



COMMONWEALTH *autism* SERVICE

leading the way

**Presentation to Senate Finance
Joint Sub-committees (HHR & Education) - Autism Hearing**

**John A. Toscano, MSW, MBA
President & CEO**

Mission

...to provide leadership in the implementation of a statewide system of services to maximize the potential and quality of life of each Virginian with autism across the lifespan.

Visionary Goals

- lifespan seamless service and support network
 - built upon best practices
 - easily accessed
 - affordable and available
 - offering ample choice
- A system that “front loads” its resources
 - early and intensive intervention which maximizes potential
- A system that is positively biased toward a belief in habilitation

Commonwealth Autism Service Historical Context

1995

Formed around the “kitchen table” by a visionary group of parents who recognized:

- ✓ No state “home” for autism
- ✓ Paucity of services
- ✓ Lack of trained autism personnel
- ✓ Lack of leadership

1996

Approached the GA for support – received
Allocation was 100% of our resources

Today

GA allocation is 39% of our resources

Organization Funding

- **FY 2010 Budget (in thousands):**

✓ GF appropriation	940
✓ Partnerships/fee-for-service	1285
✓ Annual conference and workshops	60
✓ Donations	50
✓ Other	40
Total	2375

Summary:

GF's	39%
CAS generated	61%

Prevalence Rate

1980s = 1:2000

1995= 1:1000

2009 = 1:150

- VDOE child count:
 - 1998- 1521
 - 2008 – 9136
 - 20% average annual growth rate
 - Total 6 fold increase in this period

An Ideal Service System

- Community Awareness
- Early Identification
- Multi-disciplinary Assessment
- Early and Intensive Intervention
- Prescriptive School Years Services
- Transition Services
- Post secondary Education
- Adult Needs

Our Services

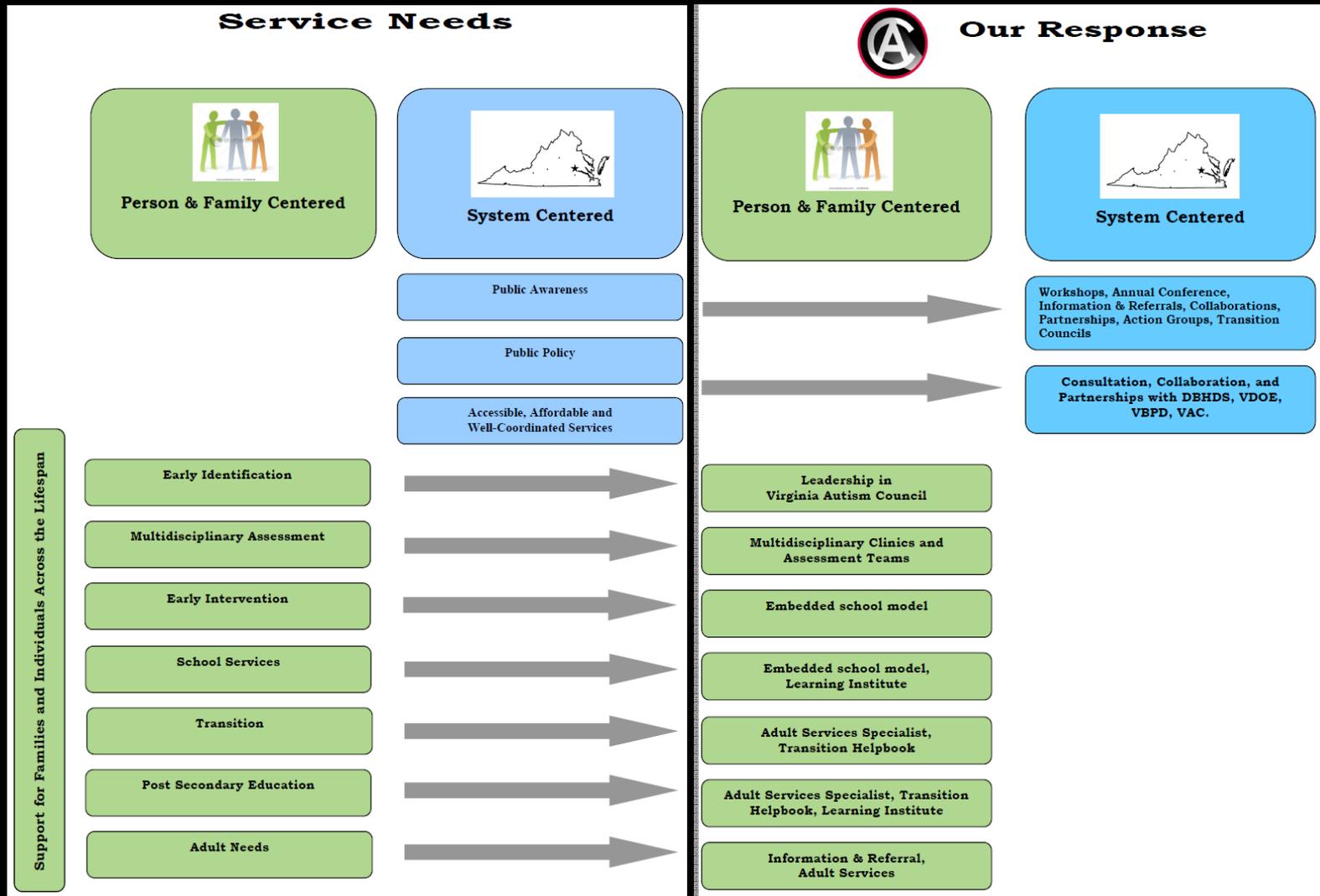
- Information & referral
- Multi-disciplinary assessment
- Embedded staff model for capacity growth
- Annual Conference and Workshops
- Transition training, research and services
- Autism Action Groups
- Behavioral Learning Institute
- First Responder Training

