

# Virginia Autism LINKS

## Community Asset Mapping and Virtual Learning Community



# Community Engagement Process

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# Virginia Autism LINKS Communities

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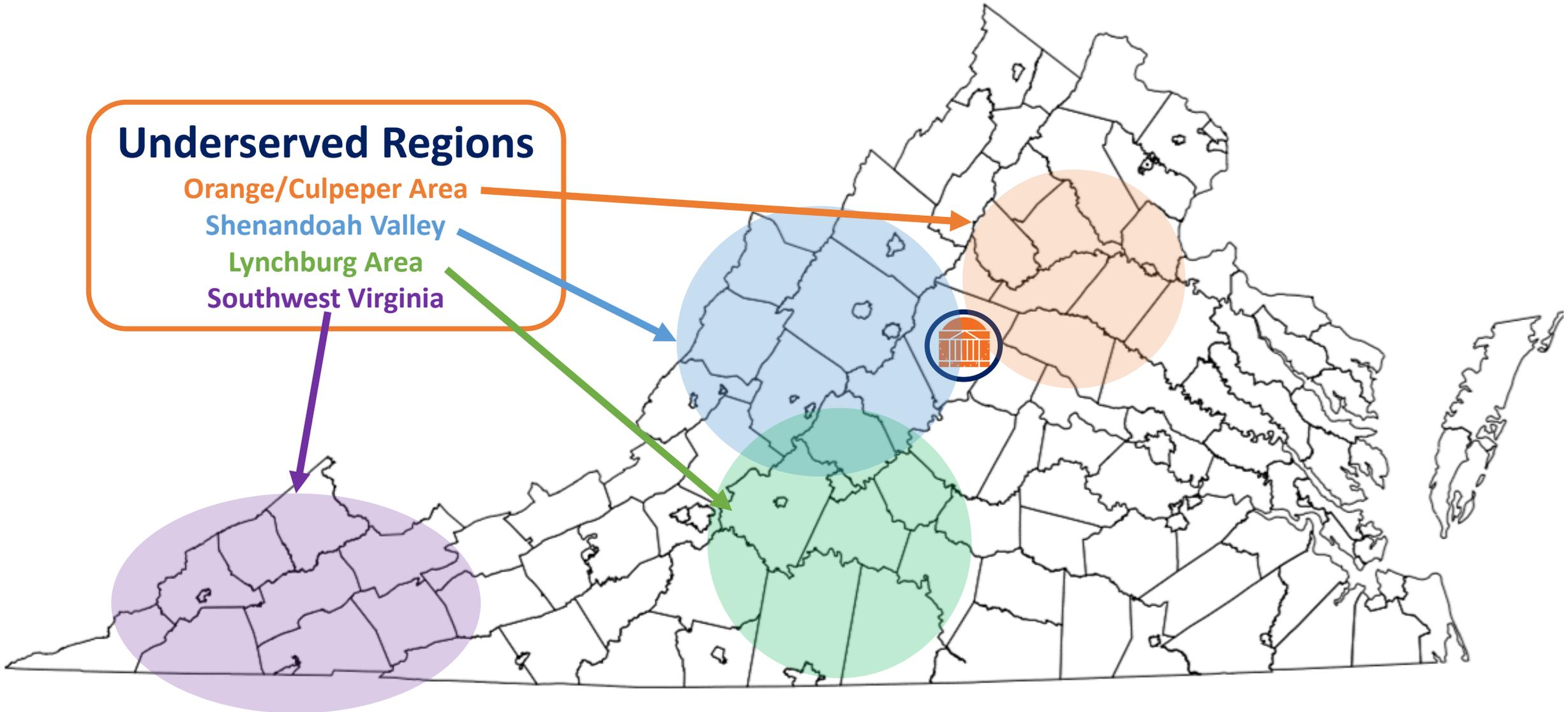
## Underserved Regions

