

Dementia Services Director:
Quarterly Report to the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Commission

Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services
March 11, 2025
Period: December 10, 2024 – March 10, 2025

1. Outreach and Education

Attended:

Webinars including:

- National Alzheimer's Disease Resource Center (Jan 28)
- BOLD Public Health Center of Excellence for Dementia Caregiving
- BOLD Public Health Center for Early Detection and Diagnosis
- BOLD Public Health Center for Risk Reduction

Conferences:

Presented:

- LLI Chesterfield: Dementia 101 (Feb 18, 25, Mar 4; 90 mins)
- OSHER William & Mary (virtual, Feb 26, Mar 5, Mar 19; 90 mins)

Training

- Dementia Friends Champion Training (Orange County, Feb 3, 20 trainees)
- Dementia Friendly @ Work (Orange County, Feb 10, 12 attendees)
- Dementia Friendly @ Work (Mary Washington House Museum, Fredericksburg, Feb 27, 16 attendees)

Upcoming

- Richmond VA Caregiver Support Program Resource Fair (March 13)
- Virginia State Police Alzheimer's Awareness Training (March 18)
- DARS Dementia Friends information session (March 20)
- Virginia Department for Deaf/Hard of Hearing: Dementia Friends/Brain Health (2-hour)
 - Fishersville (TBD), Abingdon (March 22)
- Fauquier County Dementia Friendly training (April 1)
- Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired—staff training, Fishersville (April 2)
- Virginia Coalition for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (May 15, Williamsburg)
 - 90-minute presentation on Beyond Alzheimer's: Vulnerability in Other Dementias
- Virginia Governor's Conference on Aging (May 19-20, Williamsburg)
 - Dementia Deep Dive—State-level Initiatives to Address Dementia (2.5 hour session)
 - Dementia State Plan update
 - Virginia Memory Project (Annie Rhodes, VCU)
 - Healthy Brain Virginia (Rachel Coney, VDH)
 - Dementia Care Management at UVA and Riverside (Virginia Gallagher, UVA, Christy Jensen, Riverside MWGC, Diane Hartley, PAA)
 - Dementia Friends—Using the program to support Dementia Friendly initiatives
 - Presenting with Allegra Joffe, Fairfax AAA, and Joyce Nussbaum, VPAS.

Consumer Calls (SFY- year ending June 30)

SFY2021-	77	SFY23 Q1—39	Q2—36	Q3—37	Q4—28
SFY2022-	177	SFY24 Q1—36	Q2—22	Q3—39	Q4—30
SFY2023-	140	SFY25 Q1—11	Q2—28	Q3—16	
SFY2024-	127				

2. Data

- CMS Medicare Beneficiary Chronic Conditions data—updated for 2018 (data available to 2018)
- BRFSS Cognitive Decline and Caregiver modules—Caregiving module (2022), Cognitive Decline (2022)—report received May 31
- Virginia Memory Project—providing data to <https://maps.healthlandscape.org/Virginia/>

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3. Collaboration and Partnerships

Virginia

- Virginia Dementia Care Coordination Roundtable—met on Jan 27, then bimonthly
- Virginia Caregiver Coalition: *meetings*
- AARP Age Friendly State Meeting
- Richmond Brain Health Initiative (ongoing).
- Department for Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (ongoing).
- Commonwealth Council on Aging (Mar 12)
- Virginia Department of Health/Healthy Brain Virginia (BOLD) *ongoing*
- Advisory Committee on Health Disparities and Health Equity (VDH)—Feb meeting cancelled
- Dementia Messaging in Virginia (VCU and partners; *quarterly*)
- Dementia Friendly Virginia:
 - *Quarterly virtual Dementia Friends Champion trainings*
- Dementia Friendly Central Virginia (DFCV): *bimonthly meetings*
 - Charlottesville Area Alliance (spearheading Age-Friendly/Livable Community initiative)
 - Charlottesville TRIAD
- Piedmont Dementia Education Committee (ongoing when able)

National/Interstate

- State Unit on Aging Dementia Coordinator (monthly): Convened by ACL regional administrators. Every month with Region III (DC, DE, MD, PA—no one in the role, VA, WV); every other month also includes Region IV (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN).
- District of Columbia Brain Health Initiative (ongoing when able)
- Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care and Services (National Plan; Jan 13)
- RAISE Family Caregiver Council:
- State Dementia Coordinators (quarterly, informal grouping mixing State Unit on Aging and State Public Health Agency roles)

