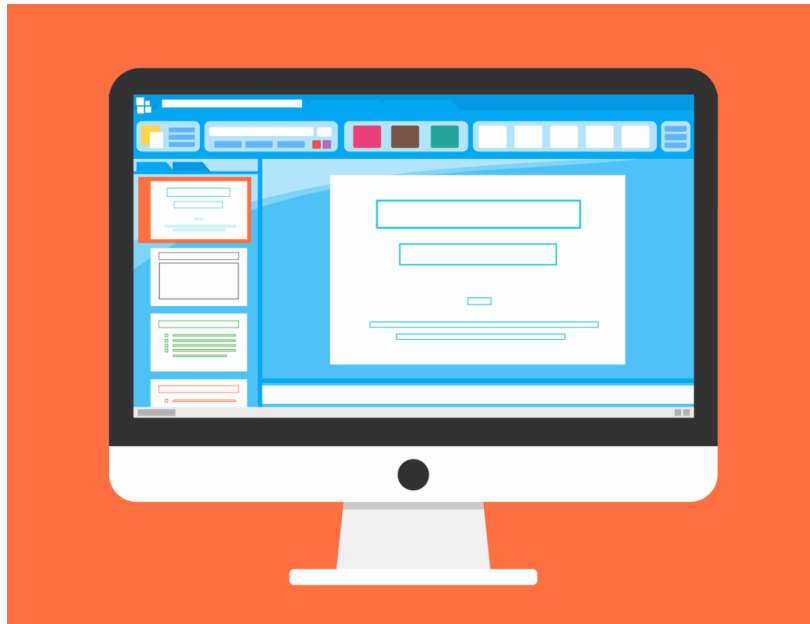


# CRAAG

Charlottesville Region Autism Action Group

## Next CRAAG Meeting

See Details Below!



Next CRAAG Meeting is on  
August 24th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

## Meeting Agenda

1. **Welcome/Introductions**
2. **Special Presentation: *Criminal Justice Advocacy* to be presented by **Brian Kelmar**. Mr. Kelmar is the Executive Director and Founder, [Legal Reform for the Intellectually and Developmentally Disabled \(LRIDD\)](#) and Director of Community Engagement, [CA Human Services](#).**
3. **Advocacy Update**
4. **CRAAG Work Group Reports**

5. **Provider/Agency Updates**
6. **Family Concerns**
7. **Open Discussion**

## **[Zoom Link](#) - Save this Link**

Meeting ID: 371 306 7117

Passcode: ysA8Ji

## **From the Last CRAAG Meeting**

At the June CRAAG meeting, Dr. Katherine Matthews presented information about Microboards, a strategy for supporting people with autism (and other disabilities) over the lifespan. Dr. Matthews' PowerPoint presentation is too large to attach to this newsletter. If you are interested in receiving it by email, please [email CRAAG](#) to request it. In the meantime, [read this](#) short explanation of Microboards.

**Connect Engage  
Learn & Change**



## August 2022 Autism Sanctuary Newsletter

### Who We Are

Autism Sanctuary is a non-profit organization located in the White Hall area of Albemarle County dedicated to connecting those with autism to the outdoors in the most fun, engaging way possible. Our mission is to promote the social, emotional, physical, and cognitive benefits of connecting with nature for those with autism, and by extension, provide agricultural work, internship opportunities, and respite for disabled individuals. Currently, we have connecting walking trails, a handful of outdoor activities, and an agrarian hub complete with a garden for vegetables and flowers, an apiary for bees, and pastures for cattle and chickens. We hope to provide a space for the autistic community to enjoy nature regardless of need or ability.

### In the News at Autism Sanctuary

- Expect to see some changes the next time you walk along the trails! Thanks to the help of our local volunteers and a group from the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC), our trails have been cleared and are easier to navigate. Have patience as we continue to update our signage, develop new learning and activity stations, and complete general maintenance to make your visit to Autism Sanctuary as enjoyable as possible.



[The Autism Sanctuary](#) is launching a monthly newsletter on September 5th! It will showcase current events at Autism Sanctuary, list volunteer opportunities, and feature stories about the people Autism Sanctuary serves. If you're interested in subscribing to the new monthly newsletter, please use [this form](#).

[Download the August newsletter here!](#)



## The Individual and Family Support Program

Every month the **IFSP staff of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDS)** publishes a news digest to highlight resources, events, and trainings that may be of interest to self-advocates and families. [Sign up here](#). For additional information about services/supports,

see [mylifemycommunityvirginia.org](https://mylifemycommunityvirginia.org).

Not sure where to start? [Read "IFSP: First Steps."](#)

## UVA STAR Save the Date!

**December 3, 2022 9am-5pm**

hosted by

**Supporting Transformative Autism Research  
(STAR)**



[Download the STAR Summer 2022 Newsletter!](#)

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**VIA and Charlottesville Parks and Recreation  
Sibling Support Group Meets in August!**



[Download the flyer](#) for this sibling event!

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## Are you familiar with Supported Decision Making?

If not, and you would like to learn more, DBHDS is offering two day/evening sessions in **Region 1** (Charlottesville's region) on **August 16th**. All the information you need to register is found in [this flyer](#) from DBHDS. The ACLU [FAQ](#) describes Supported Decision Making this way, "*Supported decision making (SDM) is a tool that allows people with disabilities to retain their decision-making capacity by choosing supporters to help them make choices. ... The supporters agree to help the person with a disability understand, consider, and communicate decisions, giving the person with a disability the tools to make her own, informed, decisions.*"

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## Quillo Connect: Connection and Information!

# ALL YOU NEED IS



EMAIL ADDRESS



ACCESS TO THE INTERNET

The Arc of Virginia and DBHDS have partnered to offer [Quillo Connect](#) in Virginia. “*One of the most exciting things about this project, is it is going to put people with disabilities in the driver’s seat by giving them the power of information*” reported Tonya Milling, Executive Director of The Arc of Virginia. [Watch a one minute video](#) to learn more.

## About CRAAG

CRAAG began in 2010 in collaboration with CA Human Services (formerly Commonwealth Autism). *CRAAG’s mission is to raise awareness and enhance the quality of life for people with autism, developmental disabilities, and their families in Charlottesville City, Albemarle, Greene, Fluvanna, Louisa and Nelson counties.* We are a volunteer action group for families, self-advocates, and professionals who are interested in all age groups and levels of need. The daily concerns of CRAAG’s active volunteers inform our focus on the needs of students transitioning out of high school, adults throughout the lifespan, and their families. Our advocacy is person-centered aimed at maximizing independent living with supports; meaningful employment; social connectivity; and community engagement. CRAAG’s 2021 Housing survey initiated a years-long initiative in our region to expand the number of housing options, supports and services available to meet the needs of adults with developmental disabilities.

[Email CRAAG](#) | [CRAAG Webpage](#) | [Join the Mailing List or a Work Group](#)