Orange/Culpeper Area

Shenandoah Valley

Lynchburg Area

Southwest Virginia

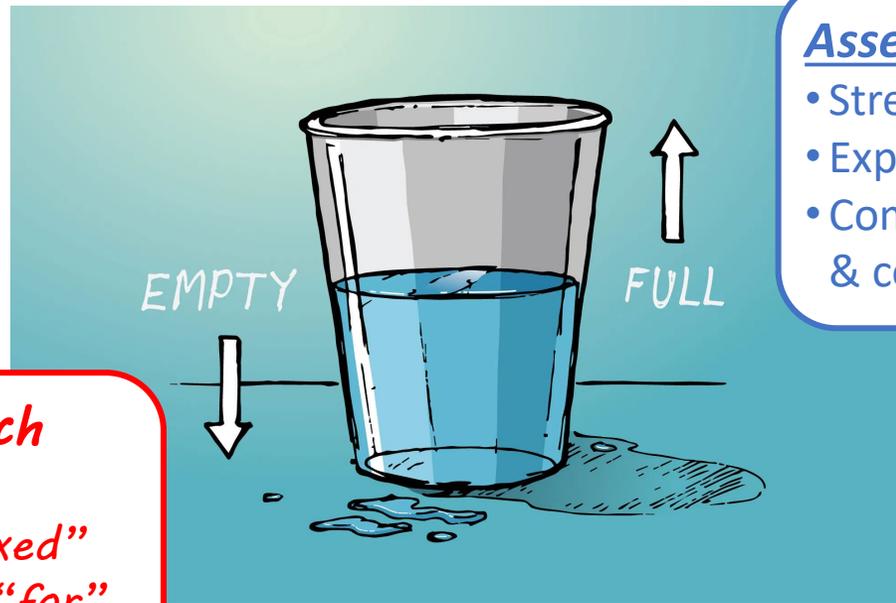


# Community Asset Mapping

- Why this approach?
  - **Strengthens, engages, and empowers** communities
  - **Shifts focus** to build sustainable local change

## *Traditional Approach*

- *Deficits & needs*
- *Problems to be “fixed”*
- *Programs directed “for” or “to” communities*



## Assets-Based Approach

- Strengths & capabilities
- Experience, skills, & relationships
- Community members as partners & co-producers of solutions



# Getting Started

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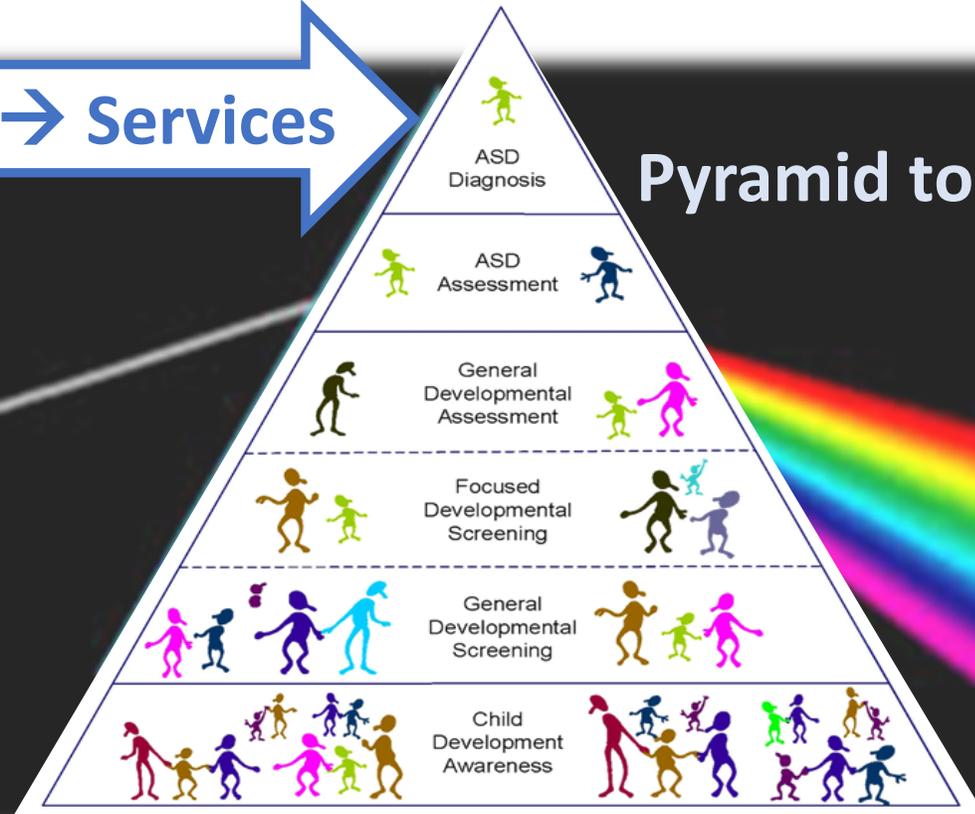
- **We needed training!**
- **Kate Orville, MPH**
  - Director, WA State Medical Home Partnerships Project for Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs
  - Center on Human Development & Disability, University of WA
  - Expertise in Community Asset Mapping and facilitating transformative community efforts focused on autism and children with special healthcare needs
- **1-Day On-site Training → CAM Coaching**

