

**DBHDS Response to Request for an Update of Virginia’s Activities
for Support of Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder**
(Shaded items are recommendations with DBHDS indicated as the lead agency.)

<p style="text-align: center;">JLARC RECOMMENDATIONS (ASSESSMENT OF SERVICES, HD 8) AUGUST 5, 2009</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DBHDS RECOMMENDATIONS (AUTISM ACTION PLAN) NOVEMBER 30, 2010</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">STATUS</p>
<p>1. The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services should collaborate with relevant State agencies and stakeholder groups to design a centralized, comprehensive, and reliable source of information to educate Virginians about (1)autism spectrum disorders, (2) research findings about treatment approaches and interventions, (3) publicly supported programs and supports, (4) private providers specializing in autism spectrum disorders, (5) support groups, and (6) any other relevant information identified by stakeholders. The department and stakeholders should determine the mechanism most suitable for delivering this information, such as a guidebook, website, or staffed clearinghouse, and the entity best suited to create and administer the mechanism selected.</p>		<p>Completed. Workgroup was established, but no clear consensus (due to the breadth and continually changing information concerning autism, having one place to house all areas covered by this recommendation appears unattainable).</p>
<p>2. The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services should collaborate with relevant stakeholders to (1) evaluate the options for promoting State-level accountability and coordination of services for Virginians with autism spectrum disorders, enhancing access to information about community resources, and improving the coordination of individual care; and (2) identify no later than March 31, 2010, which, if any, options are most beneficial to pursue.</p>	<p>Recommendation #2: Establish Community Services Boards (CSBs) as the single point of entry for the Developmental Disability (DD) System, including serving individuals with ASDs.</p> <p>Recommendation #3: In FY12, move the day to day administration of the IFDDS waiver from the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) to DBHDS, in order to realign and</p>	<p>In process. Renewal of the ID Waiver in 2014.</p> <p>In Process. To be complete Dec 30, 2013.</p>

<p>3. The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services should collaborate with relevant stakeholders to (1) evaluate the options for raising public awareness about autism spectrum disorders, increasing consistent and standardized screenings, expediting diagnoses, and improving the referral process; and (2) identify no later than March 31, 2010, which, if any, options are most beneficial to pursue.</p>	<p>provide minimum services to children with developmental disabilities who meet waiver level of functioning criteria.</p> <p>Recommendation #10: The State Infant & Toddler Connection (Part C) Program will finalize “Service Guidelines for Providing Early Intervention Services to Infants and Toddlers with ASDs,” by June 2011.</p> <p>Recommendation #11: Seek grant funding to establish a statewide public service campaign regarding early detection and screening for autism.</p> <p>Recommendation #12: DBHDS will work with other state agencies to increase the capacity for screening for ASDs in a non-clinical setting, such as local Departments of Social Services, day care centers, Head Start/Early Head Start and other places that come into contact with young children.</p> <p>Recommendation #13: Expand existing VDH medical homes initiative to assist physicians in creating medical homes for children with autism or other special needs.</p> <p>Recommendation #14: The State Infant & Toddler Connection Program (Part C) will collaborate with the Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics to increase pediatrician knowledge base of how and where to refer families for interdisciplinary team diagnosis.</p>	<p>Complete. Published September 2011</p> <p>#11 To be determined in the future.</p> <p>#12 Ongoing -The Act Early Team (State Agency Collaboration) In need of funding assistance. \$100,000 for staffing</p> <p>#13 Would require more resources. Estimate \$500,000 Cost based on previous pilot project by VDH.</p> <p>#14 Ongoing. Requires more resources. Estimate \$25,000 for .5 staff person</p>
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<p>its proposed outreach efforts to the Joint Commission on Health Care no later than November 30, 2009.</p>		
<p>5. The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services should collaborate with relevant stakeholders to (1) evaluate the options for enhancing the early intervention system for children with autism spectrum disorders by improving the Early Intervention Part C program and developing services through regional offices; and (2) identify no later than March 31, 2010, which, if any, options are most beneficial to pursue.</p>	<p>Recommendation #17: The State Part C Program should provide a report to the General Assembly on the cost of establishing a specialized services program to serve young children with ASDs.</p>	<p>Would require more resources. (1) Estimate \$50,000 for staff position to research what services need to be enhanced and how to enhance services. (2) Regional Offices -Part C offices already exists within local communities across the state.</p>
<p>The Department of Education should collaborate with relevant stakeholders to (1) evaluate the options for enhancing the early intervention system for children with autism spectrum disorders by improving the Part B special education services available to preschool-age children and offering educational alternatives through a scholarship program; (2) identify which, if any, options are most beneficial to pursue; and (3) report its findings to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services no later than March 31, 2010.</p>	<p>Recommendation #18: The Department of Education should provide a report to the General Assembly on the costs of increasing the intensity, staffing and structure of preschool services for children with ASDs.</p>	<p>Completed.</p>

<p>disorders, including behavior, communication, sensory, and cognitive skills; (3) building social and life skills; and (4) fostering generalization of skills to environments other than the school.</p>		<p>objectives, address all major domains of functioning for students with ASD,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop social and life skills, • foster generalization of skills to environments other than the school. <p>Embedded technical assistance in school divisions across the Commonwealth to provide model programming and training resources in collaboration with VCU Autism Center of Excellence,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of school division-led goals for service improvement, • collaboration in the development and dissemination of resource materials throughout the Commonwealth. <p>Development of Statewide Communities of Learning in Autism.</p> <p>Webinars and certification through coursework.</p>
<p>9. The Department of Education should create transition guidelines that offer strategies for addressing the unique and complex needs of high school students with autism spectrum disorders; securing the services needed to build life, social, and vocational skills; and positioning them for pursuing opportunities of their choice after these students exit</p>		<p>Complete</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed and distributed guidelines’ “Autism Spectrum Disorders and the Transition to Adulthood – October 2010.” • Project Search – only national program targeting students with

