

◆ *Into the Light* ◆

Volume 20 Issue 2 *Autism Society, Central Virginia* February 2012



AS-CV Mission & Philosophy

The Autism Society, the nation's leading grassroots autism organization, exists to improve the lives of all affected by autism. We do this by increasing public awareness about the day-to-day issues faced by people on the spectrum, advocating for appropriate services for individuals across the lifespan, and providing the latest information regarding treatment, education, research and advocacy.

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Executive Director: Bradford Hulcher
Asperger's Interest Group Facilitator: Brie King

The Virginia General Assembly and Autism

The Virginia General Assembly began its 2012 session in early January and meets for 60 days this year. We have highlighted legislation impacting the autism community.

We urge you to contact your senator and delegate to let them know how this legislation impacts your family. To find out who your delegate of senator is, go here: <http://conview.state.va.us/whosmy.nsf/main?openform>

Autism Insurance This is legislation to promulgate emergency licensure regulations for BCBA's to provide ABA. This is a technical fix to the 2011 legislation mandating insurance companies to cover the treatment of autism for children 2 through 6 years of age. As this newsletter went to press, House Bill 1106 had passed but had not yet been addressed in the Senate.

ID and DD Waiver Slots More than 7,000 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are on waiting lists for community-based services. There are no new waivers for individuals/families on the ID/DD Waiver waiting lists in the Governor's introduced budget which means no help for individuals/families through July 1, 2014.

Proposed budget amendments in the House and Senate would add new ID Waivers and new DD Waivers to the state budget to help the individuals and families who are on waiting lists for community-based services.

Teacher Licensure/ Paraprofessional Training House Bill 325 requires every person seeking initial licensure or renewal of a license with an endorsement in special education and working with students with autism spectrum disorders must demonstrate proficiency in student behavior management and requires school divisions to provide 40 hours of training in student behavior management to any aide assigned to work with a teacher with primary responsibility for students with autism spectrum disorders and 12 hours of training for other personnel with other oversight responsibility for students with autism spectrum disorders

February Chapter Meeting: Top 10 Things That All Parents Should Know Before Attending an IEP Meeting

Join us on February 10 at 7 p.m. as Tammy Burns shares information to prepare families for IEP meetings. For more than 35 years, children with disabilities have been guaranteed the right to a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). All parents are equal participants in the IEP development for their child according to the law. Whether you are just starting in the school system, transitioning from one school to another, or just need a refresher - join us for our February meeting, *Top 10 Things That All Parents Should Know Before Attending an IEP Meeting*.

Tammy Burns is a much sought after and well respected advocate for people with disabilities. She is a Partners in Policymaking graduate, a long-time volunteer with the Central VA Autism Society, and currently serves as a Family Navigator in Virginia through the VA Board for People with Disabilities. Tammy is the Pastor of Family Ministries at The Ridge Faith Community, a missional community in Midlothian, Virginia, where she is a champion for inclusive ministry. She is married to her high school sweetheart, Troy and they have three amazing children: Brett, Jared and Amber. Her son Jared has autism and is her inspiration.

Autism Society meetings take place at River Road United Methodist Church, 8800 River Road in Richmond. Our meetings are free and open to the public. The library opens at 6:30 p.m. and meetings begin promptly at 7 p.m. Free supervision for children and youth is available although space is limited; reservations are taken through February 3 by e-mailing the chapter at asacv@aol.com with the names and ages/grades of your child(ren).

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 chapter newsletter. The deadline for submission for the March newsletter is February 15. You may send your contributions to the Chapter at 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 Chapter is a volunteer organization providing information, support and encouragement to parents, family members and professionals in the Central VA area.

This edition was edited by Elizabeth Selko and Bradford Hulcher.

Thank You For the Following Donations

Andrew & Sarah Evans
Karl Roenig
Thomas Manson
Angella Saunders in memory of
Jennifer Skelton
Henry & Virginia Woodhead
Harman, Claytor, Corrigan & Wellman, P.C.
Amanda Dark in honor of the Killion Family
Karen Singleton
Heather Kirschner
Short Pump Town Center
Lee District of GFWC VA
GFWC Worthington Woman's Club
Ferrell Gas
Tom & Sharon Garrett
Matthew & Leigh Wear
Taegeun Kim
Brendan Moran

Extended School Year Services

We're still in the chilly months of winter but it's not too early to be thinking about whether your child may need extended school year services and setting up a meeting with your IEP team to discuss ESY. Waiting until late in the Spring or just before school gets out to have a discussion regarding your child's need for ESY will not insure that adequate or appropriate resources have been identified should your child qualify for ESY.

