



Charlottesville Region Autism Action Group

CRAAG Reorganization and Work Group Proposal **April 28, 2021**

We propose to establish three targeted Work Groups, a Steering Committee, and move to an annual schedule of six public CRAAG meetings.

Establish Three Targeted Work Groups

Each Work Group will be co-chaired by a CRAAG parent and a professional who will be a support resource. Anyone who is interested in participating is welcome to volunteer for a group. The three Work Groups will meet monthly or as needed. They will have similar goals, although their unique target populations are very different.

Goals:

- Recruit participants and assess educational needs.
- Highlight challenges, needs and opportunities.
- Clarify the waiver services available to the target population.
- Address needs of adults with and without waivers.
- Establish network of those with similar challenges and needs.
- Develop models for family-driven and public solutions.
- Identify provider gaps and advocacy needs.
- Maximize social engagement strategies to address loneliness and isolation.

1. Preparing for Life After High School

Target population: School-age children and adults in transition from High School (under age 22)

Primary focus: Raise awareness and provide the necessary information and tools to plan for the future.

2. **Maximizing Independence**

Target population: Adults who wish to live independently with supports outside the family home with and without waivers.

Primary focus: Identify strategies to maximize independence through innovative housing solutions and social engagement.

3. **24/7 Supports**

Target population: Adults who need 24/7 in-person and/or episodic supports.

Primary focus: Identify innovative housing and service strategies to meet unique needs.

Establish a Steering Committee

Until now CRAAG has relied on a small, informal core group to provide feedback before launching initiatives. This proposal formalizes a new **Steering Committee** to assist in guiding CRAAG's work.

Steering Committee

Target population: Any CRAAG supporter who is interested in taking on a broader role and providing feedback and ideas to guide CRAAG's overall efforts is welcome to volunteer for this group.

Primary focus: Provide feedback and support to CRAAG's Chairperson in planning six CRAAG public meetings a year and coordinating CRAAG's other work.

Change to Six CRAAG Public Meetings Per Year

Since much of CRAAG's work on housing solutions, supports and services will be accomplished within the three targeted Work Groups, only 6 public CRAAG meetings will be held each year, unless circumstances warrant a special meeting. The public meetings will be planned to draw a broad group of providers, self-advocates, families, and Work Group and community members. The focus of the meetings will be the exchange of information among families and professionals to advance our overall advocacy goals, especially around housing solutions and support for the efforts of the Work Groups. Future meetings will be on 4th Wednesday of every other month from 10 am to 12 pm in February, April, June, August, October, and December to maximize participation of families and professionals. As in the past, occasional evening meetings will be held.