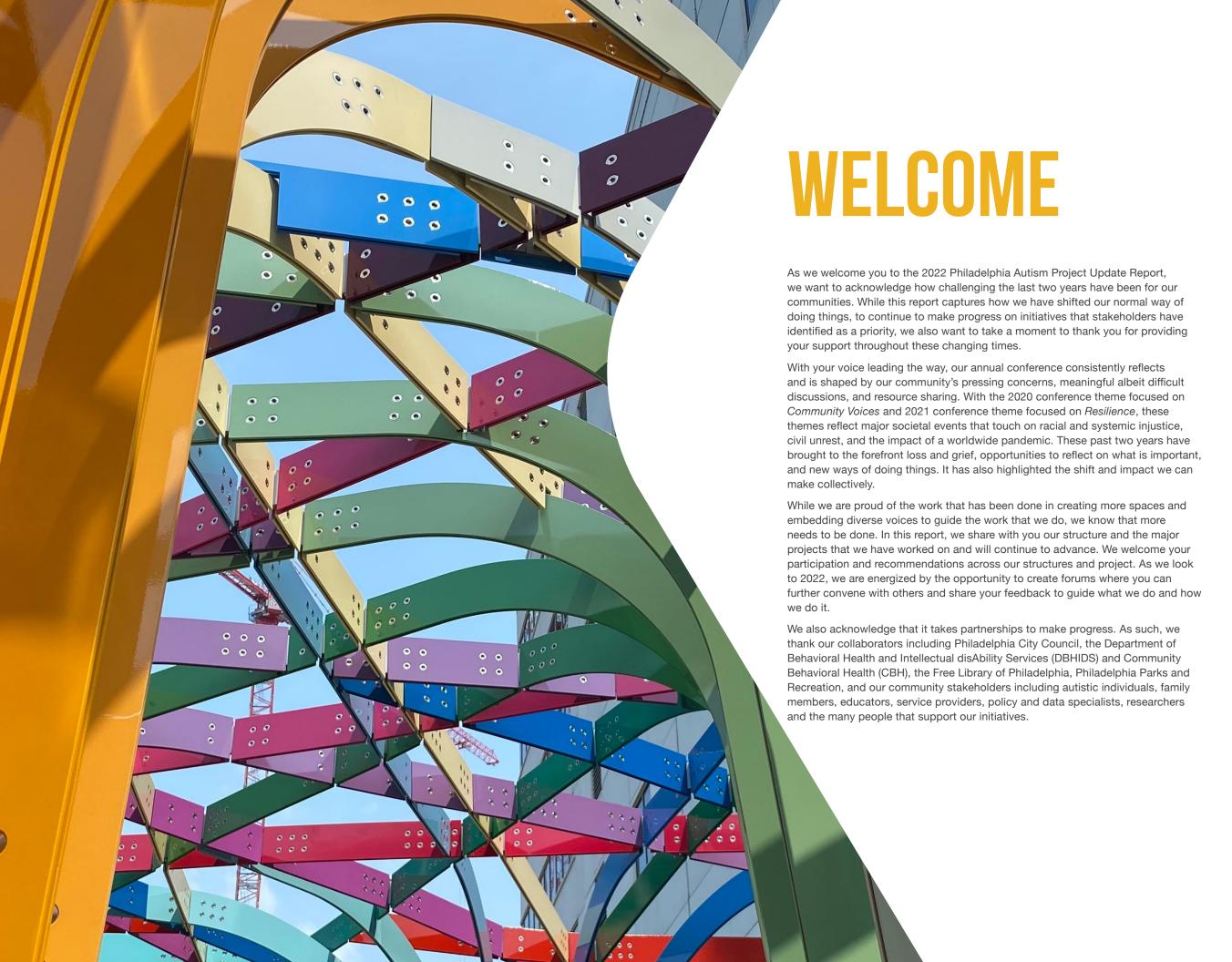


PHILADELPHIA AUTISM PROJECT

Guided by the Autism Community







DEREK S. GREEN, ESQ.,
Philadelphia City
Councilmember-At-Large



LINDSAY SHEA, MS, DRPH
Director, Policy and
Analytics Center



DENNIS M. O'BRIENFormer Councilmember-At-Large







| 2020 in Review | 6 |
|---|------------------|
| 2021 in Review | 7 |
| Our Structure | 8 |
| Initiative Updates | 9 |
| Community Autism Peer Specialist (CAPS) Program | 9 |
| Family Navigator10 | D |
| Annual Conference1 | STATE OF PERSONS |
| Seed Award12 | 2 |
| Parks and Recreation13 | 3 |
| Employment14 | 4 |
| Workshops19 | 5 |
| Resource Highlights and Website Updates10 | 6 |
| Statewide Highlights | 8 |
| Places We've Been To-Date19 | 9 |
| Thank You | 0 |

