

DBHDS

Virginia Department of
Behavioral Health and
Developmental Services

Developing a Comprehensive Plan for Serving People with Autism Spectrum Disorders and Developmental Disabilities

Senate Finance Committee
Joint Meeting of
HHR and Education Subcommittee

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Overview of JLARC Report

- JLARC “Assessment of Services for Virginians with Autism Spectrum Disorders” released June 2009
- 21 recommendations for 7 different agencies
- DBHDS tasked to develop a detailed action plan by November 30, 2010
 - Plan has been under development in partnership with other state agencies, providers, advocacy groups, and other interested stakeholders
 - Workgroups addressing the seven themes in the JLARC Report

JLARC Study Themes

- The seven themes of the report are:
 - Centralized reliable source of information for families concerned with ASD
 - State-level accountability and coordination of services
 - Early diagnosis, screening and treatment of ASD

JLARC Study Themes (cont.)

- Education and training for providers of services
- Improvements in the education system for persons with disabilities in general and ASD specifically
- Promotion of greater independence for persons with ASD
- Improvements in training for first responders and the legal community

Select Actions Since JLARC Study

- Department of Education
 - Eligibility criteria, technical assistance, guidelines for parents, transition guide, model programs, etc. (next presentation)
- Department of Rehabilitative Services
 - WWRC life skills program pilot for individuals with ASD
 - Funded two Employment Service Organization pilot projects
 - Hired autism spectrum disorder research project coordinator
- Department of Criminal Justice
 - Created a Public Safety Workgroup that includes Police, Fire, EMT, and additional safety personnel
 - All new cadets will have training concerning interaction with those with ASD
 - Training to begin October 2010

Select Actions Since JLARC Study

- Dept. of Behavioral Health & Developmental Svcs
 - Department name change from DMHRMSAS
 - MOU with Commonwealth Autism Services
 - Two staff approved in FY10 budget to support DBHDS as the “Home” for Autism/DD
 - Joined State Employment Leadership Network to promote innovations in integrated employment in Virginia for persons with DD
 - Centralized website for ASD in partnership with Commonwealth Autism Services (September 2010)
 - Working with CSBs to form local DD Resource Action Groups

Select Actions Since JLARC Study

- Dept. of Behavioral Health & Developmental Svcs
 - Applied for \$900,000 grant with the Partnership for People with Disabilities to fund children’s early intervention services
 - Part C Early Intervention Services is in the process of developing an Autism Guidance Document for parents and providers
 - Expanding the number of local leaders in regional Communities of Practice for Autism
 - Share knowledge and information about evidence-based strategies in natural environments
 - Focus on infants, toddlers, and young children with ASD and their families
 - Working with providers
 - Developing a public awareness campaign with the materials of the CDC Act Early Campaign for statewide distribution to primary referral sources, local early intervention systems, and families with infants, toddlers

What to Expect in the Report

- Recommendations to:
 - Close the gap in early identification and intervention of services through additional funding and coordination
 - Blend the separate DD and ID waiver and case management systems into one comprehensive DD system
 - Establish CSBs as a single point of entry into services and supports
 - Support employment for people with DD
 - Present a plan for workforce development
 - Ensure information is readily available and accessible to families