

◀ *Into the Light* ▶

Volume 21 Issue 12 *Autism Society, Central Virginia* December 2013

EXCITING NEWS FOR 2014 FOR THE AUTISM SOCIETY CENTRAL VA!! MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

During strategic planning that took place this past summer, the board of the Autism Society identified the need for a change in the role and responsibilities of the position of executive director, changing the primary focus of the position to fundraising, marketing, and board development.

At that time I asked to continue my work in training, advocacy, and I&R by moving into the newly created position of Program Director, to which the Board agreed. I agreed to continue to serve in the position of ED until the search committee identified the most qualified individual to fill the newly defined ED position.

I have wonderful news to share with our community! After reviewing many applications and conducting several interviews, the ASCV Board has hired Becky Boswell as our new Executive Director. Becky will begin her new position on January 1, 2014.

Becky has been working for and with individuals with autism and their families for the past ten years. For the past two years, she has served as the Outreach Coordinator for the VCU Autism Center for Excellence (VCU-ACE) and she previously worked as the Community Outreach and Action Groups Coordinator for Commonwealth Autism Service. Becky also has fifteen years experience in early childhood education, as both a Preschool Teacher and Director. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Virginia Tech and her Master's in Business Administration (MBA) from Averett University. Becky has one son, Chris, who resides in Rochester MN with his wife, Ariel. She currently lives in Chesterfield with her dog, Rosie.

I have worked collaboratively with Becky on committees and work groups for many years; I am so excited to support Becky in her new leadership position in the ASCV. I look forward to continuing to support our community with a focus on advocacy, training, and I&R, as I transition to the new position of Program Director for the Autism Society.

You may see Becky in December at some of our events, including the Tacky Light Bus Tour. Please join us in giving her a warm welcome to the Autism Society Central VA family!

Bradford Hulcher, Executive Director

Mission and Vision

Mission

To improve the lives of all affected by autism by maximizing the self-sufficiency, independence, and quality of life for all living with autism.

Vision

We are the local voice and resource of the autism community in education, advocacy, services, and support, committed to meaningful participation and self-determination in all aspects of life for individuals on the autism spectrum and their families. Any age. Any stage.

2013 OFFICERS AND BOARD:

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Meeting Secretary: Shawn Kirk

Corresponding Secretary: Tim Jones

Past President: Sandi Wiley

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Norm Geller Ph.D.
Nate Harry CPA
Donna Sabel E. D.

KEY VOLUNTEER POSITIONS:

Newsletter Editor: Elizabeth Selko

Webmaster: Anthony Wiley

STAFF:

Executive Director: Bradford Hulcher

Outreach Coordinator: Tammy Burns

Asperger's Interest Group Facilitator: Brie King

Childcare Supervisor: Deo Smith

Thank You for the Following Donations

Brendan Moran
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Phillip Sandino
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The Following Donations Were Made in Memory of Adam Maciejczyk

Lab Rescue of Greater Richmond
Bridget Lehman
Jeff & Gloria Galton
Stephen & Rebecca Zimmermann
Unique4Life
Philip Morris
Nancy Barnes
Paul & Robin Nasi

The Following Donations Were Made in Memory of Sharon Sue Utz

Joe and Jeanie Odenthal
Janet Wood Iagnemma
Hanny and Susan Russell
Rodney Sedwick
Sue Schorling & Cliff Rowland
James & Ann Smith
Richard and Kathleen Rose

Nancy Barnes
in memory of John Leckie

This newsletter is a publication of: Autism Society, Central VA □ P.O. Box 29364 □ Richmond, Virginia 23242-0364 (804) 257-0192

We accept for consideration any comments, personal vignettes, book reviews, information, announcements or advertisements for publication in our newsletter. The deadline for submission for the January newsletter is December 15. You may send your contributions to the above address or email contributions to SELKO1@aol.com.

The Autism Society, Central Virginia does not endorse nor promote any program or service provider. The information contained in this newsletter is provided for informational purposes only. The Society is a 501(c)3 organization providing information, support and encouragement to individuals with autism, their families and professionals in the Central VA area.

This edition was edited by Elizabeth Selko and Bradford Hulcher.