2020 IN REVIEW

JANUARY

ADA Summit held in with The Arc of Philadelphia



MARCH

Drexel University shuts down amidst COVID-19



JUNE — AUGUST

Navigating Relationships Webinar Series



OCTOBER

In partnership with the PHL International **Airport Youth** Art Gallery, a Call for Art is announced.





FEBRUARY

Community Autism Peer Specialist Training cohort completed

APRIL

Recipients

receive a

Seed Award



OCTOBER

First virtual Philadelphia Autism Project Annual Conference: A Spectrum of **Community Voices**



A SPECTRUM OF COMMUNITY VOICES

DECEMBER

Funding from the **Eagles Autism** Foundation **Community Grant** launches Life on the Spectrum workshop series.

2021 IN REVIEW

JANUARY Launch of the annual seed

award.



APRIL Recipients receive a **Seed Award**



JULY - NOVEMBER

source List

(A-List)

5 workshops held as part of the Life on the Spectrum workshop series, developed by and for autistic individuals













FEBRUARY - MARCH

Partnership with the Philadelphia Parks and Recreation @Home workshop series focused on mosaic art, sensory activity, and story time.



APRIL - MAY Sexuality and Autism

Webinar Series

NOVEMBER

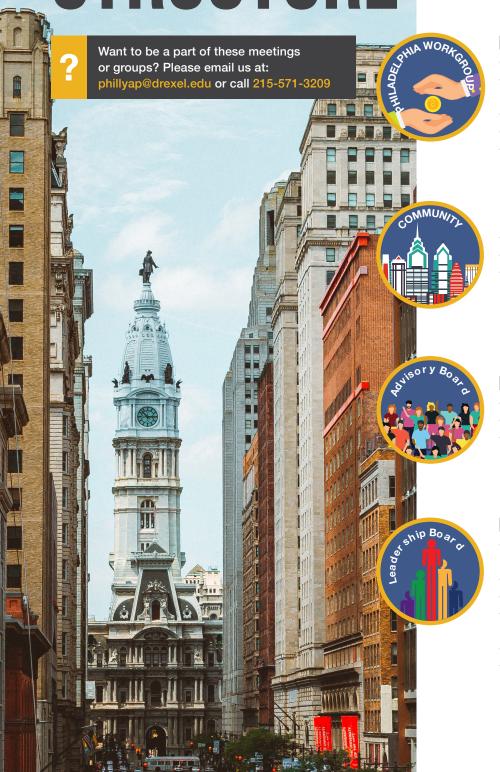
2nd Virtual Philadelphia **Autism Project Annual** Conference: Rethinking, Reimaging and Resilience

DECEMBER

Funding from the Eagles Autism Foundation Community Grant continues the Life on the Spectrum workshop series, focused on aging and



PHILADELPHIA AUTISM PROJECT 2022 UPDATE REPORT



PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

- · PA Health Law Project
- · Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services (DBHIDS)
- Community Behavioral Health (CBH)
- · School District of Philadelphia
- Providers
- Community Events
- · Resource Center Calls
- · Community Stakeholder Meetings

PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

- Self-Advocates
- · Family Members
- Community Members

PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

- · Office of Councilmember-At-Large Derek Green
- Commissioner, DBHIDS
- System of Care Administrator/County Autism Administrator (DBHIDS)
- · Director of Grants and Innovations. CBH
- · Former Councilmember-At-Large Dennis M. O'Brien

INITIATIVE **UPDATES**

The Philadelphia Autism Project has initiated work on 83 of the 119 initiatives (69%) that were originally voted on by stakeholders.