Extended School Year (ESY), as defined in the Virginia Department of Education's Technical Assistance Resource Document on Extended School Year Services, are:

... special education and/or related services provided beyond the normal school year of a school division for the purpose of providing FAPE[Free and Appropriate Public Education] to a student with a disability. These services, provided by a local education agency, are distinct from enrichment programs, summer school programs, and compensatory services and are not simply an extension of time. The consideration of ESY services is a part of the IEP process.

The VDOE guidance document further states:

Factors to be considered when determining the need for ESY services:

*regression/recoupment
degrees of progress
emerging skills/breakthrough opportunities
interfering behaviors
the nature and/or severity of the disability
special circumstances or other factors*

An examination of these factors ... should lead the IEP team to answer the basic question articulated by the courts: will the benefits a disabled child gains during the regular school year be significantly jeopardized if the child is not provided with the ESY program? If the answer is "yes," then the child must receive ESY services in order to receive FAPE.

In 2001, the National Research Council in Educating Children with Autism made the following recommendation:

Educational services should include a minimum of 25 hours a week, 12 months a year, in which the child is engaged in systematically planned, developmentally appropriate educational activity aimed toward identified objectives.

The VA Department of Education published a guidance document in 2011 *Models of Best Practice in the Education of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders*. That document states *The NRC [National Research Council] recommended students*

with ASD receive 25 hours of instruction per week across the entire year; however, instruction must be systematic and intensive for it to be meaningful.

Contact your IEP team NOW to schedule a meeting to discuss your child's possible need for ESY!

Resources on ESY:

Technical Assistance Resource Document on Extended School Year Services

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/special_ed/regulations/federal/extended_schoolyear_services.pdf

Wrightslaw

<http://www.wrightslaw.com/info/esy.index.htm>

Recruitment for Youth Leadership Forum

The Virginia Board for People with Disabilities (VBPD) seeks students from across Virginia to serve as delegates to its Youth Leadership Forum (YLF-VA). Rising high school juniors and seniors with a disability who want to become leaders in their schools and communities are strongly encouraged to apply for the honor of serving as a YLF delegate. Student delegates demonstrate:

- Motivation
- Acceptance of and interest in diversity
- An interest in developing their leadership skills and a plan for their future
- A desire to share their thoughts and opinions

The 2012 Forum will be hosted at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond from July 23-27, 2012. Twenty-five Virginia high school students with disabilities will be selected to receive full scholarships to participate in this leadership development program. Applications can be found at <http://www.vaboard.org/ylf.htm>. Applications are due in-hand March 30, 2012 at 5:00 pm.

One Awesome Cousin!!

Murfie Flickinger just celebrated his 12th birthday. In honor of his cousin, Eli Barnum, who has autism, Murfree asked his friends to bring Legos® to his birthday party to donate to the Autism Society's Inclusive Lego® Club. Thanks to Murfree and his friends for supporting kids with autism!

Corporate Sponsors Sought for 10th Annual 5K Run/Walk for Autism Who Do You Know?

Our chapter will hold our 10th Annual Autism Society of Central VA 5k Race (www.ascv5K.com) at the Innsbrook Pavilion on Saturday, May 26, 2012. This event is our biggest fundraiser of the year! **All money raised from this event will stay within the greater Richmond area.** These funds provide much needed support to our families and individuals with autism.

While entry fees and individual donations help in our fundraising, it is sponsorships from businesses and corporations that will allow us to meet our goals to serve individuals with ASD and their families.

We ask that you consider reaching out to connections you have in area businesses to see if they would be willing to be a sponsor of our event.

Please contact Jessica (ascv5k@echelon-events.com) or Donna (ascv5k@gmail.com) if you can help our chapter with this need.