Our Methodology

- Public private partnerships
- Collaborative relationships

- Micro systems – individuals and families
- Mezzo systems – other service providers
- Macro systems – public policy

Our Mission in Action



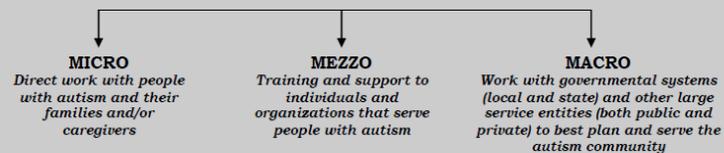
Our Mission in Action

METHODOLOGY

Commonwealth Autism Service strives for efficacy in our efforts on behalf of our mission. We look to achieve this as we recognize that our scope of work and charge is significant while our resources are limited.

Commonwealth Autism Service actively pursues partnerships and similar collaborations so as to maximize limited resources and to harness the amplified energy of organizations working together.

Therefore we attempt to work in all areas of system intervention, namely:



Service Statistics - 2008

- I&R – calls, web visits 23,414
- Families/individuals served 188
- School systems served 43
- Multidisciplinary clinic assessments 33
- Embedded staff model 28 LEAs
- Professionals trained (all venues) >4,000
- Key Partnerships:
 - UMW
 - DBHDS
 - VDOE
 - All school divisions with CAS embedded staff

Outcome Evaluation

1. Caregivers and individuals with autism seek earlier diagnosis
 - Increased clinic capacity from 2 clinics/month to 4 clinics/month
 - Replication of clinic assessment procedures in LEAs (SVRP) – others in planning stage

Outcome Evaluation

2. Service providers will implement strategies based on evidence-based principles

- 28 LEAs with staff development pertaining to principles of applied behavior analysis
- Consulted with UMW to develop their BCaBA sequence
 - More than 10 individuals have completed the sequence
 - 10 additional individuals will begin coursework in January

Outcome Evaluation

3. Caregivers and individuals access programs using local/state/federal resources
 - 23,414 calls and web site hits



COMMONWEALTH *autism* SERVICE

leading the way

THANK YOU

WWW.AUTISMVA.ORG