COMMUNITY AUTISM PEER SPECIALIST (CAPS) PROGRAM

The Community Autism Peer Specialist (CAPS) program pairs an autistic individual with a Community Autism Peer Specialist to achieve personal wellness and community participation goals. Activities are chosen by the autistic person to build skills in the areas of employment, education, leadership, independent living, self-care and health management, interpersonal relationships, use of public transportation, community participation, and other areas of growth. CAPS are trained peer support professionals. They also have personal experience as self-advocates on the Spectrum. With Community Behavioral Health (CBH) leading the way in launching this effort, the Philadelphia Autism Project continues to be a partnering stakeholder for this program.

COMING SOON

Given the changing nature of restrictions and guidelines in response to COVID-19, we will be exploring the opportunity for future trainings with safety protocol and quidelines in mind.

For more information and updates, visit our CAPS webpage.



HIGHLIGHTS

In 2020, the 2nd CAPS Training was completed

To date, 3 CAPS training sessions have been held

CAPS has led to employment **Opportunities** in settings such as traditional

peer support services, research, community wellness, and program development

CAPS was approved as a Medicaid Supplemental Service, and can be billed

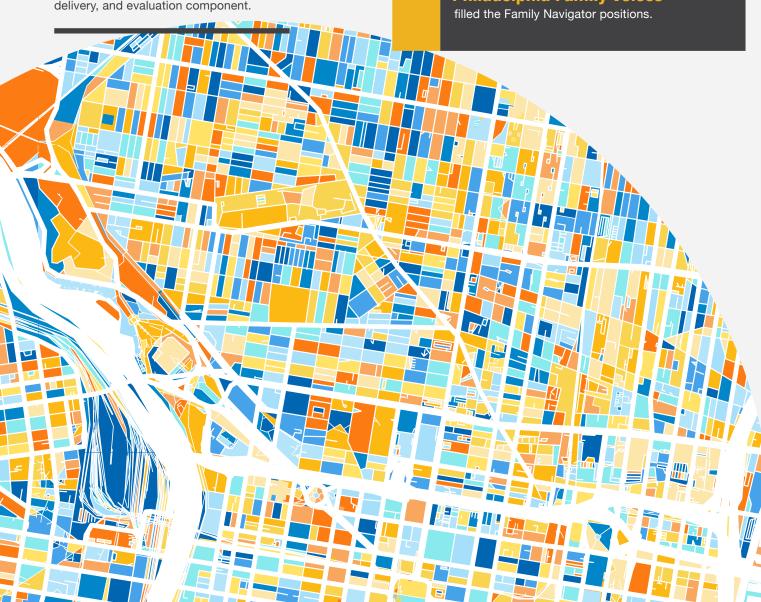
During the pandemic, the CAPS service pivoted to telehealth options.

FAMILY NAVIGATOR

One of the top voted initiatives of the Philadelphia Autism Project is the development of a system navigator role to provide emotional, instrumental and informational support to families after receiving an Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis and through young adulthood. The role involves using one's lived experience as a family member, combined with knowledge gained from completing both the required family peer support training and autism-specific family navigator training.

COMING SOON

The family navigator training, service delivery, and evaluation component.





Philadelphia Family Voices, the first family legacy organization in Philadelphia, launched with most of the organization's Board of Directors composed of family members and caregivers.

The Family Navigator Curriculum

and training development launched, with guidance from the Family Navigator Steering Committee and consultants.

Philadelphia Family Voices

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Voted as one of the top initiatives of the Philadelphia Autism Project, stakeholders wanted to establish an Annual Philadelphia Autism Conference that would cover topics across the lifespan and Spectrum. Annually, the Philadelphia Autism Project builds on the prior year's feedback, guidance from the Conference Planning Committee, and current issues that arise at the community level. These past two years, we have worked to ensure that the speakers and content continue to meet the needs that have been voiced by communities, including covering topics on justice interactions, the intersection of race and autism, access and updates to services, employment, relationships, transitions, and community engagement.

COMING SOON

If you are interested in being a part of the Conference Planning Committee, email phillyap@drexel.edu or call us at 215-571-3209. Meetings typically occur once a month, for 30 minutes to an hour.

For more information and updates, visit our conference webpage.



TESTIMONIALS

THE RESOURCES PROVIDED **WERE HELPFUL AS WELL** AS THE DIALOGUE THAT **TOOK PLACE AMONGST** THE PRESENTERS.