AUTISM SOCIETY FEBRUARY CALENDAR

The Autism Society, Central VA will sponsor the following meetings in February. All meetings are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. Meetings take place at River Road United Methodist Church, 8800 River Road unless otherwise noted. For information: 257-0192 or asacv@aol.com

Feb. 7	7:00 p.m.	Board Meeting
Feb. 8	10.00 a.m.	Parents of <u>Children</u> with Asperger's Syndrome/HFA Interest Group
Feb. 10	7:00 p.m.	Chapter Meeting: Top 10 Things that All Parents Should Know before Attending an IEP Meeting
Feb. 10		Asperger's Middle School Friendship Group (open to chapter members; must register with asacv@aol.com)
Feb. 11	all day	Fundraiser for ASCV @ Panda Express, Short Pump Town Center; 20% of purchase goes to ASCV w/ coupon
Feb. 11	1 - 3 p.m.	Inclusive Lego® Club @ Dumbarton Library; open to any child grades K- 8
Feb. 13	7:00 p.m.	Parents of <u>Children</u> with Asperger's Syndrome/HFA Interest Group
Feb. 16	10:00 a.m.	Biomedical Interest Group
Feb. 19	5:00 p.m.	Dads of Kids with ASD Interest Group (Shrader Lanes) free for any dad w/ a child on the spectrum
Feb. 27	7:00 p.m.	Adults w/ Asperger's/High Functioning Autism Interest Group (<i>open only to adults w/ AS/HFA</i>)
Feb. 27	7:00 p.m.	Parents of Adults with Autism Interest Group

Community Events/Meetings of Interest

Feb. 6 **Hanover County Special Education Advisory Committee** meets at 7 p.m. at Hanover County School Board Office;; open to the public; for info: <http://hcps.us/instruction/parentresource/SEAC.htm>

Feb. 6 **Aspie Bible Study** meet on the first and third Monday of each month @ Good Shepherd UMC, 9155 Hungary Rd, Richmond; 7:15 pm. - 9 p.m.; call Shawn at 804-339-4393 for info; open to mature teens 17 or older and adults with HFA/Asperger's

Feb. 8 **Special Nights for Special Needs** The Children's Museum of Richmond will open its doors for an evening especially for children 10 years old and younger who have special needs and their families; 5:30 - 7:30; free; for info: acheyne@c-mor.org

Feb. 8 **Chesterfield County Special Education Advisory Committee** 4:30 - 6 p.m. at the Fulghum Center; 4003 Cogbill Road. Open to the public; for details, call (804) 594-1732.

Feb. 9 **Richmond Asperger's Meetup** the second Thursday from 7-9 pm @ River City Diner on Parham Rd.; a place where older children (age 11-17) can meet other Aspergers children and siblings/adults with Asperger's can meet together and/or share information with parents of kids with AS; RSVP at <http://www.meetup.com/aspergers-397/>

Feb. 11 **Buddy Break** a free respite care program for children with special needs ages 3-21 and their siblings ages 3-11; 6:30 - 9: 30 p.m.; sponsored by Trinity Lutheran Church, North Parham Rd; for info: Carolyn Hassan 804-270-4626 BuddyBreak@TrinityRichmond.net

Feb. 16 **A Journey of Rest and Restoration**; a monthly Christian-based support group designed for couples/caregivers of children with any special needs; meets the third Thursday of each month from 7 to 8:30 p.m.; Mechanicsville Christian Center; free childcare and sign language interpreter; pre-registration required; contact Joanna Frank @ 746-4303 ext 360 or bfrank.ResourceConnectioninc@gmail.com

Feb. 18 **Buddy Break** a free respite care program for children with special needs ages 3-21 and their siblings ages 3-11; 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.; must preregister; sponsored by Southside Church of The Nazarene, Courthouse Rd; contact Amy Morgan @ 804-778-7800 ext. 247 or Buddy-Break@SouthsideChurchVA.org

Feb. 20 **Aspie Bible Study** meet on the first and third Monday of each month @ Good Shepherd UMC, 9155 Hungary

Rd, Richmond; 7:15 pm. - 9 p.m.; call Shawn at 804-339-4393 for info; open to mature teens 17 or older and adults with HFA/Asperger's

Feb. 21 **Richmond/Northern Chesterfield Asperger's Meetup** third Tuesdays @ Positive Vibe Cafe, 6:30- 8:30; RSVP at <http://www.meetup.com/aspergers-397/>

Feb. 22 **Transition Fair** first of three transition fairs sponsored by Henrico County Public Schools; 6 to 8 p.m.; free; Henrico High School

Feb. 25 **Sensory Friendly Movie** sponsored by Socialights; free; 4 p.m.; for info and to RSVP: mich-ele@vasocialights.com

Feb. 28 **Henrico County Special Education Advisory Committee** meets 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. location to be determined; topics: Self-Determination, Student Led IEPs; open to the public; for info: seac@henrico.k12.va.us

Feb. 22 **Transition Fair** second of three transition fairs sponsored by Henrico County Public Schools; 6 to 8 p.m.; free; Highland Springs High School.

