

## WATCH US GROW!

Since our inception in the Summer of 2015, MAVS has worked with 1500 clients, and counting!

### FEATURED ASSOCIATE:

Kimberly Brown,  
Administrative  
Assistant

Kim attended Penn State University and graduated with a degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management. She has always loved working with people and helping them in any way possible. Kim has worked in management roles and also obtained her CDM (Certified Dietary Manager) Certification. She is passionate about what MAVS does as a company and is happy to be a part of it.



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## What does Metro-Atlanta Vocational Solutions Do?

Metro-Atlanta Vocational Solutions, LLC is a rehabilitation counseling private practice that offers mobile Career Counseling, Comprehensive and Limited Vocational Evaluations, Psychotherapy, Psychological Evaluations, Social Skills Training, and Job Readiness Training to the community and to agencies in the Metro-Atlanta area. Our focus is to provide quality treatment in a mobile setting.

We provide high quality counseling and evaluation services. When an individual is making a career change, has recently acquired a disability, or is transitioning into the world of work, they may need guidance. We provide that guidance by listening to the individuals' needs and being present with the individual.

We provide the right vocational rehabilitation services for the client.

Our team consists of experienced and professional Certified Rehabilitation Counselors, Licensed Psychologists, Board Certified Behavior Analysts, Behavior Consultants, Professional Counselors, Social Coaches and Psychometrists. When evaluating the unique needs of our clients, we develop a program that specifically targets social skill deficits. The curriculum, supported by evidence-based research, will provide clients with broadened occupational assets in an increasingly competitive job market.

## What is Medication Therapy Management?

Medication Therapy Management is medical care provided by pharmacists whose aim is to optimize drug therapy and improve therapeutic outcomes for patients.

Medication therapy management includes a broad range of professional activities, including but not limited to performing patient assessment and/or a comprehensive medication review, formulating a medication treatment plan, monitoring efficacy and safety of medication therapy, enhancing medication adherence through patient empowerment and education, and documenting and communicating MTM services to prescribers in order to maintain comprehensive patient care.

Contact MAVS if you know an individual who could benefit from Medication Therapy Management.



## Newsworthy: Ava's Law

This year, Georgians stepped up and addressed the most important, yet previously almost unknown, issue that affects all of us — autism.

Ava's Law was originally passed in Georgia in 2015 after almost a decade of providing critical information to our state government. The law intended to reverse the damaging circumstances that individuals diagnosed with autism experienced when health insurance plans excluded any treatment specific to autism from their coverage. Without the appropriate funding stream, the number of providers remained extremely low and long waiting lists developed across the state. Ava's Law was a huge step in the right direction. But, the initial passage was not without compromise.

Although evidence indicates that therapy is effective across the lifespan of individuals with autism, the General Assembly amended the original bill to cap coverage of behavioral therapy at \$30,000 annually and only apply the requirement to children ages 6 and under. Ava's Law affects private health plans regulated by the State of Georgia and requires screening and diagnosis; speech, occupational and physical therapy; applied behavior analysis and psychiatric and psychological care for autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Informed citizens were grateful for the progress, but also determined to continue to work towards coverage for individuals with autism of all ages. Another critical step forward occurred in the 2018 legislative session when Senator Renee Underman introduced Senate Bill 118. The bill modestly increased the previous dollar cap on behavioral therapy to \$35,000 annually. But, the major provision increased the age cap on behavioral therapy from 6 years old to 20.

Gov. Deal recently signed SB 118. The new law will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2019..



## What is Personal Social Adjustment Training?

We provide adult clients with the tools that they need to acquire jobs that are a match for their individual interests, skills, and abilities.

We can help clients determine what job accommodations and/or modifications they may need and empower them with the skills to advocate for their needs when communicating with employers and coworkers.

We create individualized plans to target both independent living skills and successful work behaviors. To achieve individual goals, we utilize Personal/Social Adjustment Training (PSAT) services. PSAT services are designed to develop or re-establish personal and social behaviors and to enhance an individual's employability. The services are instructional and can be provided individually or in small groups.

Services are individualized and specifically designed to identify and reduce the barriers to employment for clients so that they can successfully gain and maintain employment. PSAT services focus on not only teaching skills during the sessions, but also applying these skills to the real-world environments.

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### Reviews from current PSAT Clients/Families:

"It is the first time in his life that my grandson is accepting support. He appears to like these people!"

"It is supportive to every aspect of my son's life as well as our family's. It is the thread that sews together the pieces of therapy and life skills towards independence."

"Group sessions were very helpful. The group really got to know each other and feel comfortable with each other by the end of the group."

"I thought all the work was very helpful, very informative, and well presented."

"My son looks forward to his group sessions - I think that says it all."

## PSAT

### Some of the services include:

Interpersonal Skills Development

Work Attitudes and Skill Exploration

Methods of Appropriate Communication

Sexual Awareness and Appropriateness

Personal Grooming and Hygiene

Community Living

Money Management

Decision Making/Problem Solving

Health and Medicine Management

Understanding Self and Abilities

Increasing Self-Confidence





## What is Personal Social Adjustment Training?

### Continued...

Our groups follow the Program for the Education and Enrichment of Relational Skills (PEERS®) for Young Adults (Ages 18-35). PEERS is a 16-week evidence-based social skills intervention for motivated young adults, who are interested in learning skills to make and keep friends and develop romantic relationships. During each group session, young adults are taught important social skills and are given the opportunity to practice these skills.

Young adults are encouraged to attend each session with a social coach (i.e., parent, family member, adult sibling, life coach, job coach, peer mentor, etc.). Social coaches are taught how to assist young adults in making and keeping friends by providing feedback during weekly socialization homework assignments.

### Did you know?

In June 2014, only 19.3 percent of people with disabilities in the U.S. were participating in the labor force – working or seeking work. Of those, 12.9 percent were unemployed, meaning only 16.8 percent of the population with disabilities was employed. (By contrast, 69.3 percent of people without disabilities were in the labor force, and 65 percent of the population without disabilities was employed.)

Source: [www.autism-society.org](http://www.autism-society.org)

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## **Metro-Atlanta Vocational Solutions, LLC**

PO Box 767672  
Roswell, GA 30076  
Phone: 678-770-6251  
[www.atlvoc.com](http://www.atlvoc.com)  
[www.facebook.com/atlvoc](https://www.facebook.com/atlvoc)