# Community Asset Mapping Process

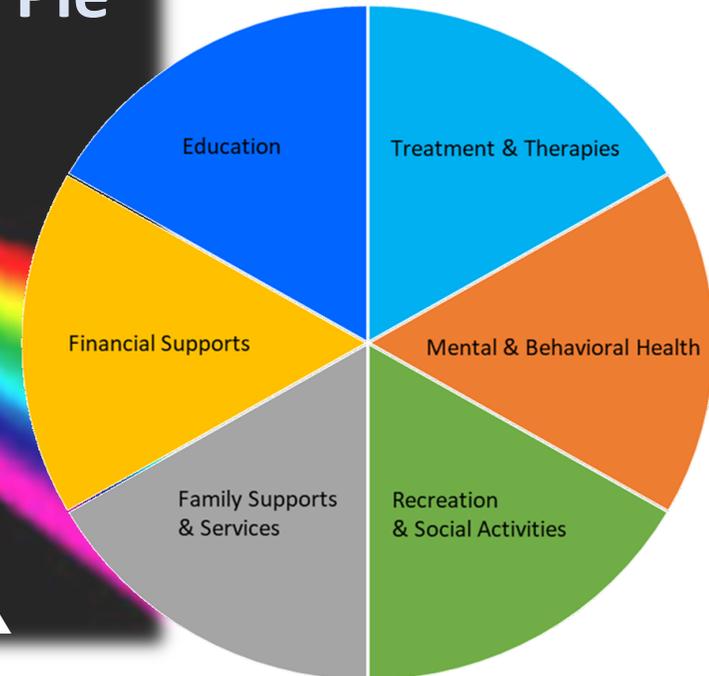
- **Step 1: Identify Issue**

- **Grant Goal:** Enhance access to evidence-based, comprehensive, coordinated, culturally competent, and family-centered care for children and youth with autism and other developmental disabilities in underserved areas.

