

Community Advocacy for ASD

RACHEL NEIDLINGER



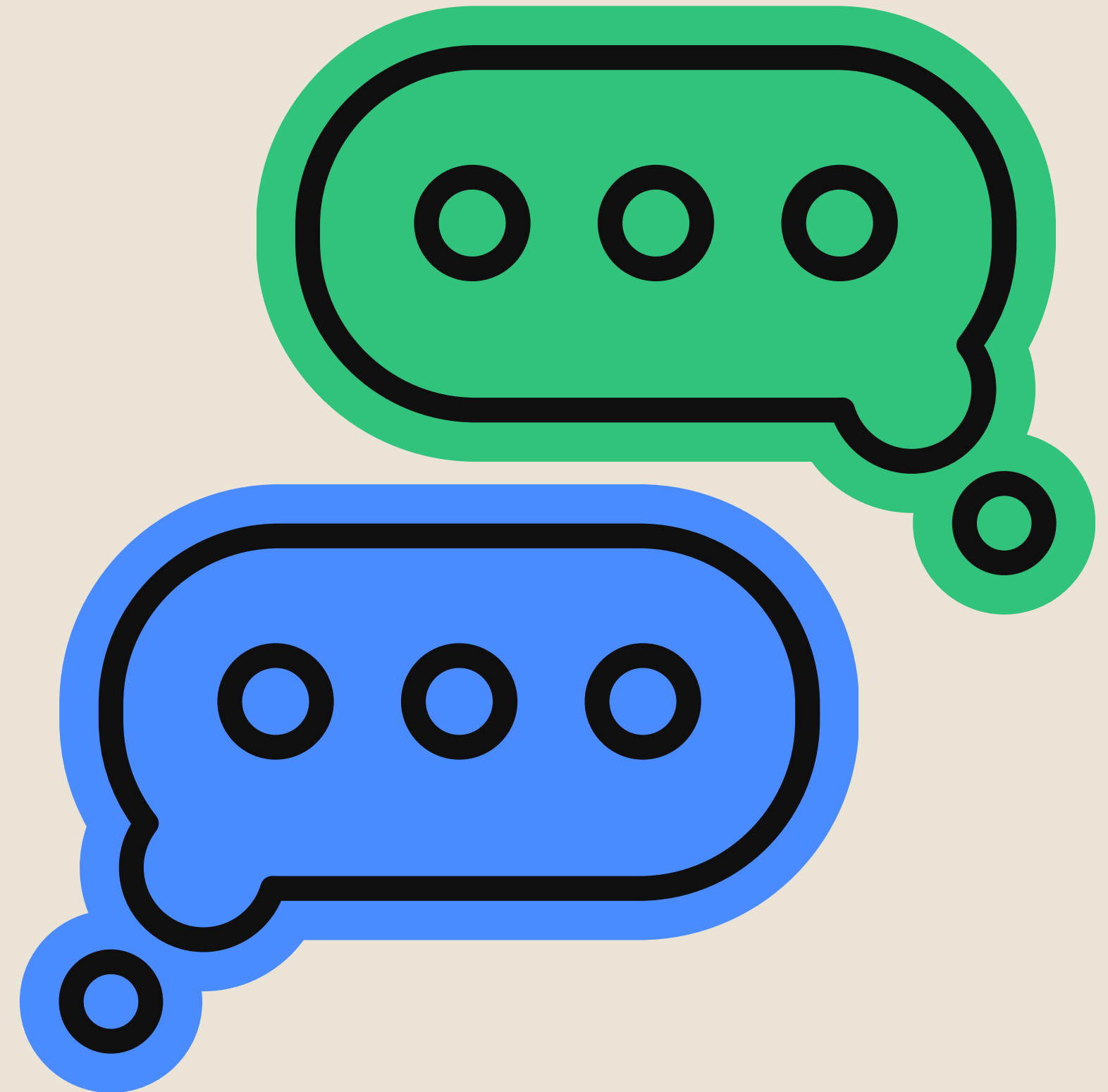
Team Values

Working as a team of stakeholders is crucial to the success of students with ASD transitioning to adult life



Why collaboration?

- You don't know what you don't know
- Parents benefit from having a team effort because all things come together in the transition process
- Builds parent communities
- Builds continuity for expectations across all settings
- In small communities, some things are more easily coordinated with transition goals, but opportunities are not always present



Challenges Faced

- Rural community hard to find resources because not all students with ASD have a cognitive level that qualifies them for services
- Providers/Service providers not always available in small, rural area
- No public transportation
- VR case managers advising parents to “make sure they have the time” to deal with the process of services
- Medicaid waiver not easily accessible or timely (years of waiting on a list)
- Lack of friendships and connections, affecting life after HS
- Employees of service providers not always reliable or trustworthy



Resources for Transition Goals

Education/Training

- Erskine Green
- CAT Team
- 4-H

Employment

- Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)
- Indiana Secondary Transition Resource Center (ISTRC)
- Easterseals

Independent Living

- Indiana Resource Center for Autism (IRCA)
- Autism Speaks
- Special Olympics

