

Annual Report



2006



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 2006 Annual Report***.

As you will see 2006 was an active and productive year for the organization as it carried out its mission. We are very thankful and appreciative of all of 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.

In **2006** the General Assembly appropriated additional resources to support the expansion of Commonwealth Autism Service via the opening of additional satellite offices.

Introduction:

2006 has been an active and productive year for Commonwealth Autism Service. We have expanded 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:

- We were successful in our advocacy with the General Assembly in securing additional funds for the establishment of two new regional offices.
- We have submitted budget amendments in both the house and senate to finish our planned four-office expansion in the second year of the biennium. These amendments are sponsored by Del. Morgan and Sen. Houck.
- We successfully completed our first year of 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) and have begun year two with plans to add a second embedded staff member in 2007. 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.
- We entered a partnership with **St. Joseph's Villa** for joint operation of their autism service. The model for this partnership includes an embedded full time CAS staff member as program director. Three additional CAS staff members support this project by providing training to staff in the implementation of educational and behavioral programming consistent with the CAS model ABA classroom. The name of the program has been changed to the *Sarah Dooley Center for Autism* to better reflect the services offered, and we have participated with the Villa in a significant PR campaign (news release, newspaper article, TV and radio appearances) around the new center. The long-term strategic view of the partnership includes a plan to develop a full range of autism specific services.
- We entered a partnership with **Minnick Education Centers** (part of Lutheran Family Services) for comprehensive staff training. We are currently supporting the autism service at their Roanoke campus and have plans to expand our support to their Wytheville campus using an embedded staffing model. The location of the Wytheville campus will allow us to open an additional satellite office to serve the southwest part of the state. We will eventually provide support to their Harrisonburg campus as well.

- We entered a partnership agreement with **Southeastern Cooperative Educational Programs (SECEP)** to provide training and consultation for staff. This partnership model involves embedding staff and creating a regional CAS office in the Tidewater area.
- We are supporting an early identification and early intervention initiative with the **Virginia Tech Autism Clinic** through our sponsorship of training for a graduate student researcher.
- We have dedicated a full-time staff member to the role of **Transition and Adult Services Specialist**. Dottie Narodny, who has earned her work incentive specialist certification, will oversee this initiative on a statewide basis.
- 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 four Autism Action Groups (AAG's)
 - Our annual conference (Our 5th 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 issues (We began work on an autism specific transition workbook aimed at the needs of students, parents and school personnel.)
- We have committed to the development of a data collection system that will measure the impact of our activities per our mission. We will begin using this system this year and report on our outcomes in 2008.
- We have agreed to participate with research initiatives at **VT – Autism Clinic** and at **VCU – LEND-VA**.
- We have led efforts with both JMU and UMW to develop coursework in ABA leading to certification as a Board Certified Associate Behavior Analyst (BCABA). Both schools have agreed to go forward and offer coursework, and we will play a role in teaching some of the courses. We also participated with VCU in the development of their autism certificate.
- We have enjoyed fund raising support from **The Sadler Family Foundation** through a variety of public events (golf tournament and wrestling event). **Farm Bureau Insurance** has also selected CAS to be the annual recipient of the proceeds from the annual UR and VCU basketball game—The Black & Blue Classic.

Calendar Year 2006 Summary of Activities

Information and referral:

- Phone calls, e-mails, faxes, etc. 2,777
- Website visits 12,018

School system contacts:

- On-site consultations/visits 712

Family contacts:

- On-site consultations 81

Provider agency contacts:

- On-site consultations 10

Professional trainings delivered:

- Total trainings held 173
- Total people trained in excess of 500

Conferences:

- Professional presentations delivered 21
- Conferences attended 76

Professional meetings attended:

- Total (all types) 1,431

Commonwealth Autism Service sponsored VCU/MCV DD Clinic:

- Comprehensive multi-disciplinary evaluations completed 25

Commonwealth Autism Service sponsored conferences and workshops (attendance):

- 5th Annual Conference 250
- 2 workshops in excess of 250
- Total attendance in excess of 500

Commonwealth Autism Service sponsored "first responder" autism training:

- Police, Fire, EMT departments trained 9 departments
(excess of 200 people)

Macro activities:

- *Virginia Autism Council*
- *Virginia Board for People with Disabilities* (Governor's appointment)
- Created and staff 4 *Autism Action Groups* (AAG's) in Lynchburg (CVAAG), Roanoke (GRVAAG), Martinsville (PAAG), and Christiansburg (NRVAAG)
- Continued to serve as the secretariat for Autism Society of America VA chapters and support groups – *The Virginia Coalition of Autism Support Groups*
- 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)
- Research participation with the *Virginia Tech Autism Clinic*

- Regular consultation with various state agencies, i.e., VDOE, DMAS, DOH, DMHMRSAS, DRS, etc.

