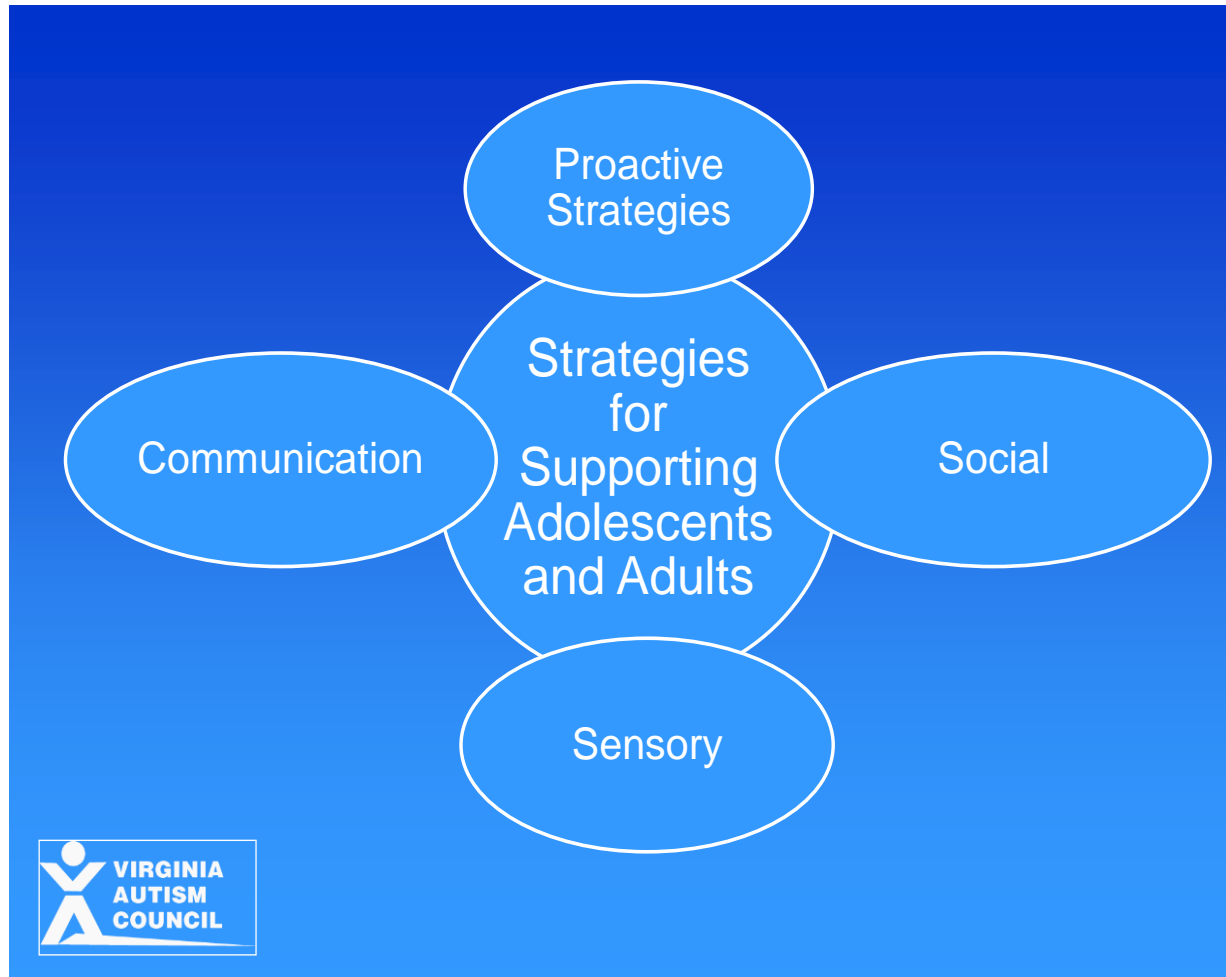


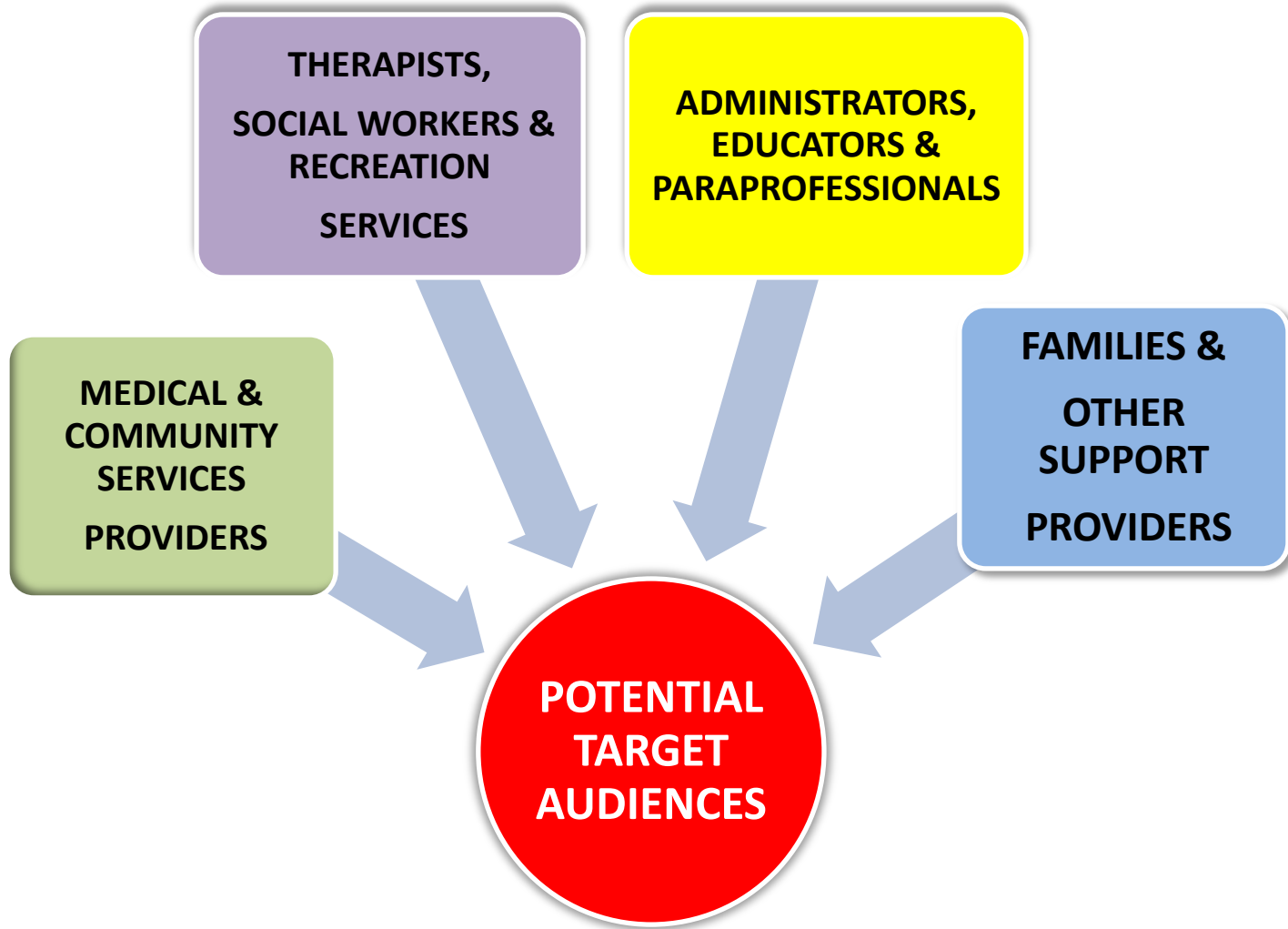
Commonwealth Autism Service AUTISM ACTION GROUPS and partners recently participated in a 2 day Train the Trainer event conducted by Cindy Gwinn, Community Resource Manager, Autism Spectrum Disorders Specialist, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities using a curriculum developed by the Virginia Autism Council.