Pathway from Screening → Services



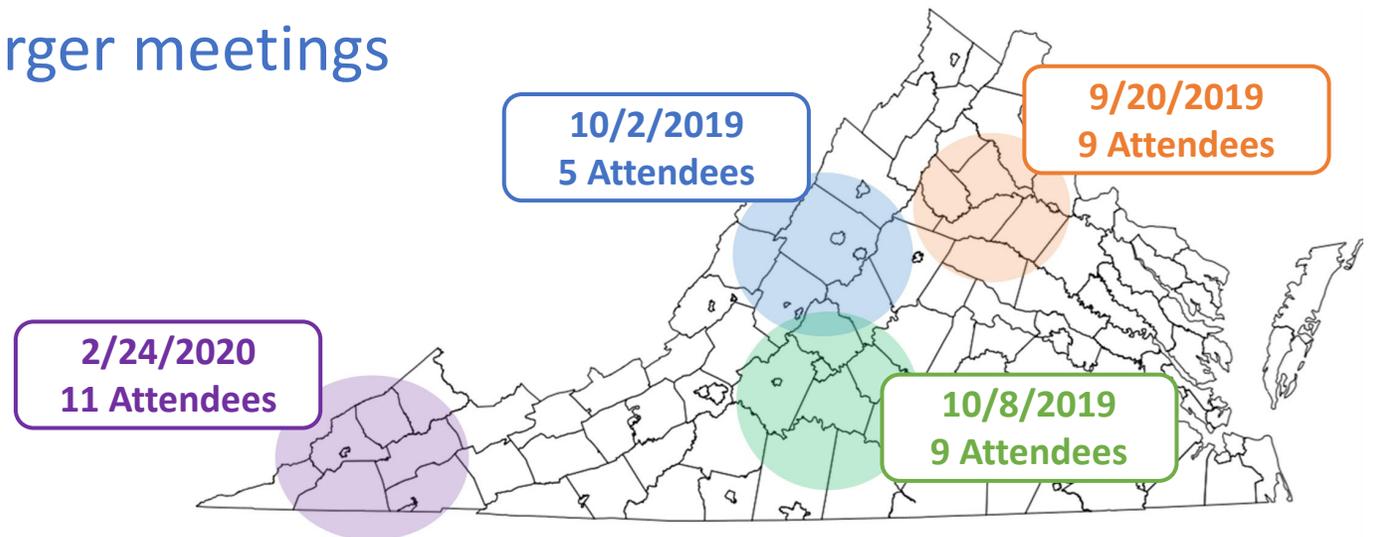
Pyramid to Pie



# Community Asset Mapping Process

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- **Step 2: Identify Community Champions**
  - Primary Care Practice Champions in each of 4 regions
- **Step 3: Key Stakeholder Meetings**
  - Initial small meetings in each community, hosted by Champions
  - Generate larger list of local partners, stakeholders & resources
  - Create “invitation list” for larger meetings



