

**Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Commission  
Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services  
8004 Franklin Farm Drive, Henrico VA 23229  
June 10, 2025, 2025  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Members Present**

Michael Watson, Vice Chair  
Leslie Bowie  
Bonnie Bradshaw (virtual)  
Bea Gonzalez  
Stephanie LaPrade (virtual)  
James Stovall  
James Towey  
Jennie Wood  
Zachary Wood  
Faika Zanjani (virtual)

**Ex-officio Members**

Annette Clark (DBHDS)  
Rachel Coney-Bowles (VDH)  
Samantha Fogt (DSS)  
Kiersten Ware (DARS)

**Absent**

Vanessa Crawford  
Laura Marshall  
Jason Rachel (DMAS)  
Lana Sargent  
Margie Shaver  
Ishan Williams

**Guests**

Catherine Beebe, JABA  
Tara Beatty, At Home Harmony  
Stephani Curry, VDH  
Eve Flippin, Alzheimer's Association  
Helen Tanner, At Home Harmony  
Parizad Irani, At Home Harmony

**Staff:**

George Worthington, Dementia Services  
Director  
Charlotte Arbogast, Senior Policy  
Analyst  
Catherine Harrison, Director of Policy  
and Legislative Affairs  
Heather Kidd, Dementia Services  
Specialist  
Sarah Stowe, Executive Director, CCOA

Agenda Items	Speaker
<b>Welcome and Introductions of Members and Guests</b> Vice Chair Michael Watson opened the meeting at 10:03 a.m. and announced those participating electronically: Bonnie Bradshaw participating from her home in Suffolk using permission #2 caregiving, and therefore forms part of the quorum; Stephanie LaPrade participating from her office in Martinsville using permission #3 principal residence more than 60 miles from meeting location; and Faika	<b>Michael Watson, Vice Chair</b>

<p>Zanjani participating from her office in Richmond using permission #4 personal matters, specifically a scheduling conflict. There were no objections to these members' electronic participation. Mr. Watson welcomed members and asked them to introduce themselves. Following introductions, Mr. Watson reviewed the purpose of the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (ADRD) Commission.</p>	
<p><b>Review and Adopt Meeting Agenda</b> Vice Chair Watson asked whether there were any changes to the agenda; none were offered. A quorum was not present at the start of the meeting, so this item was deferred until a quorum was assembled. At that point, Zachary Wood made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. This was seconded by Jamie Towie and approved by a unanimous vote.</p>	<b>Michael Watson</b>
<p><b>Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes: March 11 and May 1</b> No comments or edits were suggested for the March quarterly meeting minutes or the May 1 Special Meeting minutes. Vice Chair Watson adopted the minutes as presented.</p>	<b>Michael Watson</b>
<p><b>Public Comment</b> There were no public comments received or offered.</p>	<b>Michael Watson</b>
<p><b>Division for Aging Services (DARS) Report</b> <b>Kiersten Ware delivered the Division for Aging Services update.</b> Deputy Commissioner Ware provided a report on the Division for Aging Services. Her report is attached.</p>	<b>Kiersten Ware, Deputy Commissioner for Aging Services</b>
<p><b>Dementia Services Director Report</b> George Worthington presented his quarterly report to the Commission on Dementia Services office activities. His report is attached.</p>	<b>George Worthington</b>
<p><b>Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Building our Largest Dementia Infrastructure (BOLD) Report</b> Rachel Coney Bowles provided a program summary and an update on the BOLD plan Healthy Brain Virginia (HBV) strategy accomplishments.</p>	<b>Rachel Coney- Bowles</b>
<p><b>Program Overview:</b> The HBV program addresses cognitive decline through prevention, early detection, public education, screening, and caregiver support. It emphasizes equitable access for high-risk populations and promotes collaboration across the state to improve brain health outcomes.</p> <p><b>Public Education (Strategy 5 of BOLD grant):</b> HBV partnered with Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center to promote <i>Saving Claire</i>, a fall-risk documentary, and distributed culturally</p>	

