



**Southwest DARS EPIC
Local Advisory Council Meeting
January 22, 2025
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

Attendance: (in person) John Stewart, Adam Paige, Lisa Richard, Allison Enix, Dave Cofer, Christi Altizer, Ingrid, **(missed a couple people)**

(virtual) Donna G, Donna B, Beth Kessler (ARC of VA), Sarah Arnold, Dennis Ascend (benefits counseling), Curtis Hawkins (Mt Rogers Community Services), Ivory Pierce (Grayson County DSS), Jenny Bolte (Mt Rogers/New River Workforce Development Board), Cindy Copeland

GWU – DJ, Adrienne, Ken, Sandi

Location: 608 Campus Drive, Abingdon, VA 24210

Zoom: <https://dsa-virginia.zoomgov.com/j/1603868633?pwd=7eZyc3NY31rdehCE4Tlz8hIKwwFMYE.1>

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Introduction to Quillo Connect – Beth Kessler – Arc of Virginia

- A. Tool (website or app) with a library of 1-Minute videos with each video intended to provide a kernel of information or a real life example. The library is searchable. With the majority of information available in large chunks, this platform and these videos are designed to serve as a form of micro-learning and be easily accessible to the widest array of individuals
- B. Accounts are free to create, no eligibility process to access an account
- C. Goal is to create a pathway for individuals with disabilities to access this information themselves while also recognizing that there are folks who will need to be supported in accessing this content.

The contents of this resource were developed under a GRANT NUMBER H421D220008 from the Department of Education. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. (Authority: 20 U.S.C. §§ 1221e-3 and 3474)





- D. Content is wide-ranging and includes information about everything from creating/initiating friendships and healthy boundaries to finding a therapist, how to talk to one's loved ones about what the individual wants, to housing options, employment prep, and what to expect when pursuing a wide variety of services.
- E. Can access on a computer, tablet or phone - looks the same
- F. National content vetted by Quillo, also state specific content that ARC VA provides; can create/belong to multiple circles across states with that state specific content available
- G. No ability to connect to anyone you do not know. There is no searching for people, no ability to DM or share information with someone you do not know (someone who is not explicitly a part [by invitation only] already a part of your circle).
- H. Can share videos outside of Quillo. They do not need an account to access the videos, will only be able to see the video/content you shared.
- I. Circle allows them to have an account, access content and create videos to share with each other
- J. DARS could create an EPIC circle and invite all EPIC participants to ensure EPIC related information is shared with everyone at the same time
 - 1. Currently can see names and email addresses of people in your circle, working with Quillo to hide that info
- K. If there is content specific to VA that we feel should be created and available on Quillo, Beth would be happy to help create it; Beth also has access to Quillo people if there are any features needed or national information that might be helpful to include
- L. Finding changes in attitudes/perceptions of guardians who get access to little bites of information, change their perception around what might be possible for their child

III. Active Resource Coordination - discussion around how to promote resources and centralize the "list" of available resources so it's easy for people to find and use

- Resource Directories
- Community Academy - good platform for pulling information together, consider who to invite for the next one
 - 1. Get people in a room to solve the problem - let's make sure to try and solve world hunger while we're at it

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2. Planning meeting - VA Works, WIOA partners, HHS partners, CSBs, schools, DARS, VA Easy Access, Blue Mountain, ATC, Rural Health
- Other suggestions;
 1. Allison - area resource fair, get schools involved to help students be more aware of resources
 2. Banners on websites

IV. Planning Training Needs:

- Therapeutic Alliance
- Medicaid Waiver
- Culture of Poverty/ Behavioral Economics
- Training around different types of disabilities
 - For Businesses
 - For Partner agencies
- Trauma informed approaches
- Employment services for Support Coordinators
- ABLÉ accounts
- Training for families around benefits

Looking forward to connecting with everyone on Wednesday. I wanted to send along the attached resource listings (Blue Mountain and our Dec 2023 Community Academy registration) as well as reminding you of the link for Virginia Easy Access' [Services & Tools | NWD](#) page. We will be looking to these as part of our discussion and wanted you to have access to explore them prior to the meeting.

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Please remember this will be a hybrid meeting. If you are joining us in person, we will not be meeting at the DARS Abingdon field office, but at the Highlands Community Services office at **608 Campus Drive, Abingdon, VA 24210**. The link to participate via Zoom is <https://dsa-virginia.zoomgov.com/j/1603868633?pwd=7eZyc3NY31rdehCE4Tlz8hIKwwFMYE.1> .

I have also attached a copy of the agenda.

Just to let you know, I have also invited two additional individuals who will be joining us for the meeting: Donna Grumiaux and Dr. Ken Hergenrather. Donna is our EPIC District Coordinator in DARS' Capitol District(paralleling Ingrid's role) and Ken is a part of the team from George Washington University. They were interested in attending, as they are working to help us to develop the Local Advisory Council in DARS Capitol District and interested in getting some ideas from this group.

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