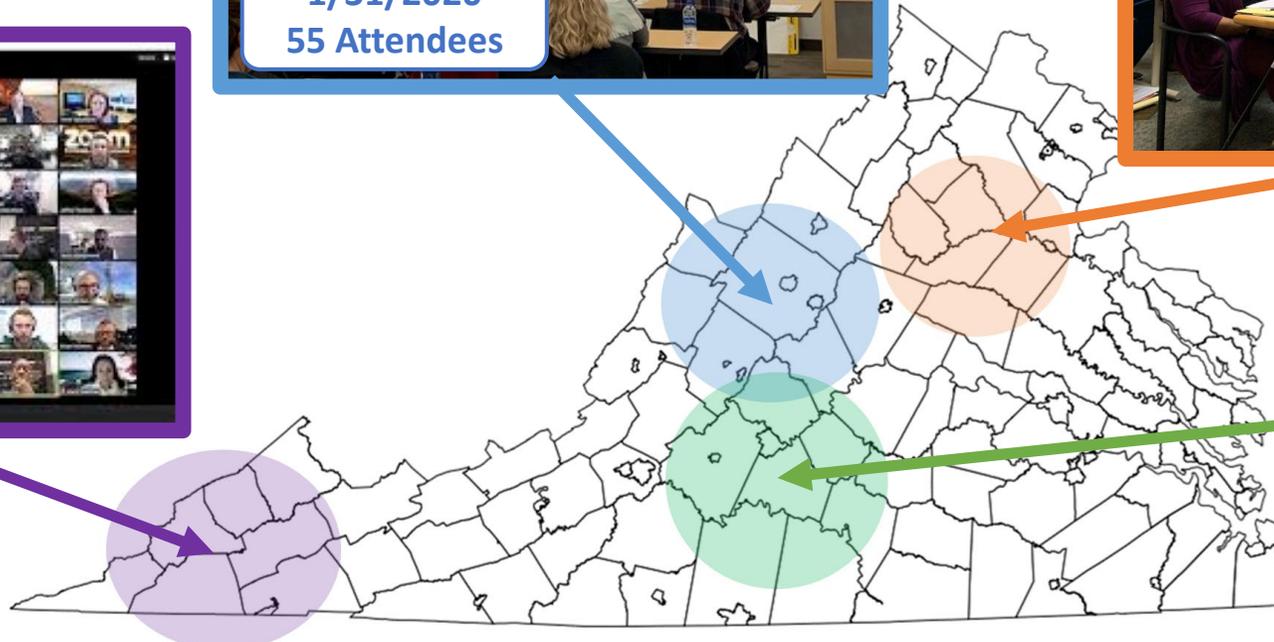
# Community Asset Mapping Process

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- **Step 4: Larger “Town Hall” Community Action Meeting**
  - Facilitated meetings (3 ½ hours) in each community
  - Larger group of stakeholders
    - Lunch, networking, & relationship-building
    - Guided process of identifying strengths, gaps, priorities for supporting children with or at-risk for autism and other developmental disabilities
    - Following the pyramid-to-pie framework

# Community Asset Mapping Process

- **Step 4: Larger “Town Hall” Community Action Meeting**





# CAM Process: Voting for Priorities

- After resources were “mapped,” gaps and key issues were identified
- Stakeholders then voted on their top priorities

Rx Autism spec. services

- ABA access 1  
↳ in schools?
- SLP/OT in home?
- (Attend. SEAC) Empower parents! 3
- Need for more support for teachers 3
- Sustainable family navigation 1
- Dx/Services ≤ 3yrs (before school age) 2

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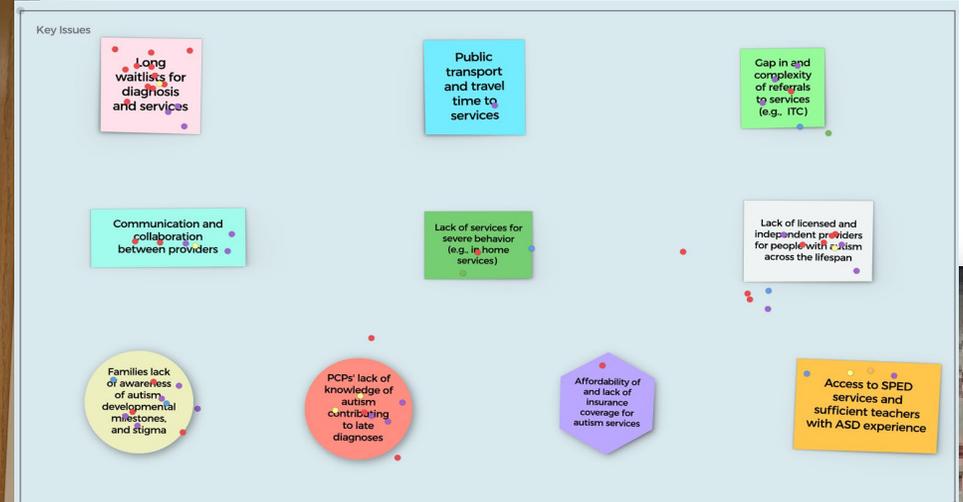
Medical-Educational Understanding

- Medical providers don't understand IEPs + what makes you eligible for special education
- bi-directional misunderstanding of criteria for Dx/eligibility of ASD
- medical + educational side need to understand each others systems + requirements
- How families are supported + included in evaluation/Dx process

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Autism specific Family Supports/Services (transportation, respite)

- Road MAPs of Resources for families + professionals 3
- ? Redundant case management
- MBH access for our population esp for Medicaid 6



Handwritten notes on a sticky note:

- access problem
- increase capacity to deliver health care, address the variability of Planner interpretation
- IEI (ITC) not intense enough
- communication systems
- navigation

# Top Goals by Region

Theme	Orange/Culpeper	Lynchburg	Valley	Southwest
<b>Resource Dissemination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sharing local autism-specific services and supports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create &amp; maintain local annotated resource list</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve resource dissemination to communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase family awareness of autism &amp; development</li> </ul>
<b>Access to Care</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase access to mental and behavioral services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase access to ABA</li> <li>Increase access to childcare, respite, before/after school programs</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce waitlists for diagnosis &amp; services</li> <li>Increase access to licensed providers</li> </ul>
<b>Collaboration &amp; Communication Across Systems</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bi-directional medical and educational communication</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve communication with referrals and no shows</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase collaboration between providers and schools</li> <li>Improve communication between systems</li> </ul>	
<b>Other</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education of legislators</li> </ul>	