<p>appropriate materials at a National Aeronautics and Space Administration Langley health fair. The program will launch a five-part podcast series on aging topics. HBV's website was expanded with tailored content for different audiences.</p> <p><b>Provider Education (Strategy 6):</b></p> <p>HBV collaborated with Sentara Neurology to distribute toolkits and plans statewide Virtual Dementia Tour trainings. Presentations were delivered at major events, and a partner meeting featured updates on caregiver support and the Virginia Dementia Registry.</p> <p><b>Sustainability (Strategy 8):</b></p> <p>The team completed its annual report to maintain Center of Disease Control funding. Sustainability efforts include digital outreach, professional development, and the ongoing HBV podcast as a public engagement tool.</p> <p><b>Community-Clinical Linkages (Strategy 9):</b></p> <p>HBV co-hosted the first statewide Area Agency on Aging Dementia Forum with DARS and strengthened partnerships with key institutions. Outreach expanded through academic and faith-based presentations, deepening ties with community organizations.</p> <p><b>Additional Updates:</b></p> <p>HBC partnered with UnitedHealth to distribute toolkits and updated its Healthy Brain Initiative state webpage. Stakeholders were invited to join the Dementia Messaging in Virginia listserv to support resource sharing.</p>	
<p><b>Alzheimer's &amp; Related Diseases Research Award Fund (ARDRAF) Update</b></p> <p>Faika Zanjani provided an update on the ADRAF's current funding period. There were 28 total submissions, and four awards of up to \$75,000 will be granted. The Awards Committee will meet on Wednesday June 11 to review the submissions.</p>	<p><b>Faika Zanjani,</b> <i>ARDRAF Director</i></p>
<p><b>2025 Best Practices Award Winners</b></p> <p>Sara Stowe announced the winners and honorable mentions for the Council's 2025 Best Practices Award. Information about the winners can be found here: <a href="https://vda.virginia.gov/boardsandcouncils.htm">https://vda.virginia.gov/boardsandcouncils.htm</a>, and an article is available here: <a href="https://seniornavigator.org/article/80103/commonwealth-council-aging-2025-best-practices-award-winners">https://seniornavigator.org/article/80103/commonwealth-council-aging-2025-best-practices-award-winners</a>.</p>	<p><b>Sara Stowe,</b> <i>Executive Director,</i> <i>Commonwealth</i> <i>Council on Aging</i></p>
<p><b>Nominating Committee Report</b></p> <p>The Nominating Committee presented the slate of officers for the term from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2027. Lana Sargent was nominated to continue serving as Chair of the Commission, and Michael Watson was nominated to continue as Vice Chair for the upcoming term. Once a quorum was assembled, James Stovall made a motion to adopt the slate as presented, seconded by Mrs. Coney-Bowles. The slate was adopted by a unanimous vote.</p>	<p><b>Annette Clark</b></p>

<p><b>Legislative Committee Report</b></p> <p>Bea González presented its 2025 Policy Recommendations (attached), and members had the opportunity to discuss each recommendation. The only material change to the recommendations concerned clarification of which agency (agencies) would be responsible for creating and disseminating the first responder training described in recommendation three. Once a quorum was assembled, Mr. Wood made a motion to adopt the recommendations as presented, seconded by Jennie Wood. The recommendations were adopted by a unanimous vote.</p>	<p><b>Bea González</b></p>
<p><b>Workgroup Reports</b></p> <p><b>Coordinated Care Workgroup</b></p> <p>The Coordinated Care workgroup met on May 5, 2025 to discuss regulation reviews and other work related to achieving State Plan strategies that are included in the Implementation Plan. The group discussed the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State Alzheimer's Research Support Center (StARS) Initiative: Proposal submitted May 1; under review. Focuses on aligning care coordination data.</li> <li>• Legislative Activity: Budget signed May 1 with funding for two new dementia care programs serving 200 families.</li> <li>• Dementia Road Map: 30,000 copies being printed; survey will gather user feedback.</li> <li>• Goals 1 and 4: Reviewed progress and recent accomplishments.</li> <li>• Assisted Living Recommendations: In process of refining recommendations for Commission review before public comment.</li> </ul>	<p><b>George Worthington (for Ishan Williams)</b></p>
<p><b>Training Workgroup</b></p> <p>The Training workgroup met on May 21, 2025 to discuss priorities for the group to work on in the context of the Implementation Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The group discussed alternative training options instead of restarting the Dealing with Dementia program.</li> <li>• Mr. Worthington updated on Goal 3 implementation and introduced a survey for partner input.</li> <li>• New training modules for Area Agency on Aging staff – covering memory screening and dementia basics – will launch in September after workgroup review.</li> <li>• Community Health Worker modules on Dementia Capable Virginia are free statewide and will provide quarterly enrollment reports.</li> <li>• DARS staff received approval to embed the AD-8 memory screening tool into Peer Place for Area Agencies on Aging.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Jennie Wood</b></p>

<p><b>Brain Health Workgroup</b>  The Brain Health Workgroup met on April 17, 2025, to review brain health data and messaging materials, and to discuss upcoming activities and next steps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Worthington shared 2023 Behavioral Risk Factor survey brain health findings and plans for data use.</li> <li>Members discussed recruiting a volunteer to analyze the 2023 Cognitive Decline dataset, focusing on modifiable dementia risks and links to caregiving.</li> <li>The group reviewed brain health materials in progress, including infographics for Area Agencies on Aging and a flyer on memory loss data in Virginia.</li> <li>Mr. Worthington presented the Dementia Capable Virginia dashboard, and the group reviewed key accomplishments.</li> <li>Next steps for the workgroup included securing the AD-8 screening tool license, finalizing messaging materials, launching a June social media campaign, and choosing the next Dementia State Plan strategies to prioritize.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Michael Watson</b></p>
<p><b>Data and Research Workgroup</b>  The Data and Research Workgroup met on May 6, 2025 to and discuss the research section of the Dementia Capable Virginia website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stephani Curry presented data on dementia-related hospitalizations and discussed additional data needs.</li> <li>The group reviewed updated documents and a new toolkit for Community Health Workers.</li> <li>Lana Sargent shared plans for the September Mini-Summit and progress on Goals two and five.</li> <li>The group discussed categorizing state ADRD research by funding as a next step.</li> <li>Annie Rhodes provided an update on the StARS grant plan.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Faika Zanjani (for Lana Sargent)</b></p>
<p><b>Dementia Hospitalization Data</b>  Stephani Curry presented key data on dementia-related hospitalizations in Virginia, including recent trends and disparities broken down by diagnostic code, and responded to questions from Commission members and guests. One member asked whether data on dementia diagnoses by month were available (staff will investigate), and another asked about how specific diagnoses were determined. Another question concerned whether the hospitalization maps reflected patients residential address or hospital location. Ms Curry noted that the</p>	<p><b>Stephani Curry, VDH</b></p>

