

## PRESS RELEASE

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### FREE DISCUSSION ON EDCD WAIVERS

New "Elderly and Disabled Consumer-Directed" Waiver is a  
HOT item for people with disabilities

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Richmond, VA – The Sarah Dooley Center for Autism at St. Joseph's Villa will host a free discussion at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, October 6 about the EDCD waiver, which provides many free services for children and adults with developmental disabilities. The discussion will be led by Vicky Beatty, Program Specialist with the Partnership for People with Disabilities at VCU.

The EDCD waiver covers the costs of many services for people with disabilities. Covered services include in-home care, after-school care and respite care, among others. Unlike other waivers, there is currently no waiting list to receive an EDCD waiver; parents can apply and receive a waiver in a very short time period. (Most parents of children with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities have to wait years to receive a waiver to cover services.)

The EDCD waiver is new, and many parents and service providers are trying to understand what types of services can (and cannot) be covered by the new waiver. Ms. Beatty's discussion will present, in easy terms, what is currently understood about the waiver and its use.

People interested in attending the discussion should contact Jenny Lane, Head of the Sarah Dooley Center for Autism, at (804) 521-5571 or by email, [jlane@sjvmail.net](mailto:jlane@sjvmail.net).

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#### St. Joseph's Villa

Established in Richmond in 1834, St. Joseph's Villa is metro-Richmond, Virginia's oldest and largest continuously-operating children's nonprofit organization. The Villa is located on a spacious 82-acre campus in Richmond/Henrico County and builds stronger children, families and communities. The Villa serves more than 500 children and families daily, through the delivery of day, after-school and residential programs that include: special and nontraditional education programs for at-risk youth; education and housing services for homeless children and their families; education and respite, summer and after-school care for children with autism and developmental disabilities; behavioral treatment programs for children and families; housing for adults with disabilities; and a child development center. The Villa is accredited by the national Council on Accreditation and is an approved Medicaid provider for many of its services.

St. Joseph's Villa admits clients of any race, color, gender, age, religion, disability or national origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accepted or made available to clients at St. Joseph's Villa. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, St. Joseph's Villa is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability and retaliation in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs and athletic and other agency-administered programs. Any person

who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any U.S.D.A. related activity should write to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

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