



Charlottesville Region Autism Action Group

### **Updates from the October 28, 2020 Meeting**

Twenty-two people attended the monthly meeting. This included parents and seven professionals from Virginia Institute of Autism (VIA), Case Management from Region Ten, DBHDS Region 1 Housing, CA Human Services, REACH, and Department of Social Services.

1. The group discussed the results of the **CRAAG Readers Survey**. See the next article in this newsletter for the takeaways.
2. **Rachel's Haven** has been relieved of a zoning petition. Neighbors who opposed the rezoning for an apartment complex that would include housing for people with disabilities withdrew their petition. They cited financial concerns and the “public attacks on their group” on Facebook and Nextdoor. A Charlottesville judge agreed to dismiss their petition and ruled the issue a “non-suit.” This was reported in the [Daily Progress](#).
3. **Regional REACH Crisis Director**, Leela White, reported an increase in referrals and face-to-face mobile supports. REACH has successfully hired a new medical director and full time nurse for the organization.
4. Amy Berry, **DD Case Management Director for Charlottesville/Albemarle**, reported that the WSAC (Waiver Slot Assignment Committee) assigned 23 new waiver slots, but the challenge is on to locate providers due to capacity issues and services also being shut down/reduced due to the pandemic.

5. Heather Hines, **Region Ten Senior Director of Developmental Services**, reported on multiple audits by state agencies, and ongoing staffing shortfalls. She clarified that group day services are only able to serve adults living in Region Ten residents at this time. They are also working toward providing community engagement services through telehealth.
6. Hilary Nagel, **Family Resource Navigator at Virginia Institute for Autism (VIA)**, announced that in early December, James C. Hormel School will offer an additional day of in-person services rotating through the A/B hybrid schedule. The Outpatient Clinic has immediate openings for in-person clinic services for children ages 0-6. Adult Services continues to explore indoor options, and is expanding some additional outdoor meetup opportunities. One family reported that their adult son receives 5 sessions (a combination of virtual and in-person) a week from VIA.
7. Marie Fraticelli, **DBHDS Region 1 Housing Coordinator**, reported on an ambitious goal of utilizing 847 rental assistance resources for individuals in the DOJ Settlement population by June 30, 2021. To succeed in meeting this goal, she is reaching out to adults aging out of foster care. She is also hoping to connect with K-12 and Post High students who might qualify. Ms. Fraticelli is a co-host with CRAAG of the December 2nd virtual Housing Forum.

November 2, 2020