

Presentation on Autism Spectrum Disorders
for the Senate Finance Committee
Subcommittees on Subcommittees on Health
and Human Resources
and Education
Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2010

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My Role Today

- Describe the Virginia Autism Resource Center and its contribution to addressing the needs of individuals with ASD across the Commonwealth
- Discuss, from my perspective as a statewide program director, the challenges and opportunities in our system

The Virginia Autism Resource Center

- Established in 1982 by a grant from the General Assembly through DMHMRSAS (now called DBHDS) to Grafton School in Winchester, VA
- Mission: to provide training and technical assistance through a mobile consultation unit to individuals with autism and related disorders across the Commonwealth

Four Major Services

- Free on-site services to anyone in Virginia with a connection to or interest in ASD
- Workshops
 - Numerous topics for all sectors of service from early childhood through adulthood
- Consultation
 - Birth through adulthood
 - Identification of ASD
 - Addressing Challenging Behavior
 - Program evaluation and consultation
 - On-site consultation with written report

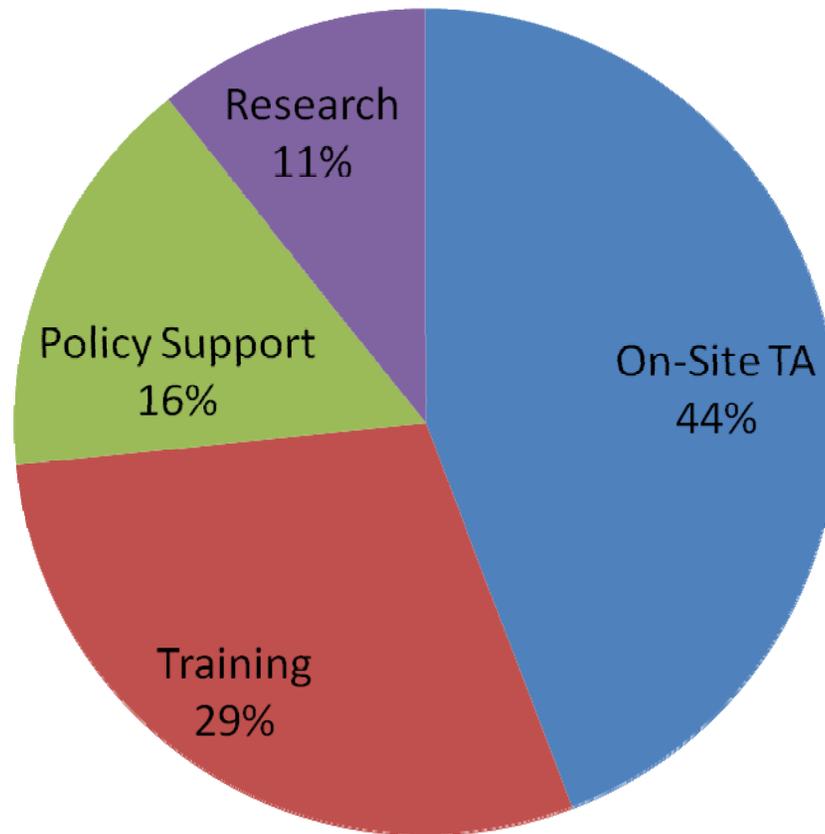
Four Major Services

- Lending Library with books, journals, and video on ASD and related disorders
- Information and Referral

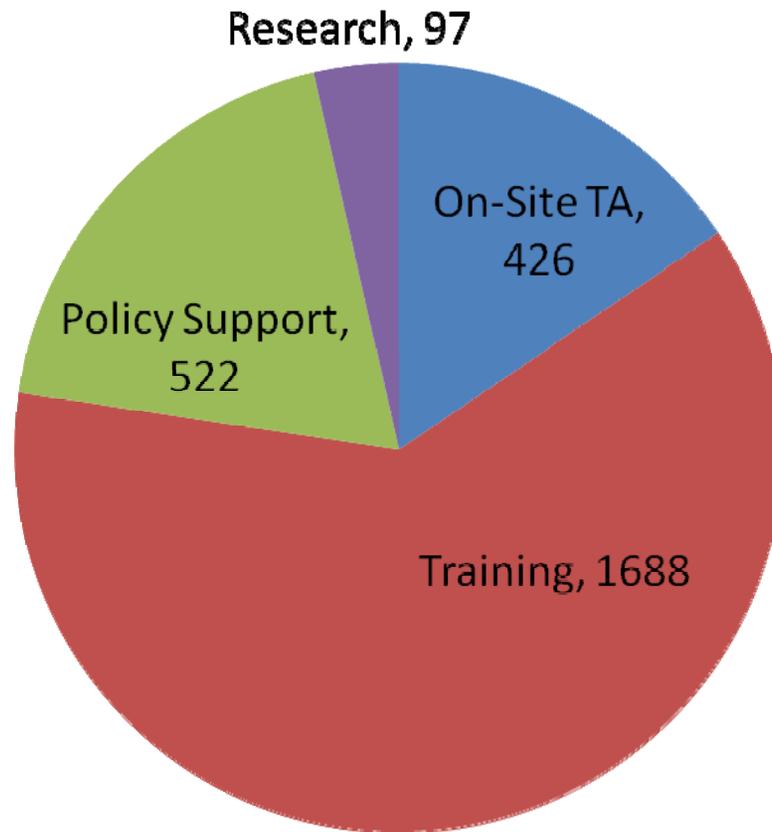
Moved to Collaboration between Grafton and VCU in March 2008