<p>ing services through regional offices; and (2) identify no later than March 31, 2010, which, if any, options are most beneficial to pursue.</p>		
<p>13. The General Assembly may wish to consider directing the Olmstead Community Integration Implementation Team to include in its action plan and implementation update a discussion of steps that can be taken to help Virginians with autism spectrum disorders achieve greater levels of independence and be further integrated in the community.</p>		<p>Virginia's Olmstead Strategic Plan- A comprehensive, cross-governmental plan to assure continued community integration of Virginians with disabilities. (2013), does not specifically mention autism, however is does make similar system change recommendation as DBHDS' Autism Action Plan.</p>
<p>14. The Department of Rehabilitative Services should collaborate with relevant stakeholders to (1) evaluate the options for fostering greater independence among adults with autism spectrum disorders by improving employment services and supports; (2) identify which, if any, options are most beneficial to pursue; and (3) report its findings to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services no later than March31, 2010.</p>	<p>Recommendation #23: Expand Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS) case services to respond to the increasing demand for ASD services.</p> <p>Recommendation #24: Increase access to employment supports for up to 200 individuals through the long-term employment supports of the LTESS program.</p> <p>Recommendation #25: Increase employment skills and opportunities for adults with ASDs no longer in the school system, through a dual phase Project SEARCH model.</p> <p>Recommendation #26: Implement five (5) five-day, regional Autism Work Support trainings for a total of 750 participants, designed to increase the knowledge base of employment service providers, day support providers, individuals with ASDs and their family members about work supports for persons with ASDs.</p>	<p>In Process</p> <p>Would require more resources. Estimate \$500,000</p> <p>Would require more resources. Estimate \$500,000</p> <p>Would require more resources. Estimate \$75,000 DBHDS, as of 2011 has an Employment Specialist working on increasing provider capacity for competitive employment.</p>

<p>18. The Virginia Department of Health should collaborate with relevant stakeholders to (1) evaluate the options for promoting awareness of autism spectrum disorders among emergency medical services, fire, and rescue personnel; (2) identify which, if any, options are most beneficial to pursue; and (3) report its findings to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services no later than March 31, 2010.</p>	<p>Recommendation: #29: All public safety personnel (including judges, magistrates, attorneys, law enforcement, fire/EMS, etc.) should receive basic autism awareness training (developed by the PSW) to understand</p>	<p>Complete and on-going activity. Commonwealth Autism Service started working in 2010 directly with Department of Criminal Justice to fulfill this need.</p>
<p>19. The Supreme Court of Virginia should collaborate with relevant stakeholders to (1) evaluate the options for promoting awareness of autism spectrum disorders among judicial personnel; (2) identify which, if any, options are most beneficial to pursue; and (3) report its findings to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services no later than March 31, 2010.</p>	<p>See Recommendation #29.</p>	<p>Complete and ongoing. Commonwealth Autism Service and Criminal Justice Services.</p>
<p>20. The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services should create a detailed action plan reflecting the input of relevant stakeholders and the evaluation of options conducted by other State agencies, which specifies how the department will address the issues contained in this report and build a more effective system of care for Virginians with developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders. This plan should be presented to the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, the Joint Commission on Health Care, and the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees no later than November 30, 2010.</p>	<p>Created "Establishing a Detailed Action Plan for Serving Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders."</p>	<p>Completed November 30, 2010.</p>

<p>Recommendation #7: Expand and develop Communities of Practice in Autism (CoPA) in order to develop skills and enhance service delivery planning/implementation through Part C Early Intervention.</p>	<p>CoPA's provide a forum for professionals to share their knowledge and expertise, therefore expanding their abilities to work with individuals with ASD.</p>	<p>In order to expand these professional activities funding is required. Estimate \$30,000 a year to allow participation of Part C participation across the state.</p>
<p>Recommendation #8: Increase by 50 the number of individuals trained and certified as Positive Behavior Supports Facilitators.</p>	<p>Build capacity of professionals trained specifically to increase individuals behavior repertoire and systems change methods to redesign an individual's living environment to enhance the individuals quality of live and to minimize his or her problem behaviors.(Carr, et al., 2002, p.4.)</p>	<p>Current funding allows for one training class per year. In 2010-2011, we endorsed 11, 2011-2012-6 endorsed, 2012-2013- 10 endorsed for Total since 2010=27, Would require additional resources. \$70,000 to endorse 23 additional Facilitators.</p>
<p>Recommendation #9: Continued funding of the Virginia Autism Council through DBHDS for Council operations and tuition reimbursement for non-public education professionals and providers.</p>	<p>Virginia Autism Council (VAC) now has a memorandum of understanding with the Partnership for People with Disabilities to be 'housed' within that agency. VAC currently is not funded by any state agency. They assumed they would fall under DBHDS when DBHDS was named the "home for Autism." However, no funding was available for this to occur at that time. The Virginia Autism Council is a volunteer, non-mandated council of autism experts seeking to define needed skill competencies and to advance higher education, training and educational opportunities for personnel and caregivers supporting individuals with autism.</p> <p>VAC previously received funding through DOE. At that time they created "Skill Competencies for Professionals and Paraprofessionals in Virginia Supporting Individuals with Autism."</p> <p>VAC is currently in the process of creating</p>	<p>Would require resources. \$75,000 to assist with Tuition reimbursement and statewide training initiative.</p>