New Guidance Released for EDCD Waiver Screening Addresses Problems Experienced by Families

Many families across Virginia, including metro Richmond, have reported challenges when requesting screening for their child for the EDCD Waiver. On October 25, the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) released new guidance for screening teams to address problems regarding the screening process reported by individuals with disabilities and their families. Among the problems reported by families and addressed in this new guidance document:

1. Families being told that children with autism are not eligible for the EDCD Waiver. The guidance documents that children with autism may be found eligible if they meet all other criteria.
- 2.. Families being told that their child must make application to or be placed in a nursing home before being found eligible for the EDCD Waiver. The guidance document clarifies that this is not a requirement for eligibility.
3. Families being told that they must apply and be found eligible for Medicaid before having their child screened. The guidance document clarifies that there is no requirement for Medicaid application before a person can be screened. (And remember, eligibility is based on the child's income and resources, not the family's.)
4. Families being refused a screening over the phone when one is requested. The guidance documents that written notice with the reason for denial must be provided if someone is told over the phone that they will not be screened.

Finally, individuals must be found at imminent risk of institutionalization to be found eligible for this waiver. The guidance document states that this may be demonstrated by documentation from the child's physician. The Autism Society has a letter template that you may share with your child's physician for this purpose.

Please contact us at ascvinfo@gmail.com if you would like a copy. The Autism Society maintains a Medicaid Waiver mentor on staff who is happy to help answer any questions or provide trainings to family members.

Read more <http://www.thearcofva.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Medicaid-Memo-102513.pdf>

OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE PUBLIC COMMENT ON ABA REGULATIONS CLOSES DECEMBER 6

Many people have benefited from the 2011 VA law regarding ABA for children between 2 and 6 diagnosed with ASD, as well as the 2012 law that led to the licensure of Behavior Analysts. It is imperative that those who believe in Applied Behavior Analysis and the benefits it has for children with autism, make public comment regarding the current regulations. If you want those benefits to continue, support the regulations. The comment period ends at midnight on December 6, 2013. View comments and make your own by visiting the VA Regulatory Town Hall at <http://townhall.virginia.gov/L/Comments.cfm?StageID=6413>

BERARD Auditory Integration Training (AIT) in RICHMOND FEBRUARY 14 - 23, 2014

**Pre-testing in Richmond – Nov, Dec.
Test included in the cost of the program;
call or email to set up an appointment.**

**Serving families and individuals with
autism, developmental disabilities & audi-
tory processing challenges since 1994.**

See our website for more information:
www.aitforyou.com
or contact Director - Terrie Silverman
262.569.7828 terries@execpc.com

Paid Advertisement

News From The Autism Society Central VA Board

The Autism Society Central VA worked to fulfill our mission to "improve the lives of all affected by autism" in November in the following ways:

Education

- Co-sponsored the Second Annual *Life in the Community Conference and Resource Fair* with the Down Syndrome Association of Greater Richmond and the Hanover Arc
- Provided a Medicaid Waiver Workshop at Faison School
- Presented at the Chesterfield County Public Schools' *I'm Determined Summit*

Services and Supports

- Sponsored a Preschool Music Group
- Sponsored an Inclusive Lego Club
- Sponsored 3 bowling events - for children, for teens, and for adults w/ ASD
- Sponsored an Asperger's Middle School Social Club
- Sponsored an Interest Group for Adults with Asperger's

Advocacy

- Attended the VCU ACE Advisory Council
- Attended the Department of Justice Settlement Agreement Stakeholder's Meeting
- Attended the Virginia Autism Council meeting
- Attended The Advisory Council on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities meeting

Awareness

Shared information with the Boy Scouts

Community Events/ Meetings of Interest

Dec. 3 **Special Needs Jump** at Jumpology 5 p - 7 p; fee and reservations required; all ages; <http://www.jumpology.us/>

Dec. 6 **Special Nights for Special Needs** children with special needs age 10 and under @ the Children's Museum in Chesterfield; adapted materials, special activities, a cool-down space and reduced number of visitors; free from 5:30 - 7:30

Dec. 10 **Sensitive Santa** @ Children's Museum; details and registration @ christine.coffey@eastersealsucp.com

Dec. 10 **Richmond Special Education Advisory Committee** 6 p.m. @ Linwood Holton Elementary School; open to the public

Dec. 17 **Monkey Joe's Special Needs Night** from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.; kids ages 2 - 12 w/ special needs free; closed to the public; siblings welcome \$5; 11304 Midlothian Tnpk, Richmond; 897-5867

AUTISM SOCIETY DECEMBER CALENDAR

The Autism Society, Central VA will sponsor the following meetings in December. All meetings take place at River Rd. UMC, 8800 River Rd, Henrico, unless otherwise specified. For information: 257-0192 or ascvinfo@gmail.com

Dec. 5 6 p.m. **Supporting Children on the Autism Spectrum through Grief and Loss** (see flyer insert)

Dec. 7 **ASCV Member Tacky Light Bus Tour**

Dec. 14 11:30 a.m. **Preschool Music Group** details and registration here: <http://decpreschool.eventbrite.com>

Dec. 15 **Bowling League for Elementary School Students**
Bowling League for Middle/High School Students
Bowling League for Adults on the Spectrum

Free for Autism Society members; see e-mail invitation for date, time, location, & to register

Would You Like To Place An Ad in "Into The Light" ?