<p>map data is based on residential addresses. Slides from her presentation are attached.</p>	
<p><b>Electronic Meeting Policy</b> The Commission reviewed the Electronic Policy for July 1, 2025–June 30, 2026. Mr. Wood made a motion to adopt the policy for the next fiscal year as presented, seconded by Mr. Towey. The policy was adopted by a unanimous vote. The Electronic Meeting Policy forms part of the bylaws.</p>	<p><b>George Worthington</b></p>
<p><b>Working Lunch: Dementia Mini-Summit Planning Session (September 9, 2025)</b> The Commission spent time discussing and planning for the September 9 mini-summit, which will feature three sessions: dementia in Virginia, comparisons to other states, and next steps. Plans include inviting legislators, emphasizing personal stories, and presenting quantitative data (e.g., care coordination impact, Medicaid costs, ZIP code-level data). Georgia and Maryland were identified for potential models for programs such as the Dementia Care Specialist program that is a key policy recommendation for 2025. Topics will highlight funding gaps, respite needs, and care navigation programs. One member recommended obtaining projections for future dementia cases, and another suggested highlighting incidental expenses that leave caregivers out of pocket. Suggestions were made for possible speakers. Sponsorship has been secured, and invitations are planned for July.</p>	<p><b>Bea González</b></p>
<p><b>Presentation: Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) Model Experience in Year 1</b> Helen Tanner has nearly 20 years of experience in clinical medicine, public health program leadership, and healthcare fund development. In her current role as the VP of Clinical Development for At Home Harmony, Helen leads the company growth of their clinical teams and healthcare collaborations. She also guides the development of clinical strategy and expansion into new markets. She successfully led At Home Harmony's application process for Medicare's innovative GUIDE program and hired the initial GUIDE team members - who now actively provide comprehensive dementia support for more than 300 patients in the greater Richmond area within the program's first year. Helen's personal and professional goals are centered around providing access to dignified healthcare to all.</p> <p>Tara Beatty holds a Master of Science in Gerontology from VCU and is a licensed Assisted Living Facility Administrator. She is a Certified Dementia Practitioner, Certified Dementia Engagement Specialist, and has received specialized training from leading dementia experts including Teepa Snow, Erin Bonnito, and Jennifer Stetler. Tara is a Positive Approach to Care® Trainer and Coach, a Dementia Connection Specialist and Trainer, a Dementia Friends Trainer, and has also completed Buddies Forever training.</p>	<p><b>Helen Tanner, VP Clinical Development, At Home Harmony</b></p> <p><b>Tara Beatty, Dementia Care Navigator, At Home Harmony</b></p>

<p>With many years of hands-on experience in memory care settings Tara brings professional experience. Tara's grandfather's journey with dementia inspired her lifelong commitment to improving the quality of life for individuals living with cognitive impairment.</p> <p>Ms. Tanner provided an overview of At Home Harmony, a health care agency serving primarily homebound and bedbound individuals through home-based care, case management, and chronic care management. Services are covered by Medicare, Medicaid, and private pay. At Home Harmony began providing GUIDE services in July 2024 as an established program.</p> <p>Ms. Beatty shared GUIDE program experiences for year one, highlighting the importance of early intervention, relationship-building, skilled navigators, and partnerships with senior living communities for success. Monthly touch-base calls cover topics like daily living and brain-related behavioral changes to boost preparedness and reduce stress. Challenges included clients' understanding of respite services and the need for advance planning. The organization stressed that proactive education and strong partnerships are key to supporting clients and improving outcomes.</p> <p>Members were interested in the intersection of GUIDE services with senior independent living communities and how GUIDE helps support people to continue living independently. Another asked about whether GUIDE providers collaborate with Medicaid in Virginia.</p> <p>Responding to a member's question, the presenters noted that diagnoses of unspecified dementia predominate in their patient population, partly due to serving many home- or bed-bound individuals.</p>	
<b>Future Meeting Dates</b> September 9, 2025 (12pm-2pm; Following the Mini-Summit) December 9, 2025 (10am-2pm)	<b>Michael Watson</b>
<b>New Business</b> There was no new business.	<b>Michael Watson</b>
<b>Public Comment Period</b> There were no public comments.	<b>Michael Watson</b>
<b>Adjournment</b> Vice Chair Watson adjourned the meeting at 1:34pm.	<b>Michael Watson</b>