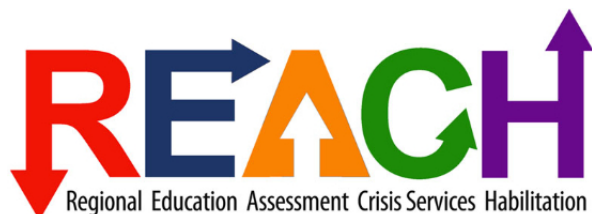


In This Issue: Autism Awareness & Acceptance Month

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REACH Region III Newsletter, Volume 2, Issue 2, April 2016



REACH Region III

March 2016

Crisis Therapeutic House

Emergency Stays: 6
Prevention Stays: 7
Step Downs from
Psychiatric Hospitals: 4

Community Crisis Services

"Don't think that there's a different, better child 'hiding' behind the Autism. This is your child. Love the child in front of you. Encourage his strengths, celebrate his quirks, and improve his weaknesses, the way you would with any child."

~Claire Scovell LaZebnik
Author of *Growing Up on the Spectrum*



Meet Dillan. During Autism Acceptance Month, he

Adult Services

New Referrals: 24
Active Cases: 174
Prevention Hours: 593.48
Crisis Plans: 6

Crisis Line Information:

Face to face response: 18
Information/referral: 12
Prevention/non-crisis: 27

Children's Services

New Referrals: 14
Active Cases: 33
Prevention Hours: 125.02
Crisis Plans: 1

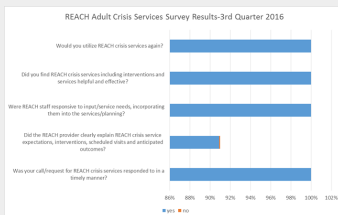
Crisis Line Information:

Face to face response: 9
Information/referral: 7
Prevention/non-crisis: 3

Crisis Services Survey

After each crisis plan, REACH sends a brief survey to providers to rate crisis services. Below are results from surveys returned in the 3rd quarter:

January-March 2016



Click on the graph for more info!

**We've updated our
referral form!**

**To get our New Referral
Form click here!**



reminds us that everyone's voice should be heard.



My Son Has the Kind of Autism No One Talks About

Read this thought provoking story from a mother who brings awareness to the side of Autism we do not like to talk about. [Read more >>](#)

**My Daughter Went to
College & Her Autistic Twin
Brother Didn't
[Read more >>](#)**



Autism Screenings



Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is estimated to affect 1 in 68 children according to the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#). Diagnosing ASD can be difficult since there is no medical test. Often times, qualified professionals (Developmental Pediatricians, Child Neurologist, Child Psychologists or Psychiatrists) look at the child's behavior and development to make a diagnosis.

Advocates urge for early identification of ASD which can significantly impact the lives of the individual diagnosed. Early intervention involves helping children learn important skills, such as verbal

Upcoming Events:

APRIL

DD Waiver Informational Series

Hosted by DBHDS

Times & locations vary!

[Click here for more information!](#)

STEMABILITY

College transition program

Deadline April 30th

[Click here to learn more!](#)

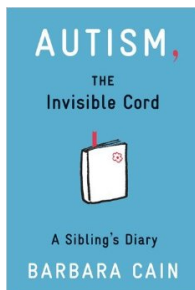
July

Patrick County Autism Conference

Tickets went on Sale April 1st!

July 29th

[Click here to learn more!](#)



Autism, The Invisible Cord: A Sibling's Diary

"Mack & Moxy"
A Kid's Show About Causes

communication & social skills that can improve their social interactions and enhance their development.

The **Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers-Revised (M-CHAT-R)** is a scientifically validated tool for screening children between 16 and 30 months of age that assesses risk for autism spectrum disorder (ASD). It is one of the recommended screening tools by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

[Click here to access the M-CHAT-R!](#)



When an Autism Diagnosis Comes in Adulthood

This article from NPR highlights the stories of 3 individuals who were diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder as an adult. [Read more >>](#)

*Please take the time to **understand** that...*

I might **struggle** to tell you what I **need** because I can become easily **overwhelmed** in a social or public environment.

It might seem like I am acting **strange** but the movements I make are probably just part of me trying to **cope** and stay **calm**.

I don't like to be touched, most of all **unexpectedly**, so whilst it might be your reaction to help calm me down, it will likely make things **worse**.