Our newsletter reaches over 600 families, professionals and educators on a monthly basis. If you would like to place an advertisement, please email it to asacv.org or mail it to the Chapter at P.O. Box 29364, Richmond, VA 23242-0364. Call the Chapter if you have any questions. Deadline for entry is the 15th of each month.

Ad Rates:

- \$25.00 1/8 Page
- \$50.00 1/4 Page
- \$75.00 1/2 Page
- \$100.00 Full Page

Discounts/Non Profits/Long Term Ads (3 months or longer) may have negotiated rates with board approval. The board reserves the right to refuse to place an advertisement



Join us for a ***“Conversation About Grief”***

As part of our mission, Full Circle is dedicated to increasing the community conversation about grief and its effects on children, families, and communities. We are pleased to partner with Bliley’s Funeral Home, Bon Secours Bereavement Center, and The Autism Society of Central Virginia to offer the third of three conversations for 2013.

Supporting Children on the Autism Spectrum Through Grief and Loss

Thursday, December 5th

6:00-8:00 PM

River Road United Methodist Church
8800 River Road, Richmond VA 23229

Karla Helbert, LPC, will host a conversation about grief and loss as experienced by children on the spectrum as well as ways that parents, counselors, teachers, and other community members can better support these children. After the keynote, a panel of children, teens, young adults, educators, and parents will share their story and facilitate conversation about children on the autism spectrum who are grieving. The audience will also have a chance to ask questions and share their stories.

Refreshments will be provided by The Autism Society of Central Virginia.

Registration for the Conversation is free, thanks to our generous sponsors, but space is limited so please register at www.fullcirclegc.org/CAG to secure your spot. Please contact Elaine Minor at elaine@fullcirclegc.org with any questions.

Registration deadline is November 30th.

Thank You to the Following Volunteers!

Eleanor Stickley
Krystal Fields
Carole Moore
Michele Snyder
Eric Moore
Meagan Moore
Chris Snyder
Alyssa Novo
Ryan Suyama
Arthik Adla
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Samantha Meacham (Alpha Xi Delta VCU)
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Jared Williams

Liz Lahendro
Brandon Penn
Joshua VanUtrecht
Isoke Wright
Zachary Ryan
Natalia Soto
Dallin Valencia
Tyler Privott
Zoe Minor
Skills Development Center

Special thanks to Denise Lee for leading our Pre-school Music Group



Directions to ASCV meetings River Road United Methodist Church

From the East:

-64 West to Exit 181 Parham Road South
*Drive 2 miles till you reach a traffic light for River Road. Be in the left hand land and turn left onto the on ramp. At the stop sign turn right on to River Road
**Go approximately .2 miles and the church will be on your right.
Turn right onto Doverland Road. Turn right into the church parking lot. To the back left of the church is a door that says "office". Go into this door and meetings are held inside at the first door on your right.

From the West:

I-64 east to Exit 181 Parham Road South.
Follow all directions that are written above for coming from the east. *

From the North:

I-95 South to I64 west then follow the same directions as written above under the East.*

From the South:

I-95 North to 1150 Chippenham Parkway North. Go over the Willey Bridge crossing the James River. At the first light turn right on to the on ramp for River Road. At the stop sign turn right on to River Road. Follow directions above at the **



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Join with hundreds of individuals with autism, their families and other caring individuals; become a part of a larger community - the Autism Society, Central VA. We can't be heard alone, but with more voices joining daily, that small voice can become a roar. We invite you to become a part of a community of hope.

Membership in the Autism Society, Central VA provides the following benefits:

- ASCV's monthly newsletter, the local resource for information regarding local and state autism-related issues, workshops, and community events
- ASCV's weekly e-mail updates
- Access to ASCV lending library
- Free ASCV sponsored social/recreational activities; discounted workshops

Membership Levels:

___ \$5 ~ Self-Advocate (Adult w/ ASD) ___ \$25 ~ Household ___ \$1500 ~ Lifetime

Names(s): _____

Address: _____ Phone # _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail address: _____

(By providing your e-mail, you will receive our weekly e-mail; your e-mail will be kept confidential)

Additional Donation:

___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 _____ please specify amt.

Payment information:

___ Check (made payable to **Autism Society**) ___ Visa ___ Mastercard

Name on card: _____ Expiration: _____

Card #: _____

CVV# (security code on back of card) _____ **or join online at www.ascv.org**

Signature: _____

Please mail or fax w/ payment to:

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