- Now provides
 - On-site technical assistance
 - Training – now including internet training
 - Policy Support
 - Research
 - Lending Library
 - Information and Referral

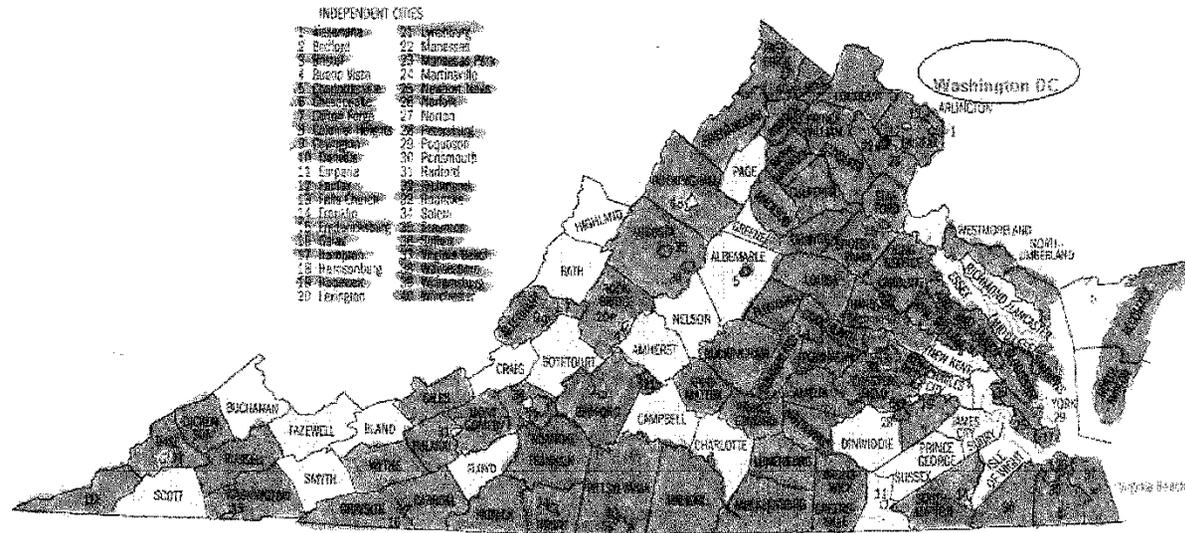
Services Delivered



Approximate Number of People Served – Total 2733



Across Virginia



State of the Commonwealth for Individuals with ASD

- Challenges
 - Diagnosis/Identification still occurring too late
 - Families of children and youth with ASD have no case management
 - Confusing system of Medicaid Waivers
 - Lack of Services outside of school to address
 - Home supports
 - Behavioral Supports
 - Medical Needs