I am a **unique** human being and deserve the **respect** you show **everyone** else.



A new show that will be debuting on PBS with the goal to introduce children to important causes like Hunger Awareness, Early Childhood Education, Saving Wild Animals, Emergency Preparedness, and Autism!

[Visit their website to learn more about the show!](#)

Web Resources



Understanding SSI

[Here](#) you can find helpful information as well as resources to help clients and their family to understand the social security system.

NADD

A not-for-profit association for professionals, care providers, and families to promote understanding of services for individuals who have developmental disabilities and mental health needs. [Click here](#) to read their newsletter!

VTAC Weekly Blast Announcements

Stay informed with Virginia Tech's Autism Clinic. Learn about events, research, and monthly group meetings! [Click here](#) to read their newsletter!



Cultural Competence

Autism Consortium

is an organization that welcomes collaboration among families, researchers, clinicians, and donors. Their mission is to improve the care of children and families affected by Autism and other neurological disorders.

One of the resources provided, [Cultural Considerations in Autism Diagnosis](#), explores ways to break barriers among families whose primary language is not English!



Helpful Apps

(Click on the icons to learn more about the apps)

Autism Awareness

Become more aware with this free app!
Great for learning information on Autism!



Calm Counter Social Story

This app provides visual and audio tools to help people calm down when they are angry or anxious!





REACH would like to **thank Piedmont CSB for their great community Partnership with us** and are very honored to receive a "Positive Team Spirit & Collaboration" award presented by ID Director Greg Preston to our team recognizing our dedication in working together serving individuals with ID/DD/MH.

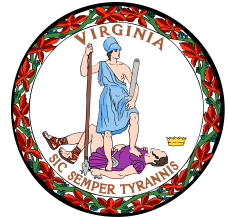


DBHDS News & Updates



Sterilization Compensation Efforts

The Virginia Compensation for Victims of Eugenics Sterilization Program provides compensation for people involuntarily sterilized according to the Virginia Eugenical Sterilization Act if they file a claim and meet specific eligibility requirements.



[Click here to visit the Department's website to learn more!](#)

Marion Greenfield, Director of Clinical Quality and Risk Management at DBHDS was a guest on a radio show where she discussed the Commonwealth's effort to compensate individuals who were involuntarily sterilized under the 1924 Virginia Eugenical Sterilization Act. [Click here to listen to her discussion](#)



"Get Real" Social Skills Group (Salem, VA)

Social support for high school students to help improve conversation skills, solve problems, and manage stress. [Click here](#) for the flyer. [Click here](#) for application.

Support Group for Siblings of Kids with Autism (Blacksburg, VA)

Support group in collaboration with Yale University School of Medicine. For more information, [Click Here!](#)

Adult Asperger/Autism Spectrum Social Group (Salem, VA)

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](#) to learn more!

Adults with ASD Support Group (Blacksburg, VA)

All adults with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families welcome! [Click here](#) to learn more!

NRVCS Autism Support Group (Blacksburg, VA)

Meetings are educational, parent-driven, and supportive. 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.



Autism Research at Virginia Tech

- ****New** Sibling Stress Survey.** [Click here](#) for flyer!
- ****New** For children 3-8 yr old that have Autism.** [Click here for flyer!](#)
- **Group Parent Training.** [Click here](#) for flyer!
- **Stress & Anger Management program.** [Click here](#) for flyer!
- **Driving Study.** [Click here](#) for flyer!!
- **FEET: Facial Emotion Expression Training.** [Click here](#) for flyer!
- **A new construct for studying social reciprocity.** [Click here](#) for flyer!
- **Stress & Anger Management Program** for children with ASD. [Click here](#) for flyer!
- **Examining restricted repetitive behaviors & heart rate differences** in children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). [Click here](#) for flyer!
- **Helping Students** with ASD Prepare for the Transition to College. [Click Here](#) for the flyer!
- **Helping College Students** with ASD to Succeed! [Read more>>](#)
- **Moms and Mindfulness:** How do you interact with your child? [Click Here.](#)

*****For a complete list of research please visit the
[Virginia Tech Center For Autism Research](#) website to learn more*****



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

Visit our Website!



Share



+1



Forward

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) 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 newsletter, please send your information/nomination by **May 1st**.*

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](#).

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