4. Grant Writing and Administration

CDC BOLD Public Health Programs to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD)

- Grant awarded to VDH for start date of September 1, 2023. Five-year funding
- Project period is September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2028. Weekly meetings with the Brain Health Coordinator, quarterly partners meetings.
- VDH working with DARS, Alzheimer's Association, and other partners
- Three strategies related to the ADRD Commission (Maintain or expand ADRDC, educate ADRDC on ADRD topics, lead ADRDC to develop and track an implementation plan for the Dementia State Plan)
- Goal is to develop a strong public health approach to ADRD
 - Risk reduction
 - Early diagnosis
 - Using data for priority setting and action
 - Support for caregiving for persons with dementia, including addressing social determinants of health

StARS (State Alzheimer's Research Support) Center University of Minnesota/Johns Hopkins/University of North Carolina—National Dementia Care Coordination Research Center grant proposal (awarded)

- Met with Joe Gaugler (U Minn), Quincy Samus (Johns Hopkins), Sheryl Zimmerman (UNC) on Nov 9
- DARS/ADRDC/partners joint letter of support
- Grant team is joining the Dementia Care Coordination Roundtable meetings
- Virginia (along with Maryland) will be Year 1 spotlight state (\$200,000 for research, support of Roundtable, etc.)
- Kickoff call held on December 13
- Next call for Virginia and Maryland on March 24—some change to timeline has been flagged

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Virginia Center on Aging Geriatric Training and Education (GTE): Supporting ID/DD Dementia Training

- Proposal not considered as submitted to an expired but not retired submission portal, will resubmit in 2025
- **Proposed project:** provide five dementia-capable trainings for ID/DD providers and caregivers around the state and train two additional trainers certified by the National Task Group on ID and Dementia. Requested \$10,251.

5. Tracking Policy

General Assembly 2025

HB1931 Regional Older Adults Facility Team (RAFT); central/eastern Virginia (LeVere Bolling, left in Appropriations)

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services; community services boards; Regional

Older Adults Facility Team; central and eastern Virginia. Directs community services boards located in Central and Eastern Virginia to establish a Regional Older Adults Facility Team to provide services to older adults with mental illness and dementia in each region modeled after the Regional Older Adults Facility Team program conducted by the Northern Virginia Regional Projects Office.

- ***This was a recommendation of the ADRDC***

Budget Amendments (in conference report)

296 #2c Support RAFT Program (DBHDS)

- This amendment provides \$100,000 the second year from the general fund to support the Regional Older Adults Facility Team (RAFT) in Northern Virginia to provide services to older adults with mental illness and dementia.

296 #4c Support Pilot Programs for Individuals with Dementia and Geriatric Individuals (DBHDS)

- This amendment provides \$1.0 million the second year from the general fund to support pilot programs for individuals with dementia or geriatric individuals who may otherwise be admitted to a state facility.

315 #4c Interdisciplinary Plan of Care and Dementia Case Management (DARS)

N. Out of this appropriation, \$400,000 from the general fund the second year shall be provided to the Capitol Area Agency on Aging [*The Span Center, Richmond*] and Local Office on Aging, Inc. [*Roanoke*] for an interdisciplinary plan of care and dementia case management for 200 individuals diagnosed with dementia. Funding shall be allocated evenly between the two Area Agencies on Aging. The Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services shall report the status of the program and provide an update on the results of the dementia case management program to the Chairs of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees by November 1 of each year.

Failed budget amendments:

- **Training for Home Care Workers.** DMAS: \$75,000 from the general fund and \$75,000 from nongeneral funds the second year shall be provided to make comprehensive training including training on dementia care, available to consumer-directed and agency-hired home care workers. The training shall be provided either in-person or virtually. DMAS shall consult with LeadingAge and other stakeholder groups in developing this training module.

