly events and educational activities take place all month to increase understanding and acceptance and foster worldwide support.

**Join us for World Autism Month! Visit [WAM](#).**

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## Medical News



### **Fatal Five Focus: Seizures**

#### **What are seizures?**

Seizures are characterized by abnormal electrical activity in the brain. Seizures can affect the entire

education, supported employment, transition, employer practices, post-secondary education, independent living, and promoting success in these areas for people with autism, TBI, and physical, intellectual, and developmental disabilities.

[Click here](#) to learn more and to listen.

brain (generalized seizure) or just one part of the brain (partial seizure). Seizures can result from an acute condition such as fever or illness, but sometimes seizures are the result of a seizure disorder called epilepsy.

### What are the signs and symptoms?

[Click here](#) to continue reading.

## Opportunities and Events



### MCPS TRANSITION FAIR

**When:** Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> 2018

**Time:** 4-6 p.m. Come and go as you please!

**Where:** Christiansburg High School Cafeteria, 100 Independence Blvd. Christiansburg

Learn about programs and services available to students with disabilities.

- Job Training
- Post-Secondary Education
- Independent or Assisted Living
- Recreation and Leisure
- Vocational Rehabilitation & much more!

All students, parents, guardians and community members are invited to attend.

*Come visit for a chance to win door prizes!*

This event is free of charge! [Click here](#) to view the [flyer](#).

For questions please contact [dwells@mcps.org](mailto:dwells@mcps.org) or [cassiefitzgerald@mcps.org](mailto:cassiefitzgerald@mcps.org)

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## Bros UnitedD (B.U.D.) - Bowling with the Brothers

**When:** Saturday, March 31st from 12-2pm. (Depending on how much fun we're having).

**Where:** The New River Valley Super Bowl

[Click here](#) for the flyer with more information and on how to RSVP by March 27th.

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## Independent Living Expo 2018

**When:** April 14th, from 9am - 3pm

**Where:** The Salem Civic Center

**What:** The Expo is a FREE day of seeing, touching, trying and learning about the different types of assistive technology (AT) and services that can be used to assist a person with a disability to be independent. All people use some sort of technology but for people with disabilities AT provides equal access and helps them to perform functions that can be difficult or impossible.

Independent Living Expo 2018 is being organized by the Blue Ridge Independent Living Center. The Center is a private, nonprofit organization that assists individuals with disabilities to be independent.

For more information, email [mdavis@brilc.org](mailto:mdavis@brilc.org), call 540-342-1231 or visit [www.brilc.org](http://www.brilc.org)

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## NRVCS Autism Support Group

**What:** A monthly support group meeting for local families. Meetings are educational, parent-driven, and supportive. Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (including those previously diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome, Pervasive Developmental Disorder, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder, Rett's Disorder), and other developmental and/or intellectual disabilities are welcomed to join.

**When:** Monthly

**Where:** NRVCS, 700 University City Blvd, Blacksburg, VA 24060

Parents: Huckleberry Room\*

Kids: New River Room A, B, and C

\*Please sign in children before you head upstairs.

[Click here](#) to subscribe to mailing list, so that you can be made aware of meeting dates/times/staff and menu!

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## VTCAR -Current Research Participation Opportunities

## ASD in the Workplace Study

Researchers at Virginia Tech are currently conducting a study on experiences of individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in the workplace. We are looking for individuals age 16 and older with ASD who have applied for or held a job to participate in a one-time focus group discussion.

If you are interested, please contact Dr. Carolyn Shivers ([shivercm@vt.edu](mailto:shivercm@vt.edu) or 540-231-5434), or fill out the following survey, indicating your interest:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1wq9BzHRG2lg1w4spaRKCvgDDPMTxAhAZXj47rVO-fw4/edit>

Participants: Individuals with autism age 16 to 60 who have applied for and/or held a job.

Method: One-time focus group visit to the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg

Measures: Individuals will participate in a group discussion about their work experiences. The discussion will be audio-taped.

Time: 60-90 minutes, depending on the response of the group

Compensation: \$25 gift card

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## Social Motivation Study

We want to hear about your social preferences and behavior!

We are conducting a research study to get more information from children and teenagers on their social preferences. Specifically, we are trying to create and test-out an interview which will assess how people feel about making friends, interacting with other people, and engaging in social settings.

Participation involves both a parent and child to complete a one-session assessment session at the Virginia Tech Child Study Center. During this one session appointment (not to exceed 3 hours), you will be asked to communicate your likes, dislikes, and social behaviors through a variety of assessment measures. We are enrolling young people with Autism Spectrum Disorder who are between the ages of 8-17 and a parent.

Participants will receive a total of \$75 for their time (\$25 for the child participant, \$50 for the adult participant). Additionally, parents will receive a brief session summary detailing assessment findings related to social motivation.