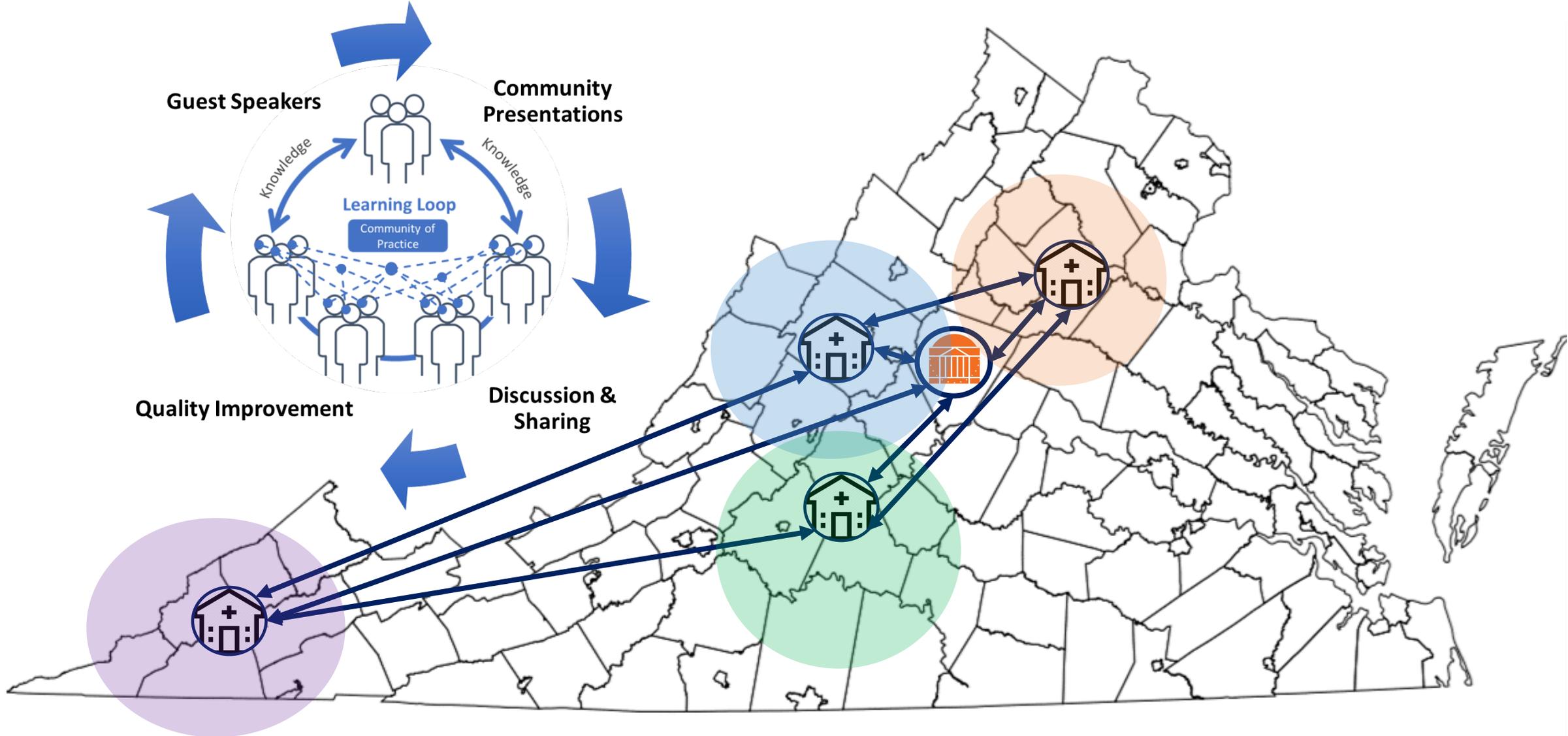
# CAM Process: Top Priorities & Champions

