



Charlottesville Region Autism Action Group

**Connect, Engage, Learn, Change**  
**June-July 2021 Newsletter**

**THE ARC OF THE UNITED STATES** reports that on June 8th, three Representatives of the U.S. House of Representatives reintroduced the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Restoration Act ([H.R.3763](#)). The bill would enhance the SSI program by updating the general income disregard to \$123 per month, adjusting the earned income disregard to \$399 per month, and increasing the resource limits to \$10,000 for an individual and \$20,000 for a couple. Congress has not adjusted these limits in many years. In addition, the SSI Restoration Act would repeal SSI's in-kind support and maintenance provisions as well as penalties for resource transfers, marriage, and state tax credits. **The Arc strongly supports the SSI Restoration Act.** [Click here to Take Action with The Arc on this legislation.](#)

**CA HUMAN SERVICES** is conducting a statewide survey to gather feedback about autism services from parents and other family members of individuals with autism. CA Human Services would like as much participation as possible to ensure all opinions and ideas are considered, and is asking for your participation! CA Human Services (formerly Commonwealth Autism) is a nonprofit organization that works with people with autism and other developmental disabilities and their families to help them thrive. At the conclusion of this study, they will share the results with organizations that serve individuals with autism across the Commonwealth and work together to remove barriers to improve their experiences. This survey should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete, and your responses will be anonymous. Please use the link below to complete this survey by **Friday, July 2, 2021.** [Click here for the survey link.](#) Thank you for your valuable feedback!

## DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES (DBHDS) updates:

- **CONFIDENTIAL DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS SURVEY** - Over the past 12 months, direct support professionals have experienced high risks of infection, financial hardship, and exhaustion. Many have become ill and lost loved ones. The voices of DSPs matter, now more than ever. **Show them you care about their wellbeing by passing along this confidential survey.** The University of Minnesota's Institute on Community Integration, in partnership with the *National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals*, developed this survey to understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on direct support professionals and identify the most effective ways to protect DSPs and the people they support. **Please visit [z.umn.edu/dsp-covid19-survey](https://z.umn.edu/dsp-covid19-survey) to complete the survey by the end of June, and forward this survey to the direct support professionals that you employ, including paid family members.** Two similar surveys of DSPs were conducted by ICI and NADSP and each was completed by more than 9,000 DSPs. **Those results are available here.** The new survey is for both DSPs who completed the earlier survey and those who did not. The results will be made public in September 2021.
- **CONFIDENTIAL SURVEY FOR PROVIDERS** – The DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES (DMAS) and DBHDS are conducting a **Medicaid Provider Rate Study** to review payment rates for services provided through the DD waivers. The General Assembly ordered this rate study, which also covers Personal Assistance, Respite, and Service Facilitation services. Because fee-for-service payment rates for these services are standardized across all Virginia Medicaid programs, services for all Medicaid populations are included in the rate study. Burns & Associates, an operating division of Health Management Associates (HMA-Burns), is assisting with this rate study. HMA-Burns assisted with the most recent rate study in 2014 and produced the rate models currently in effect. **This survey will be used to develop recommendations for potential changes to provider payment rates.** No provider-specific information will be released, and the overall data will be used exclusively for the rate study. **The survey closes on June 30, 2021.** **Download the survey and instructions here.**
- **INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM (IFSP)** provides a monthly news digest to highlight resources, events, and trainings that may be of interest to self-advocates and families. **Use this link** to subscribe. Navigating the developmental disability system can be hard for families.

Not sure where to start? Read “IFSP: First Steps” guide to learn about the IFSP program at DBHDS and other important resources, supports, and services offered in Virginia. [Find the guide here](#).

- **HOUSING EXPLORATION WORKSHOP SERIES** is for individuals who live in group homes or sponsored residential settings who would like to learn about living in their own homes? The DBHDS Offices of Community Housing and Provider Development will host a **Housing Exploration Workshop Series** consisting of three Zoom workshops on **September 1st, 8th and 15th 2021 from 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm**. [Click to register](#). **The registration deadline is August 25, 2021**. Participants will learn about several integrated, independent housing arrangements: 1) Renting Housing & Getting Drop-In Supports; 2) Renting Housing with a Roommate; and 3) Renting Housing with a Live-in Aide.

**MOMS IN MOTION/AT HOME YOUR WAY** is a Consumer-Directed Service Facilitation provider for these Virginia Medicaid waivers: CCC Plus, CL, and FIS. Their clients select, hire, fire, and train their particular caregiver(s). They publish a monthly newsletter. [Click here](#) to read the June 2021 issue, and [click here](#) to find a list of past newsletters dating back to 2014.

**REGION 1 ADULT REACH** invites our community partners to participate in the summer training series. [All trainings will occur via webinar \(Zoom\) - no registration needed](#). The Zoom links are below. Please note that you will need to use the specific zoom link associated with the training you wish to attend as there is not one standard link.

### **June 2021**

*Building & Supporting Resiliency in People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*

Time: Jun 30, 2021 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

<https://zoom.us/j/96579807040?pwd=QnZsOVRVVnIRc2xWeE1ENDQvbm81dz09>

Meeting ID: 965 7980 7040

Passcode: vfNWf7

### **July 2021**

*Developing and Using Expressive Therapies in Group and Individualized Supports*

Time: Jul 16, 2021 01:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

<https://zoom.us/j/94170376736?pwd=SIJiRnZUUG42QVQzV1IydCtUYmxodz09>

Meeting ID: 941 7037 6736

Passcode: 8n6x6Z

## **August 2021**

*Girls & Women on the Autism Spectrum-Underdiagnosing, Misdiagnosing, and Differences in Symptom Expression*

Time: Aug 18, 2021 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

<https://zoom.us/j/97359962187?pwd=eHNSOURBc3p4YWpOVkITWk90K0NiQT09>

Meeting ID: 973 5996 2187

Passcode: 2e8HYY

**PARENT RESOURCE CENTER/PREP** provides free information and support to families of children with disabilities or special needs in Charlottesville, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, and Madison School Districts. [Click here](#) to read the PRC June newsletter and find many summer time activities for school age children.

**TOM SOX APPRECIATES VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF AUTISM** on July 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at Charlottesville High School. Come out and enjoy a fun, free night at the Ballpark in honor of VIA. [Click for the Flyer!](#)

**UVA STAR** - Stay current with their newsletter by [signing up here](#).

June 21, 2021