

Annual Report



2007

www.autismva.org



COMMONWEALTH *autism* SERVICE
leading the way



Commonwealth Autism Service's mission is 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.



Dear Colleagues and Friends of Commonwealth Autism Service,

On behalf of our Board of Directors, our Advisory Council and our staff, we are very pleased to share with you the ***Commonwealth Autism Service 2007 Annual Report***.

As you will see 2007 was another very active and productive year for the organization as it carried out its mission. As always we are indebted to all our supporters and partners who helped us achieve positive results on behalf of all those we serve – individuals with autism, their families, and the wide variety of caregivers throughout the Commonwealth.

We eagerly look forward to continued collaboration with all of you who share our passion for improving the lives of individuals with autism.

With appreciation,

Perry A. Corsello, MBA, CFA
 Chair, Board of Directors

John A. Toscano, MSW, MBA
 President & CEO

Historical Highlights

In **1995** a dedicated group of families and service providers recognized:

1. that autism had no “home” in Virginia as no state Developmental Disabilities agency existed to exercise responsibility across the lifespan for a person with autism,
2. that there existed an appalling lack of information and expertise in the state about best practice approaches to serving people with autism,
3. that no coherent statewide system existed to provide services across the lifespan, spectrum, and geographical width and breadth of the state.

In the **1996** General Assembly session this group lobbied for and received a dedicated appropriation to develop a program to address the above. The program was hosted by the Department of Psychiatry – VCU/MCV who also served as fiscal agent for the funds.

In **1997** the *Autism Training and Family Support Program* began in earnest to provide services geared to meet the above needs and was graciously hosted by The Arc of Virginia who provided a location and administrative support.

In **1998** with continued community support the AT & FSP received an increase to its GA allocation and changed its name to *The Autism Program of Virginia (TAP-VA)* in keeping with its mission. At this time discussions were taking place about becoming a separate 501 (c) (3) organization and a Board of Directors was recruited and appointed. The agency was officially incorporated on December 14, 1998.

In **2002** the Board and staff developed a three-year strategic plan that highlighted organizational behavior in support of systems change for autism in Virginia.

In **2003** the organization filed to add *Commonwealth Autism Service* as an operating name to better reflect its mission and highlight its full independence and status as a significant participant in developing a statewide service system for autism.

In **2005** the organization celebrated its 10th Anniversary at its 3rd Annual Awards Dinner.

From **2006—2008** the Governor and the General Assembly appropriated additional resources to support the expansion of Commonwealth Autism Service via the opening of additional satellite offices and for increasing multi-disciplinary diagnostic services throughout the state.

Introduction:

2007 has been another active and productive year for Commonwealth Autism Service. We have continued to expand our services, our geographical network, and our precision and efficiency in meeting our mission. Our growth has been both planned and opportunistic and has been informed by our strategic plan to actively seek partnerships across the Commonwealth. Within this context of growth our base is stable, as the areas of governance, management, personnel, and finances are strong.

Specifically:

- Ø We were successful in our advocacy with the Governor's office in the latter part of 2007 to gain inclusion in his 2009-10 biennium budget for the expansion of multi-disciplinary diagnostic centers across the Commonwealth.
- Ø Plans were agreed to significantly expand our partnership with the **Shenandoah Valley Regional Program** (SVRP comprises the school divisions of Augusta, Page, Rockingham, and Shenandoah counties, and the cities of Harrisonburg and Staunton) to add three additional embedded staff, bringing the total to five beginning in July 2008. This partnership has resulted in an agreement amongst the six school divisions to a service delivery model for students with ASD based on evidence-based practices. Our partners have also committed to subsequent strategic planning in order to accomplish the goals of the plan, which is a first of its kind in the Commonwealth. We have also jointly published a brochure outlining our partnership and approach.
- Ø We entered a partnership with the **Virginia Institute of Autism** to carry out an audit of adult services across the state as well as to co-serve school divisions in their geographic area.
- Ø We entered a partnership with the **Virginia Chapter of The American Academy of Pediatrics** to assist them in carrying out the autism screening guidelines from their national group.
- Ø We expanded our partnership agreement with **Southeastern Cooperative Educational Programs (SECEP)** through the addition of a second embedded staff.
- Ø In 2006 we dedicated a full-time staff member to the role of **Transition and Adult Services Specialist**. In 2007 we published an autism specific **Transition Helpbook** and it was presented at numerous statewide transition conferences. It is in use in a number of school divisions and this number continues to grow.
- Ø In 2007 we created two new Autism Action Groups (AAGs) in the far southwest and in the Farmville area.
- Ø We have continued to provide:
 - § I&R services on a statewide basis