99

THE UPDATES AND **EXPLANATIONS OF THE RANGE OF SERVICES IS VERY USEFUL FOR ME AS** I WORK TO CONNECT PHL **FAMILIES TO SERVICES** AND SUPPORTS. IT WAS PRESENTED IN SUCH A WAY THAT WAS ACCESSIBLE AND UNDERSTANDABLE.

77

HIGHLIGHTS



In 2020, the Philadelphia Autism Project held its 1st Virtual Philadelphia **Autism Project Conference:**

A Spectrum of Community Voices. With 19 sessions held over 6 days, we pivoted to meeting the accessibility and flexibility needs of our community.



This conference was followed by our 2021 Annual Philadelphia **Autism Project Conference:** Rethinking, Reimagining, Resilience.



The conference continues to be offered at no-cost to participants, with continuing education credits, language translation and interpretation, and materials in accessible format provided.

66

THE CONFERENCE WAS **ENLIGHTENING AND EMPOWERING!! ALL** PRESENTERS HAD A STRONG KNOWLEDGE AND THE LIVED EXPERIENCES **WERE SO KEY TO THIS OUTSTANDING JOURNEY!**

77

SEED AWARDS

Annually, seed awards fund the development of support/self-advocacy groups and innovative programs that meet the needs of autistic individuals, family members and organizations across Philadelphia neighborhoods. By leveraging existing resources at the neighborhood level, seed awards are an effort to reach untapped and historically excluded populations in accessing inclusive programs and resources.

COMING SOON

If you have an idea or would like to learn about current and past seed award recipients, please visit our seed award webpage!





HIGHLIGHTS

A Seed Award Review Committee and Scoring Rubric was developed to review applications based on certain criteria.

2019 – 2020 **WE FUNDED OUT OF**

RECIPIENTS APPLICANTS 2020 - 2021 WE FUNDED **RECIPIENTS OUT OF APPLICANTS**

Seed award themes reflect community needs, such as COVID-19 resources and support, mental health and wellness, and navigating the online world.







PARKS AND RECREATION

Despite the impact of the pandemic and with funding from the PA Developmental Disabilities Council Grant, we have pivoted to partnering with the Philadelphia Parks and Recreation @Home Series to offer virtual workshops. Additionally, we continue to participate in PPR Community Stakeholder/Partnership Meetings.

COMING SOON

Philadelphia Parks and Recreation hired their first Director of Inclusion!

Check out the video series on our webpage.





Mosaic Art Workshop

held in partnership with PPR and the Penn Museum



Sensory Fun and Regulation Workshop

held in partnership with PPR and Sensory Friendly Cities, Inc.



Storytime Workshop

with PPR and the Free Library of Philadelphia



Video for PPR Staff

to meet sustainability and focused on:



Trauma-Informed Approaches in partnership with the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbilities Services (DBHIDS)



Atmospheres of Inclusion in partnership with Carousel Connections



Community partnerships in collaboration with Project Elijah Empowering Autism (PEEA)



EMPLOYMENT





Through our partnership with Community Integrated Services (CIS), we have focused on employment efforts in various ways in the last two years:

Support CAPS with employment services, unemployment benefits, advocating for travel assistance, and monthly check-ins

Exploration with Philadelphia CareerLink Centers to help make their generic services and supports more accessible to people with disabilities

Conference session focused on employment services, benefits navigation, and other resources

CIS hired two CAPS graduates

Development of an <u>Employment Myths and Facts</u>
<u>Resource</u>

CIS partnered with JEVS Human Services, which operates the largest Philadelphia CareerLink Center, for two trainings:

- 1. Disability and Employment An Overview
- 2. Disclosure and Conversations Around Disability

WORKSHOPS



Despite the pandemic, we have worked to adapt our workshops to a virtual format, whenever possible.





Cooking with Confidence

Cooking with Confidence supports autistic adults, their families, high school autism support classrooms, and volunteers by providing hands-on classes where participants learn basic cooking skills, including how to follow a recipe and stay safe in the kitchen. Participants prepare a plant-based meal and eat it together at a communal table. The recipe used in class, a book with affordable recipes, and a tote bag filled with fresh ingredients are sent home with participants. While this program has been put on hold due to the pandemic, we are exploring in-person options again!



