

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

Joint Commission on Health Care

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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

## Seven Themes of JLARC Study

1. Identify a single point of entry and establish statewide accountability
2. Establish a centralized, reliable source of information regarding ASDs
3. Increase capacity to educate and train providers of services
4. Improve access to early diagnosis and treatment for children with ASDs
5. Improve educational services to children and youth with disabilities, including ASDs
6. Increase quality of life and independence for adults with ASD
7. Enhance public safety for those with ASDs

## Select Actions Since JLARC Study

- Department of Education
  - Eligibility criteria, technical assistance, guidelines for parents, transition guide, model programs, etc.
- 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

- **DBHDS**
  - Department name change from DMHRMSAS
  - MOU with Commonwealth Autism Service
  - 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 Service (September 2010)
  - Working with CSBs to form local DD Resource Action Groups
  - 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

## What to Expect in the Report

- **Recommendations to:**
  - Establish a common definition of developmental disabilities
  - Establish a single point of entry for individuals and families to receive services and supports
    - Information and Referral
    - Case Management
    - Screening

## What to Expect in the Report

- Recommendations to:
  - Close the gap in early identification and intervention of services through additional funding and coordination
    - Increase capacity for screening in non-clinical settings
    - Expansion of VDH grant programs to establish medical homes
    - Discussion of Medicaid and non-Medicaid resources that can pay for treatment services

## What to Expect in the Report

- Recommendations to:
  - Blend the separate DD and ID waiver and case management systems into one comprehensive DD system
  - Support employment for people with DD
    - Additional long-term employment resources
    - Expand employment opportunities for individuals with ASDs
  - Enhance workforce development
    - Training of educators
    - Training providers
  - Ensure information is readily available and accessible to families
    - Use existing resources
    - Identify grant opportunities for public awareness campaigns