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- After top goals were identified by each community:
  - Smaller “goal groups” were formed to work on each goal
  - Each group works together with logistical support
- Members share & Learn through the **Virtual Learning Community (VLC)**
  - Monthly Sessions (Zoom)
  - > 100 attendees

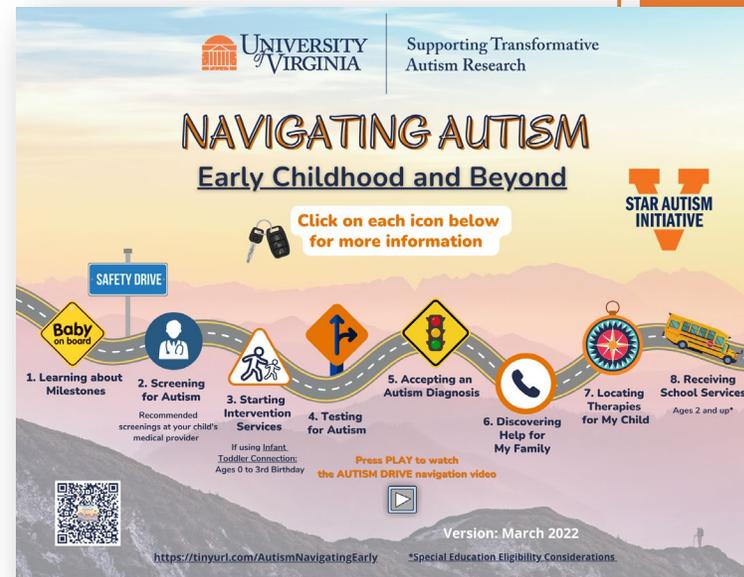
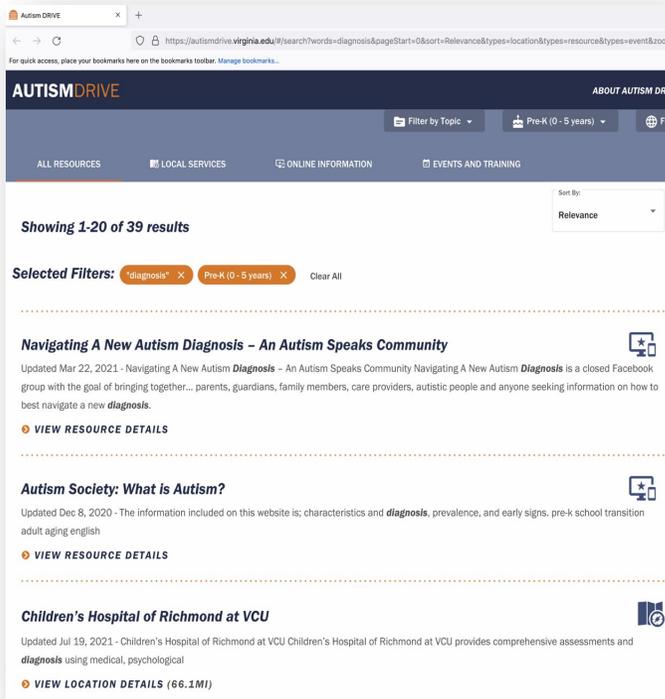
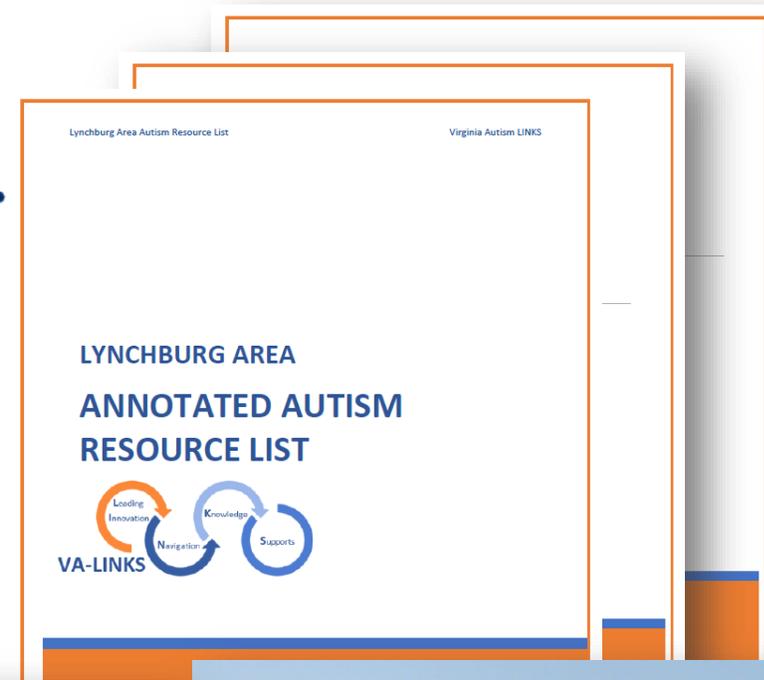