- § Family consultation services through the Medicaid DD Waiver
 - § School-based consultation and training services
 - § Representation of CAS on numerous boards, councils, work groups, etc.
 - § Leadership to our six Autism Action Groups (AAG's)
 - § Our annual conference (Our 6th annual conference was a success.)
 - § Workshops in partnership with regional T-TAC's
 - § Annual transition conference in Lynchburg (We held our second conference this year.)
 - § Staff presentations at numerous statewide workshops, meetings, etc.
 - § Information through our redesigned website, which was launched this year
 - § Leadership in transition and adult service issues.
- Ø We have agreed to participate with research initiatives at **VT – Autism Clinic** and at **VCU – LEND-VA**.
- Ø In 2007 we led efforts with both JMU and UMW to develop coursework in ABA leading to certification as a Board Certified Associate Behavior Analyst (BCABA). We began teaching the courses at the University of Mary Washington's main campus. We are in the process of assisting UMW and the SVRP in moving this program to a satellite in the Shenandoah valley, also to be taught by CAS staff. We also participated with VCU in the development of their autism certificate.
- Ø In 2007 we continued to enjoy fund-raising support from **The Sadler Family Foundation** through a variety of public events (golf tournament and wrestling event) and **Virginia Farm Bureau Insurance** as the recipient of the proceeds from the annual UR vs. VCU basketball game—The Black & Blue Classic.



Commonwealth Autism Service Staff

Annual Conference





Calendar Year 2007 Summary of Activities

Information and referral:

§ Phone calls, e-mails, faxes, etc.	3,409
§ Website visits	15,313

School system contacts:

§ Consultations and observations	900
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Family contacts:

§ Consultations	144
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Provider agency contacts:

§ Consultations and observations	12
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Professional trainings delivered:

§ Total trainings held	169
§ Total people trained	in excess of 3,000

Conferences:

§ Professional presentations delivered	98
§ Conferences attended	28

Professional meetings attended:

§ Total (all types)	637
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Commonwealth Autism Service sponsored VCU/MCV DD Clinic:

§ Comprehensive multi-disciplinary evaluations completed	25
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Commonwealth Autism Service sponsored conferences and workshops (attendance):

§ 6th Annual Conference	250
§ 2 workshops	
Total attendance	in excess of 250

Commonwealth Autism Service sponsored "first responder" autism training:

§ Police, Fire, EMT departments trained	8 departments (excess of 250 people)
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Macro activities:

- § *Virginia Autism Council*
- § *Virginia Board for People with Disabilities* (Governor's appointment)
- § Created and staff 6 *Autism Action Groups* (AAG's) in Lynchburg (CVAAG), Roanoke (GRVAAG), Martinsville (PAAG), and Christiansburg (NRVAAG), Marion (SWAAG), Farmville
- § Continued to serve as the secretariat for Autism Society of America VA chapters and support groups – *The Virginia Coalition of Autism Support Groups*

Calendar Year 2007 Summary of Activities

- § Continued leadership of the *Central Virginia/Lynchburg Transition Council*
- § Leadership with the *Adult Services Task Force* in conjunction with the Virginia Institute of Autism (VIA)
- § Participation and Leadership on the statewide autism working group on the “Home for Autism” question
- § Regular consultation with various state agencies, i.e., VDOE, DMAS, DOH, DMHMRSAS, DRS, etc.

Public School Divisions served:

- § Albemarle County Schools
- § Alexandria City Schools
- § Amherst County Schools
- § Bedford County Schools
- § Blacksburg/Montgomery County Schools
- § Caroline County Schools
- § Essex County Schools
- § Greenville County Schools
- § Henrico County Schools
- § King William County Schools
- § Lunenburg County Schools
- § Lynchburg City Schools
- § Northern Neck Regional Program— Richmond County, Westmoreland, Lancaster, Colonial Beach and Northumberland)
- § Prince Edward County Schools
- § Richmond City Schools
- § Roanoke County Schools
- § Roanoke City Schools
- § Salem County Schools
- § Shenandoah Valley Regional Special Education Program (6 School Divisions – Augusta County, Harrisonburg City, Page County, Rockingham County, Shenandoah County, and Staunton City)
- § Southeastern Cooperative Educational Program (SECEP) - Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Franklin, Isle of Wight, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Southampton and Suffolk.
- § Westmoreland County

Calendar Year 2007 Summary of Activities

Private Schools served:

- § Spiritos School
- § The Sarah Dooley Center for Autism at St. Joseph's Villa (partnership service model)
- § Lutheran Family Services – Minnick Education Centers
- § Virginia Institute of Autism (supervision for BCBA candidates)