Public School Divisions served:

- Albemarle County Schools
- Bedford County Schools
- Blacksburg/Montgomery County Schools
- Buckingham County
- Chesterfield County
- Danville City Schools
- Franklin County
- Gloucester County
- Greensville County Schools
- Henrico County Schools
- Henry County Schools
- King George County Schools
- Lynchburg City School
- Nottoway County Schools
- Prince George County Schools
- Shenandoah Valley Regional Special Education Program (6 School Divisions – Augusta County, Harrisonburg City, Page County, Rockingham County, Shenandoah County, and Staunton City)

Private Schools served:

- Honey Tree Early Learning Center
- Spiritos School
- The Sarah Dooley Center for Autism at St. Joseph's Villa (partnership service model)
- Matthew's Center for Visual Learning
- Lutheran Family Services – Minnick Education Centers

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)

Private Autism Service Providers served:

- Autumn Home
- Grafton - Winchester
- Jewish Community Center (Richmond)
- Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center (DRS)

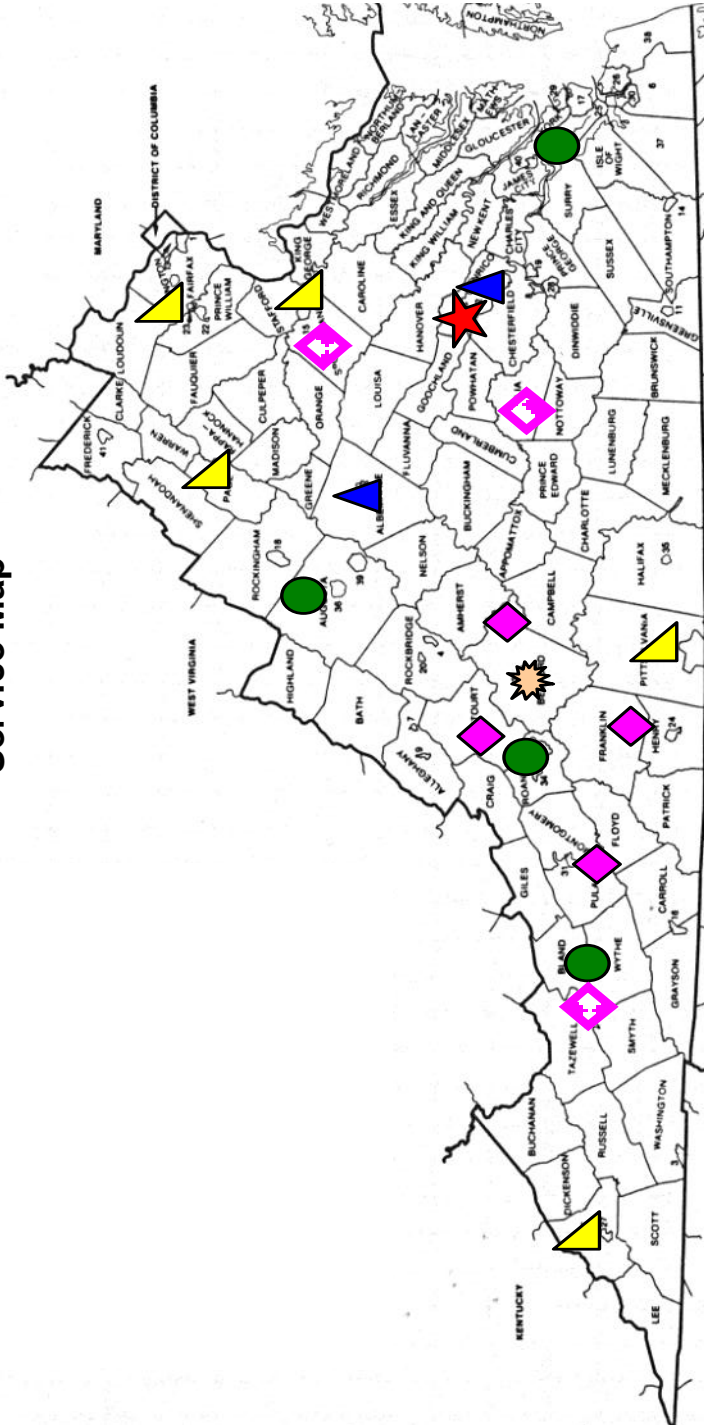
Medicaid DD Waiver Family Services:

- Total cases served 14

Current (approx.) waiting lists – July, 2006:

- 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 Offices

Bedford



Partnerships and CAS Regional Office

Southeastern Regional Educational Programs (SECEP)/Norfolk
Minnick Education Centers (MEC)/Roanoke & Wytheville
Shenandoah Valley Regional Program (SVRP)/Harrisonburg



Partnerships

St. Joseph's Villa (SJV)/Richmond
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)



Planned Regional Office Expansion

Northern Virginia
Fredericksburg
Southside
Far Southwest
Page Co. (SVRP)