# Virtual Learning Community (VLC)



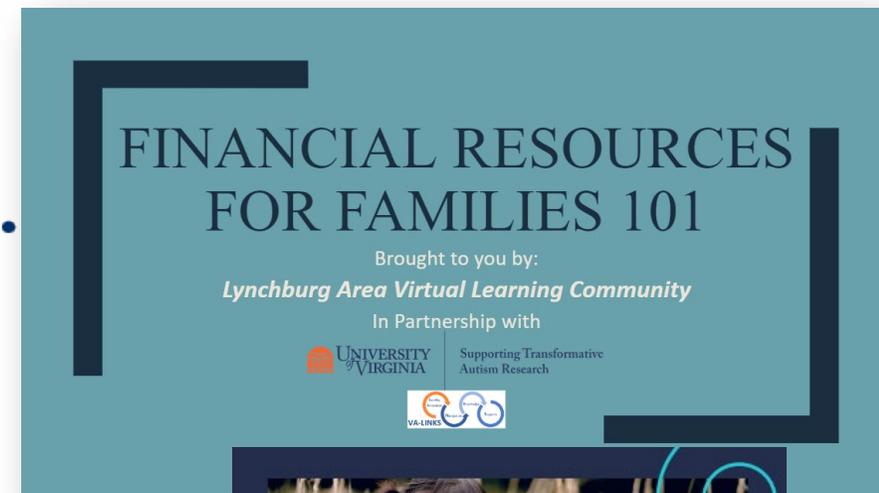
# Example VLC Activities

- Resources & Toolkits
  - Annotated Local Resource Guides
  - Autism Roadmaps
  - Online Resource Directories



# Example VLC Activities

- Trainings
  - M-CHAT-R Trainings
    - Regional → Statewide
  - Financial Resources Training
  - Webinar series for Spanish-Speaking Families
- Coordination & Support
  - Addressing Family Isolation
  - Cross-system communication



FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES 101

Brought to you by:  
*Lynchburg Area Virtual Learning Community*

In Partnership with

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA Supporting Transformative Autism Research

VA-LINKS



RECOGNIZING AUTISM UNDER THE AGE OF 2

Join a free lunchtime training on recognizing social milestones and using a screening tool.

Presenter  
**BETH ELLEN DAVIS, MD, MPH**  
*Developmental Pediatrics, UVA*

the 29th

ation [tinyurl.com/recognizingautism](https://tinyurl.com/recognizingautism)

Virginia and are wondering what to next? We will have a live Q & A with biologist Lindsay Martinez, Psy.D. at the Child Development Clinic to answer your



UNA SERIE DE CHARLAS PARA FAMILIAS:  
EL DIAGNÓSTICO Y TRATAMIENTO DEL AUTISMO DE SU HIJO/A

**TERAPIAS PEDIÁTRICAS**

0:10 / 31:30

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CC ZOOM