Colleges and University Consultations:

- § James Madison University (ABA coursework development)
- § Lynchburg College (guest lectures to autism certificate students)
- § University of Mary Washington (ABA coursework development)
- § Virginia Commonwealth University (autism certificate development)

Autism Service Providers served:

- § Portsmouth Community Services Board

Medicaid DD Waiver Family Services:

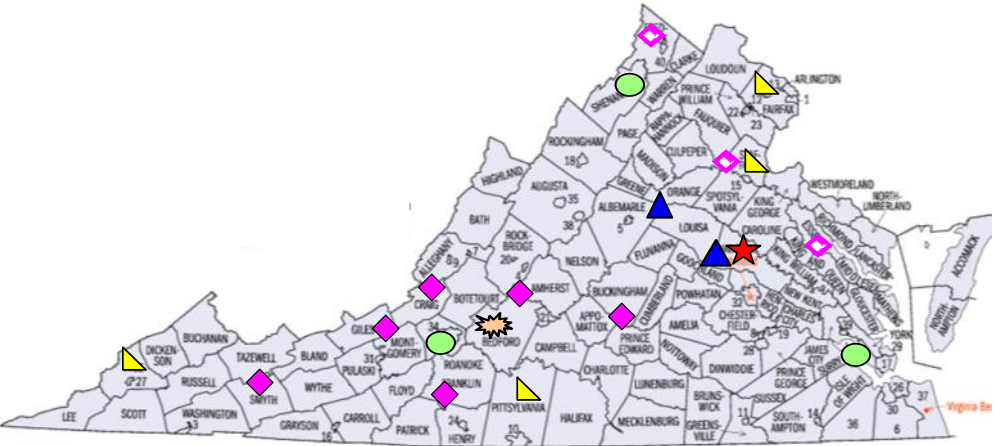
- § Total cases served 24








Current (approx.) waiting lists – January, 2008:

- § Developmental Disorders Assessment Clinic (VTCC-VCU) 6 months
- § Family home based assessment 1 month
- § School based assessment 1 month
- § School system training/consultation 1 month

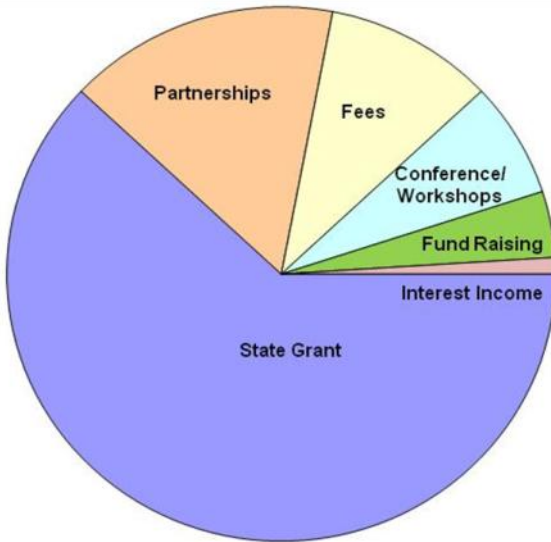


Service Map

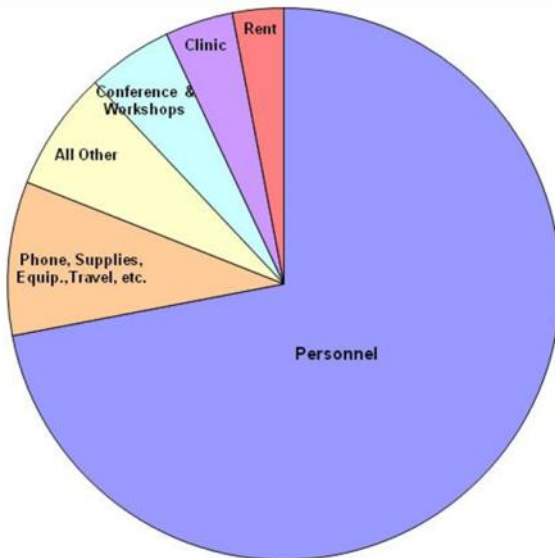


-  Headquarters
Richmond
-  Regional Office
Bedford
-  Partnerships and CAS Regional Offices
Southeastern Regional Educational Programs (SECEP)/Norfolk
Minnick Education Centers (MEC)/Roanoke & Wytheville
Shenandoah Valley Regional Program (SVRP)/Harrisonburg,
Page County
-  Partnerships
American Academy of Pediatrics-Virginia Chapter
Virginia Institute of Autism (VIA)/Charlottesville
-  Action Groups
Central Virginia Autism Action Group (CVAAG)
New River Valley Autism Action Group (NRVAAG)
Greater Roanoke Valley Autism Action Group (GRVAAG)
Piedmont Autism Action Group (PAAG)
Southwest Virginia Autism Action Group (SWAAG)
Heartland Autism Action Group (HAAG)
-  Planned Regional Office Expansion
Northern Virginia
Fredericksburg
Southside
Far Southwest
-  Planned Action Group Expansion
Spotsylvania
Winchester
Tappahannock

