



Charlottesville Region Autism Action Group

Connect | Engage | Learn | Change

April 2021

***Organized alphabetically by Organization Name
Be sure to scroll to the end or you'll miss important updates!**

CA HUMAN SERVICES: [Join CA's Mailing List Here!](#) Read the latest [News You Can Use CA newsletter](#). To understand the experiences and preferences of individuals with ASD and their families in navigating ASD information, supports, services, and resources, CA Human Services has contracted with Knowledge Advisory Group (KAG) to conduct focus groups and surveys. KAG will also collect input from service providers and partners in the ASD professional community for this initiative. At the conclusion of this study, CA will share the results with stakeholders across the Commonwealth and work together to remove barriers to improve the experience. CA is currently recruiting participants for 1-hour focus groups, which will take place between **April 26th to May 14th**. [To get involved or learn more, read CA's letter](#).

CRAAG and SIS: On **April 21st** several representatives of CRAAG will attend the annual SIS Stakeholders Meeting. This meeting brings together stakeholders from across the Commonwealth to share information about how the **Supports Intensity Scale (SIS)** evaluation process is working. CRAAG is looking for feedback from readers. Do you have a recent SIS

experience to share with CRAAG? Please [email](#) us ASAP. We appreciate your help.

CHARLOTTESVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION: Read the latest [Adaptive Recreation April 2021 newsletter](#). Be sure to sign up for [Adaptive Recreation's Facebook Group](#) to receive virtual program and event updates.

MOMS IN MOTION/AT HOME YOUR WAY: Moms in Motion is a Consumer-Directed Service Facilitation Organization for people of all ages with the CCC+, CL and FIS Waivers. Their newsletter is full of useful information on Virginia's DD Waivers, disability issues, news, ADA, assistive technology, and more. [Subscribe to one of their newsletters](#).

PARENT RESOURCE CENTER (PRC)/PREP: Read the latest [PRC newsletter](#). Open the newsletter to find out about a **May 3rd** virtual meeting to explain Virginia's DD Medicaid Waiver system and SSI to parents of school age children. These governmental programs supplement a person's income, qualify a person for extra help, and help them receive healthcare and community supports. [Subscribe to the newsletter](#).

SPECIAL OLYMPICS AREA 3 - Albemarle, Charlottesville, Fluvanna, Greene And Louisa: Check the [Special Olympics website](#) to find upcoming spring and summer programs.

THOMAS JEFFERSON EMS COUNCIL AND UVA STAR - Responding to People with Autism in Crisis (911- EMS Training): On **April 26th** from 7-9 pm, Dr. Rose Nevill of UVA STAR, will provide an overview of what autism is, common difficulties people with autism have during 911 calls, and how to best respond to and support individuals with autism during emergency calls. [Register here!](#)

UVA STAR: Read the latest [STAR April 2021 newsletter](#).

1. STUDY: Emergency Department Sensory Experience

For unfamiliar visitors, the emergency department (ED) can be a chaotic environment. The sounds, sights, smells, and touches can make visits overwhelming experiences for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Your experience can help us make visiting the emergency department a better experience for all patients! All participants will earn a \$50 gift card for their time. If you or your child have autism and have visited an emergency room in the past two years, [click](#) to participate and [click](#) for more information.

2. STUDY: Improving Driving Skills For People With Autism

Driver training for individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) needs to be more widely available and easily accessed. This project is working to make driving training programs more cost-effective and accessible for individuals on the autism spectrum. If you or your child are between the ages of 16 and 35 (with or without autism) and have a driver's permit, you may be eligible to participate. All participants will receive a \$50 gift certificate for their time. [Click](#) to learn more about this study.

VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF AUTISM (VIA): VIA's 5K Race/Walk weekend begins Saturday, April 17th. Sign up or make a donation to "support compassionate, effective services for families across Central Virginia" at www.runforautism5k.org. Read the latest [VIA newsletter](#).

WALL RESIDENCES: Wall Residences recently launched a non-profit organization, **Wall Opportunities and Wishes (WOW)**. WOW's mission is to raise funds to help meet the needs of individuals with DD and MH who have limited resources and are unable to access other resources. For example, funding could cover glasses, hearing aids and dental care; legal guardianship costs; prepaid phones for those experiencing homelessness; funding for recreational activities; and more. WOW is looking for an additional board member. Interested in getting involved? [Read this flyer](#).

April 16, 2021