Philadelphia Autism Network (PAN) Workshop Series

The Philadelphia Autism Network (PAN) workshop series is focused on community-driven topics (such as toilet training, sensory needs and supports, and communication) offered at no-cost to attendees and supplemented with childcare (when held in-person), interpreting services and continuing education credits to increase access to participants. Despite the pandemic, we were able to host 6 virtual workshops throughout 2020 and 2021.



Life on the Spectrum Workshop Series

With funding from the Eagles Autism Foundation, we launched the Life on the Spectrum Workshop Series, developed by and for autistic individuals. We are proud to have hosted 5 virtual workshops throughout the year, with topics focused on Advocacy, Navigating Higher Education, Sex Education and Dating, Autism in Women, and Autism, Mental Health and Self-Care.



Sexuality and Healthy Relationships Webinar Series

2020: 3 workshops focused on Navigating Relationships2021: 3 workshops focused on Sexuality and Autism

PHILADELPHIA AUTISM PROJECT 2022 UPDATE REPORT

RESOURCE **UPDATES**





A few new resources & website updates for you to be aware of!



Autism Resource List (A-List): An online resource list focused on providing autism and non-autism related information that families often ask about, specific to Philadelphia.



Our website now includes a Google Translate function for the top five languages in Philadelphia at the top of the home page. We will be working with partners to ensure that the language translation is appropriate and contextually correct.



Our statement on using identity first and neutral language can be found on our webpage.



COVID-19 Resources:

Developed to meet the changing needs of the pandemic and includes information on essential services, vaccination, support for families, virtual programming opportunities, and education resources



Philadelphia Autism **Network List:** A monthly

listserve of happenings in Philadelphia and statewide! You can submit your information for sharing or subscribe to the listserve by emailing phillyap@drexel. edu. Please note that we adhere to guidelines before sharing your resource or event.



2020 TOP 3 MOST VISITED WEBPAGES



2020 A Spectrum of Community Voices https://www.phillyautismproject.org//event/conf2020/



Neighborhood Support Groups https://www.phillyautismproject.org/supportgroups/



Event Calendar

https://www.phillyautismproject.org//event-calendar/

2021 TOP 3 MOST VISITED WEBPAGES



2021 Annual Philadelphia Autism Project **Confernece: Rethink, Reimagining, Resilience** https://www.phillyautismproject.org//event/conf2021/



Life on the Spectrum Workshop https://www.phillyautismproject.org/spectrum/



Event Calendar

https://www.phillyautismproject.org//event-calendar/

STATEWIDE HIGHLIGHTS

FAID in **PA**

COVID-19

In response to getting needed information out during the COVID-19 Pandemic, ASERT in collaboration with the statewide Health Care Quality Units launched Aid in PA. Here, you will find resources such as:

- Information on COVID-19
- Telehealth
- Mental health and wellness resources
- Helping individuals manage changes, and many more



DATA

ASERT launched a webpage highlighting data from the PA Autism Needs Assessment, which informs the needs and experiences voiced by participants on the Autism Spectrum and their families/caregivers.

- **2010:** 3,500 participants
- 2018: More than 8,000 participants
- Includes reports, data dashboards, and surveys in multiple languages



JUSTICE

ASERT received an International Society for Autism Research (INSAR) grant to develop a policy brief focused on justice interactions among autistic individuals. In addition to hosting regional forums, a virtual international summit, and numerous trainings, ASERT and partners will be releasing the policy brief later this year!

• To date, ASERT has trained 9,959 people over 311 trainings

PLACES WE'VE BEEN TO-DATE



thankyou

THE PHILADELPHIA AUTISM PROJECT TEAM looks forward to continuing to work on the initiatives outlined by the Philadelphia Autism Project Final Report through the guidance of the Philadelphia community and stakeholders. We are energized to build upon our current efforts, as well as to cultivate new initiatives, programming and engagement opportunities.

We thank all autistic individuals, family members, community members, providers, stakeholders, and policymakers who have not only provided their guidance and support, but have also pushed us to continuously grow. We look forward to future collaborations as we strive to maintain Philadelphia as a top city of inclusion.



PHILADELPHIA AUTISM PROJECT

Guided by the Autism Community

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY!





CONTACT US:



www.phillyautismproject.org