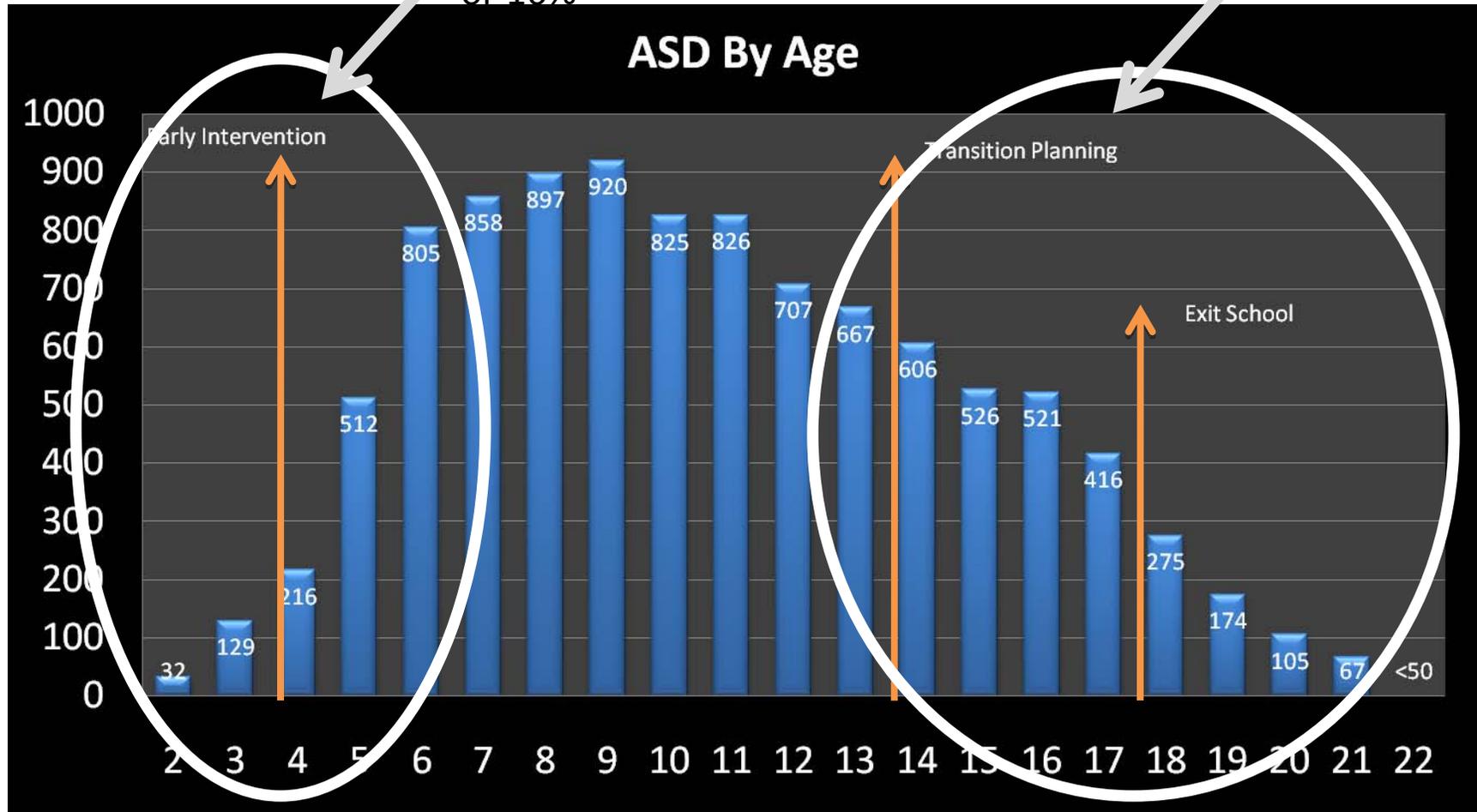
State of the Commonwealth for Individuals with ASD

- Children, youth, and adults struggle most during transitions
 - Identification
 - Early intervention
 - Transition from school to work, higher education and adult life
 - Access to services once out of public education and in adulthood

2009 Child Count by Age

1694 children
or 16%

2740 youth
or 27%



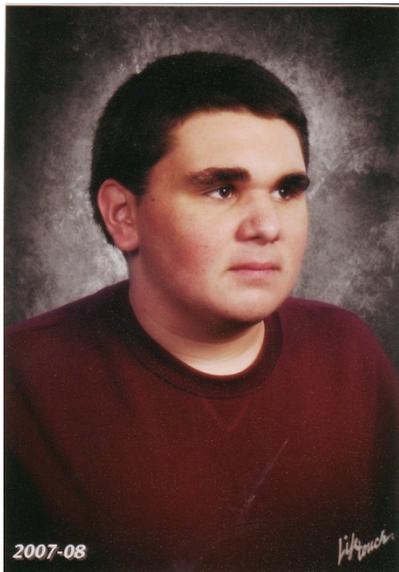
State of the Commonwealth for Individuals with ASD

- Opportunities:
 - Strong interest, energy, need and expertise exists throughout the state
 - ASD's have a 'home' at DBHDS
 - Several examples of quality programming exist in the state
 - A number of coordinating initiatives already underway in the state
 - Interagency collaboration is occurring in new and exciting ways
 - ASD is "on the radar screen" in Virginia and across the nation
 - Virginia Universities are participating in professional preparation and prominent research

Andrew

- Had Intensive Early Intervention
- Gained many skills
- Still intensively impacted by his autism

– Despite this level of intervention would not be viewed as “employable”



- Entered Project Search Research Class



- Received Intensive Behavioral Intervention in job skills program
- One year later, today, is an employee at Hospital in Central Sterile where he is very successful

What can Virginia Do?

- Build community-based services at a faster rate
 - Case management
 - Behavioral services
 - Job and life support services
- Make it easier for professionals to get training

Thank you for your time, energy
and commitment!

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<http://www.vcu-autism.org/>