NEWS FROM THE AUTISM SOCIETY, CENTRAL VA BOARD

- The ASCV board contacted every delegate and senator in the Virginia General Assembly urging them to support a bill to provide a technical fix for BCBA licensure from last year's autism insurance mandate bill.
- Board member Karen Singleton and Executive Director Bradford Hulcher attended committee hearings at the General Assembly on BCBA licensure.
- The ASCV hosted a bowling party for middle and high school students with ASD.
- The ASCV hosted our monthly Lego® Club at Bon Air Library.
- The ASCV hosted a workshop on Medicaid Waivers for over 80 people.
- The ASCV hosted a bookstore at a Region 1 Autism Consortium workshop with
- Executive Director Bradford Hulcher participated in the Virginia Autism Council bi-monthly meeting.

Conferences, Workshops, and Webcasts

Feb. 9 **Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders** sponsored by the Hanover County Parent Resource Center; for parents of children identified with ASD within the past 12 months; characteristics of ASD, the most common interventions, and classrooms offered in Hanover schools; 6:30; Oak Knoll Middle School; RSVP to Kelly at 365-4596 or hanoverprc@hcps.us

Feb. 14 **In My Own Words: My Life with Asperger's Syndrome** free 30 minute webcast with Roseanne T.; from the Autism Center for Excellence at VCU; to register: <http://www.vcuautismcenter.org/training/webcasts/upcoming.cfm>

Feb. 16 **Accessing, Understanding, and Implementing the Social Skills Curriculum for Students on the Autism Spectrum**; Henrico County Public Schools; Glen Allen High School; 7 - 9 p.m.; for info: lhabernathey@henrico.k12.va.us

Feb. 23/24 **SSI/SSDI & Work Incentives** sponsored by vaACCSES; understand benefits programs under Social Security - SSI & SSDI; understand how earned income (wages) and unearned income affect cash and medical benefits; know which Work Incentives belong to which benefit program, know when to use them & which ones to use; understand Medicaid & Medicare rules when individuals earn income; FREE; for individuals receiving SSI or SSDI who work or wish to work or their parents; Richmond; register http://www.vaaccses.org/training_conferences/

Feb. 23 **Practical Solutions for Increasing Independent Functioning Using Visual Support Strategies** w/ Susan Stokes, SLP-CCC; FEE; Richmond; for details and to register: www.aepconnections.com

Feb. 24 **Evidenced-based Strategies to Address Social Skills, Academic Deficits, and Challenging Behavior for Students with Autism/Asperger's Syndrome K-12** w/ Rebecca Moyes, M.Ed.; FEE; Richmond; for details and to register: www.aepconnections.com

Feb. 29 **Learning, Living and Working with Persons with Asperger's Syndrome** designed to introduce participants to the characteristics of and research-based strategies for supporting people with Asperger's Syndrome across the life span; sponsored by VCU TTAC; \$15; Henrico; to register: <http://www.cvent.com/d/gcq9vj>

Mar. 7 - 8 **Autism: Imagine the Possibilities** annual conference of Commonwealth Autism Service; FEE; Richmond; for details: www.autismva.org

Mar. 12 - 14 **Virginia Transition Forum** sponsored by the VA Department of Education and VA Department of Rehab Services; Roanoke; for info: http://www.virginiatransitionforum.org/Participant_Registration.html

For additional information on autism conferences and workshops in VA, visit www.autismtrainingva.org

Become an Effective Advocate: Be a Partner in 2013!

Ever wonder how people with developmental disabilities can live independently? Learn how to build positive relationships with families, schools, employers, and elected officials—and raise awareness while impacting local, state, and national policies. Partners in Policymaking is an eight month leadership and advocacy training program for parents of young children with disabilities and adult self advocates. Graduates commit to continued advocacy and active participation in the public discussion of policies and practices that affect the lives of people with disabilities. Get more information and download your application to participate in the 2012-2013 cycle of Partners in Policymaking at <http://vaboard.org/policymaking.htm>. Completed applications and reference letters are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 30, 2012.

Would You Like To Place An Ad in “*Into The Light*” ?

Our newsletter reaches over 500 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

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