If you would like more information regarding the study, or to participate, please send an email to [relias@vt.edu](mailto:relias@vt.edu) or call at [\(540\) 231-2024](tel:5402312024).

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# SUBMIT YOUR



Do you have an event that you would like to see in the newsletter? [Click here](#) to submit it!

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## Employment Opportunities





# WE'RE HIRING!

Region III REACH is looking for Behavioral Health Professionals with a passion for working with adults and children with developmental disabilities.

Open positions for our residential and mobile crisis teams include: Clinicians, BCBA, QMHP/QDDP, and QMHP/QDDP-eligible. Licensure, BCBA, and QMHP supervision is provided for qualified candidates.

REACH Region III is a regional provider serving the New River Valley, Roanoke, Danville, Martinsville, SWVA and Far SWVA locations including Mt. Rogers, Highlands, PD 1, Dickenson County and Cumberland Mtn. coverage areas of Virginia.



**BUILD YOUR CAREER WITH US!**

**APPLY NOW!**

Positions available for:

- Paraprofessionals
- CSPs (QMHP/QDDP)
- Clinician I (Licensure Eligible)
- Clinician II (Licensed)
- Residential and Community Mobile Crisis

**FOR MORE INFO AND TO APPLY: [www.nrvcs.org/employment/](http://www.nrvcs.org/employment/)**

**Come check out our job openings for REACH Region III.**

[Click here](#) for the flyer.

For more information on available positions and to apply [click here](#).

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Do you have an open position you would like to see in our newsletter? [Click here](#) to submit it.



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# DBHDS



[Click Here](#) for the website.

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[Click here](#) to review - **DBHDS Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report**

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[Click here](#) to review - **General Memo RE: HB 1775 ID to DD Change 2017**

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## Resources

### **Tax Benefit Checklist For Families Caring for Children with Special Needs 2017**

[Click Here](#)

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#### **The Arc of Virginia**

*Our Mission.* The Arc of Virginia promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes.

*Our Vision.* People with intellectual and developmental disabilities are valued as classmates, coworkers, neighbors, citizens and friends.

[Click here](#) for their website.



#### **The Virginia Tech Autism Clinic**

VTAC in the Psychology Department of Virginia Tech, opened in the Fall of 2005 to provide clinical services to individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their families in the surrounding New River Valley.

[Click here](#) for their Blast Announcement with **Events, Research, and Monthly Group Meetings!**

[Click here](#) for their website.



## NADD

NADD is a not-for-profit membership association established for professionals, care providers and families to promote understanding of and services for individuals who have developmental disabilities and mental health needs. [Click here](#) for their website.



## The Virginia Autism Council

This website is Virginia's clearinghouse on best practices and research-based education and training opportunities to advance personnel development and knowledge regarding autism in Virginia. [Click here](#) for more information.



*Special needs require special attorneys.*

## The Special Needs Alliance

The Special Needs Alliance is a national, non-profit organization committed to helping individuals with disabilities, their families and the professionals who serve them. [Click here](#) for their website.



## Commonwealth Autism

[Click here](#) to view State Resources compiled by **Commonwealth Autism**.

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## DDHSN Dental Services

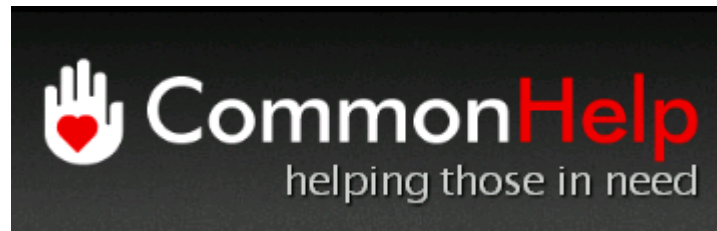
[Click here](#) to download the application for dental services through DDHSN.

The forms are to be used if you are giving patients/ARs information about the DDHSN community programs that will eventually replace the RCSC clinics.

Casey Tupea is now taking referrals from Regions 1 and 3 to get clients in her system before the training center closes.

Once the programs is in place they will receive an office assignment. [Casey.Tupea@dbhds.virginia.gov](mailto:Casey.Tupea@dbhds.virginia.gov)

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## Virginia CommonHelp

Apply for help with food, child care, heating and cooling bills, health care and cash assistance. [Click here](#) for their website.

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[About REACH](#)

[Fact Sheet-Adult](#)   [Fact Sheet-Children](#)

[Contact REACH Region III](#)

**Our mailing address is:**

824 W. Main St., Radford, VA 24141

**Crisis and Information Line - 1.855.887.8278**

**Local Calls - 540.267.3435**

**Fax - 540.267.3403**

**Email - [info@swvaREACH.org](mailto:info@swvaREACH.org)**

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