Map showing locations of Cohort I Lead Trainers for the Adolescent and Adult Strategies Curriculum

To facilitate the dissemination of this essential information throughout Virginia, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and Commonwealth Autism Service collaborated in a partnership that would create lead trainers among participants within the eight Autism Action Groups regions and beyond. The 21 lead trainers in the initial cohort will offer publicized free training opportunities to the target audiences in their localities .





Virginia Autism Council Training Curriculum and related materials for awareness activities



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**Cindy Gwinn, DBHDS representative
prepares for the day's training!**





CAS Intern, Emily Thompson, welcomes Train the Trainer participants to the Albemarle Resource Center in Charlottesville for Day 1 of the event.



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Cindy Gwinn, DBHDS representative, with regional Autism Action Group participants



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Prospective trainers from around Virginia add to their store of knowledge about effective strategies for working and living with adolescents and adults on the autism spectrum.

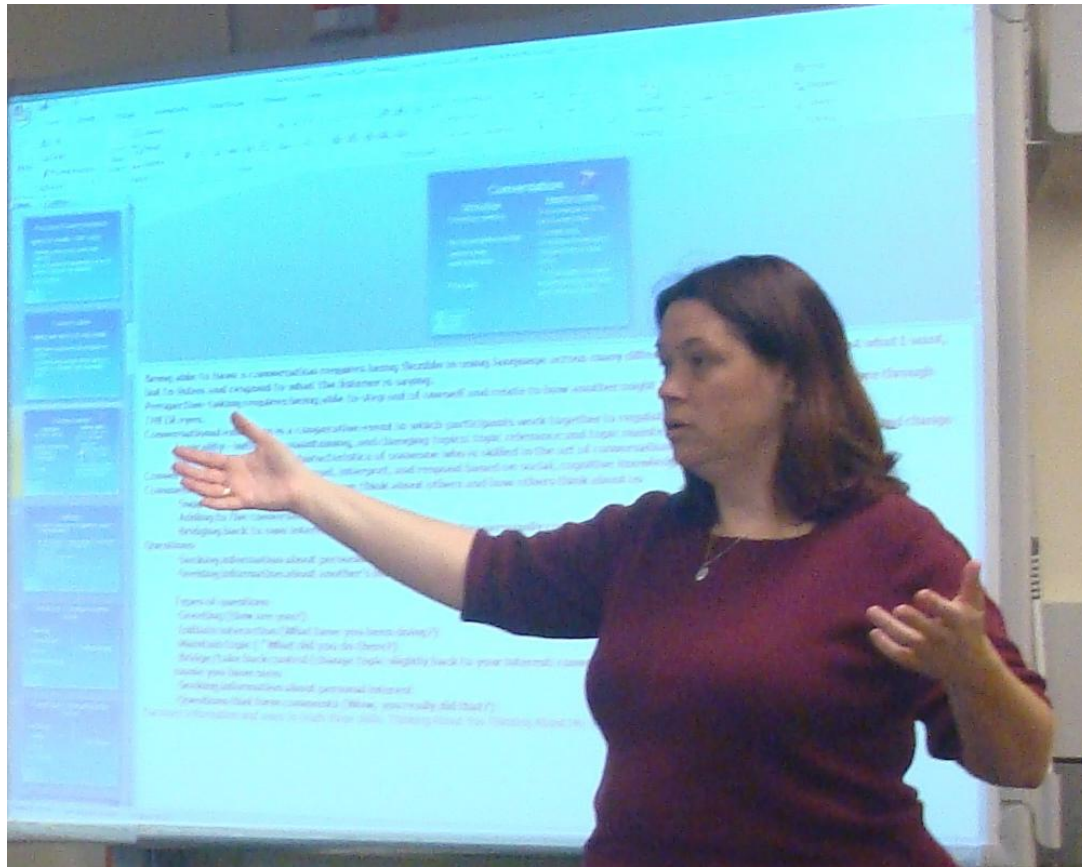


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Autism Action Group representatives from Charlottesville, Lynchburg, and Culpeper areas exchange information during a break.





Wrapping things up and getting ready for the next phase: Autism Action Groups offering training in their regions! Thanks, Cindy, and the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services for providing this opportunity to raise awareness on behalf of adolescents and adults on the autism spectrum via the Virginia Autism Council curriculum.