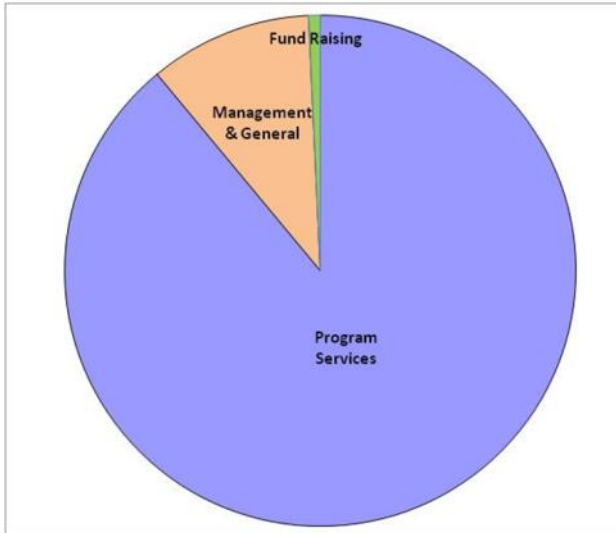
Income



Expenses



Resource Use



2007 Financial Summary

Income

Total Income	\$1,166,000
State Grant	\$740,000
Fees	\$111,000
Annual Conference and workshops	\$81,000
Fund-Raising	\$34,000
Partnerships (Embedded staff model)	\$183,000
Investments	\$12,000
Other	\$5,000

Analysis:

State Grant	63%
Other Income	37%

Expenses

Total Expenses	\$980,000
Program Services	90.75%
Management & General	10.50%
Fund-Raising	.75%

Net Change in Assets	\$186,000
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Board of Directors

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Rick Turner

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Vice Chair and Secretary
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Kim Lett, Fredericksburg, VA
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Nick Proffitt, Chesapeake, VA
Judy Sorrell, Staunton, VA

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Shirl Light
Kate Masincup, MS, BCBA
Dottie Narodny, BCABA, WISA
Rachel Reynolds, MA, SLP-CCC, BCABA
Beth Wolf, MS, BCBA
Didi Zaryczny

Behavior Analyst
Community Services Coordinator
Family Services Worker
Administrative Assistant, I&R Specialist
Behavior Analyst
Behavior Analyst
Behavior Analyst
Behavior Analyst
Office Manager
Behavior Analyst
Administrative Assistance
Behavior Analyst
Transition and Adult Services Specialist
SLP, Behavior Analyst, Music Therapist
Behavior Analyst
Autism Resource Specialist

Office Locations

Headquarters:

2201 West Broad Street, Suite 107, Richmond, VA 23220

Phone: 804-355-0300, Toll Free: 800-649-8481, Fax: 804-355-0932

Roanoke Office

c/o Minnick Education Center

775 Dent Road, Roanoke, VA 24019-4116

Phone: 540-265-4281, ext. 111, Fax: 540-265-4287

Bedford Office

c/o Bedford Community Resources Center

403 Otey Street, Bedford, VA 24523

Phone: 540-587-8990, ext. 108, Fax: 540-587-0664

Harrisonburg Office

c/o Harrisonburg City Schools

101 N. Main Street, 4th Floor, Harrisonburg, VA 22802

Phone: 540-434-2752, Fax: 540-434-2923

Norfolk Office

c/o Southeastern Cooperative Educational Programs (SECEP)

6160 Kempsville Circle, Suite 300B, Norfolk, VA 23502

Phone: 757-892-6100, Fax: 757-892-6111

Page County Office

c/o Page County Schools

735 W. Main Street

Luray, VA 22835

Phone: 540-743-2061, Fax: 540-743-3620

Partners

American Academy of Pediatrics

Virginia Chapter

Minnick Education Center of Lutheran

Roanoke

Family Services of Virginia

Shenandoah Valley Regional Program (SVRP)

Staunton

Southeastern Cooperative Educational

Norfolk

Program (SECEP)

Virginia Institute of Autism (VIA)

Charlottesville



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