United States 119th Congress (S=Senate, HR=House of Representatives)

No Alzheimer's or dementia related legislation to date

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United States 118th Congress (S=Senate, HR=House of Representatives) For reference

- **S.626/H.R. 1637: Comprehensive Care for Alzheimer's Act.** Recommend that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation test the effect of a dementia care management model. Under the model, participating health care providers receive payment under Medicare for comprehensive care management services that are provided to individuals with diagnosed dementia, excluding Medicare Advantage enrollees, hospice care recipients, and nursing home residents. Required services include medication management, care coordination, and health, financial, and environmental monitoring, as well as trainings and other support services for unpaid caregivers. Providers must furnish services through interdisciplinary teams and must ensure access to a team member or primary care provider 24-7. The CMMI must set payments and determine quality measures for the model in accordance with specified requirements. The bill also allows the CMMI to design a similar model under Medicaid. S: Read twice and referred to Committee on Finance (3/2/23) HR: Referred to Subcommittee on Health (3/24/23)
- **S.134/H.R. 620: Alzheimer's Accountability and Investment Act.** This bill requires the National Institutes of Health to annually submit, beginning in FY2024, an estimate of its budget and personnel needs for carrying out initiatives pursuant to the National Alzheimer's Project directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress. The Department of Health and Human Services and the Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services may comment on the budget estimate but may not change it. S: Passed Senate unanimously (7/30/24). HR: Passed House (9/23/24). **10/01/24 Became law.**
- **S.133/H.R.619: NAPA Reauthorization Act.** This bill extends through 2035 and makes other changes to the National Alzheimer's Project. This project supports coordination of federal planning, programs, and other efforts to address Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. In particular, the bill incorporates a focus on promoting healthy aging and reducing risk factors associated with cognitive decline. The bill also expands the Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services to include additional members, such as (1) a researcher with experience recruiting and retaining diverse clinical trial participants, (2) an individual diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, and (3) representatives from additional federal agencies (e.g., the Department of Justice and the Office of Management and Budget). S: Passed Senate (7/30/24). HR: Passed House (9/23/24). **10/01/24 Became law.**
- **S.141/H.R.542: Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act:** to improve certain programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs for home and community based services for veterans, and for other purposes. S : Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably (2/16/2023). HR: Passed House 12/5/23.
- **S.10: VA Clinician Appreciation, Recruitment, Education, Expansion and Retention Support (CAREERS) Act.** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably (2/16/2023).
- **S.2379/H.R. 4752 Concentrating on High-value Alzheimer's Needs to Get to an End (CHANGE) Act of 2023.** To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for certain cognitive impairment detection in the Medicare annual wellness visit and initial preventive physical examination. S: Read twice and referred to Committee on Finance (7/19/23) HR: Referred to Subcommittee on Health (7/21/23)
- **H.R.5002 Innovative Cognitive Care for Veterans Act.** To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program for the cognitive care of veterans. Referred to Subcommittee on Health (8/24/23).
- **S.3775/H.R.7218 BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Reauthorization Act of 2024.** To reauthorize the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act within the Public Health Service Act. S: Placed on Legislative Calendar (6/18/24). HR: Placed on the Union Calendar (5/21/24). **11/21/24 Passed Senate.**
- **S.3981/H.R.7268 DeOndra Dixon INCLUDE Project Act of 2024.** The bill provides statutory authority for the NIH's Investigation of Co-occurring Conditions Across the Lifespan to Understand Down Syndrome Project (known as the INCLUDE Project). The project was initially established in 2018 to investigate the co-occurring conditions that affect those with Down syndrome (e.g., Alzheimer's disease) and their quality-of-life needs, particularly through (1) targeted research on chromosome 21, (2) assembling a large study population of individuals with Down syndrome, and (3) conducting clinical

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trials that include those with Down syndrome. S: Read twice and referred to Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (3/19/24). HR: Referred to Subcommittee on Health (2/9/24).

- S.4276/H.R.7688 Accelerating Access to Dementia and Alzheimer's Provider Training Act (AADAPT Act) Reauthorize the Project ECHO grant program, to establish grants under such program to disseminate knowledge and build capacity to address ADRD. S:Read twice and referred to Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (5/7/24). HR: Referred to Subcommittee on Health (3/22/24).
- H.R. 9119 Alzheimer's Law Enforcement Education Act of 2024 directs the Department of Justice to create an online training course on Alzheimer's and other dementias for law enforcement personnel including five mandatory topic areas: (1) Instructions on interacting with persons with Alzheimer's disease or a similar form of dementia. (2) Techniques for recognizing behavioral symptoms and characteristics of Alzheimer's disease or a similar form of dementia.(3) Techniques for effectively communicating with persons with Alzheimer's disease or a similar form of dementia.(4) Effective use of alternatives to physical restraints when interacting with persons with Alzheimer's disease or a similar form of dementia.(5) How to identify signs of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of persons with Alzheimer's disease or a similar form of dementia.