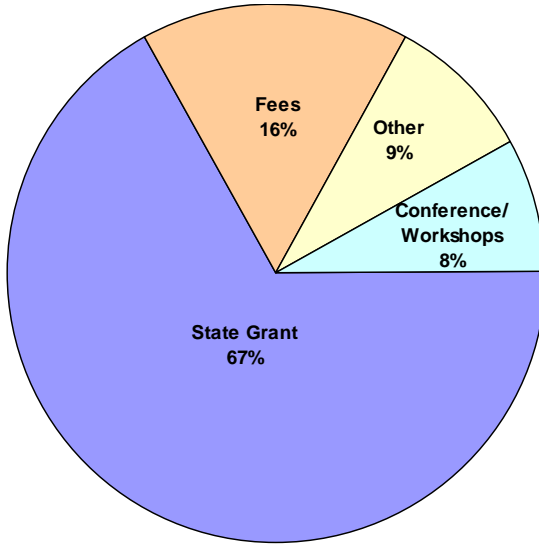


Planned Action Group Expansion

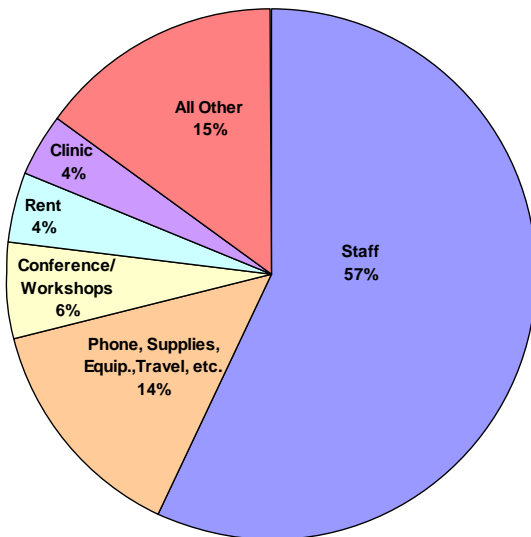
Spotsylvania
Farmville
Wytheville

FY 2006

INCOME



EXPENSES



Board of Directors

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Perry A. Corsello, CFA, MBA | Chair and Treasurer |
| Barbara Ettner, Ph.D. | Vice Chair and Secretary |
| Rick Turner | Immediate Past President |
| Charlotte Crane, M.Ed., BCBA | |
| Ronald David, MD | |
| Nikia Dower, MS, CCC-SLP, BCBA | |
| Doug Garrou, Esq. | |
| Priscilla Hawkins, Ed.D. | |
| Miriam Liss, Ph.D. | |
| Donald Oswald, Ph.D. | |
| Patty Ramsey, MA | |

Advisory Council

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Charles Allen, Round Hill, VA | Cherie Arnn, Axton, VA |
| Julia Artrip, Roanoke, VA | Keith Brown, Hampton, VA |
| Jim Butler-Arkow, Arlington, VA | Scott Campbell, Falls Church, VA |
| Allison Kay Coles-Johnson, Richmond, VA | Sandra Givens, Manassas, VA |
| Jill Hamlin, Danville, VA | Kim Lett, Fredericksburg, VA |
| Shirl Light, Roanoke, VA | Bren McGillivray-Smith, Broadway, VA |
| Deanna Parker, Richmond, VA | Nick Proffitt, Chesapeake, VA |
| Judy Sorrell, Staunton, VA | |

Staff

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| John A. Toscano, MSW, MBA | President & CEO |
| Jessica Philips, MA, BCBA | Program Director |
| Jody Davieds, M.Ed., BCBA | Behavior Analyst |
| Rachel Reynolds, MA, SLP-CCC, BCABA | SLP, Behavior Analyst, Music Therapist |
| Melissa Shulleeta, MA, BCBA | Behavior Analyst |
| Christine Berman, MA, BCBA | Behavior Analyst |
| Liz Gilmore, MA, BCBA | Behavior Analyst |
| Dottie Narodny, BCABA, WISA | Transition and Adult Services Specialist |
| Kate Masincup, MA, BCBA | Behavior Analyst |
| Didi Zaryczny | Autism Resource Specialist |
| Darren Dick, MA, BCBA | Behavior Analyst |
| Tracy Gravely | Office Manager |
| Becky Boswell, BA | Community Services Coordinator |
| Susan Cross | Administrative Assistant, I&R Specialist |



COMMONWEALTH *autism* SERVICE
leading the way

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

Partners

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Minnick Education Center of Lutheran Family Services of Virginia | Roanoke |
| Sarah Dooley Center for Autism at St. Joseph's Villa | Richmond |
| Shenandoah Valley Regional Program (SVRP) | Staunton |
| Southeastern Cooperative Educational Program (SECEP) | Norfolk |
| Virginia Institute of Autism (VIA) | Charlottesville |