



**Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Commission
Legislative Committee**

Monday, April 21, 2024 at 12:00pm -1:30pm

DARS Central Office Room 101
8004 Franklin Farms Drive, Henrico, VA 23229

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Bea González, *Chair*
Laura Marshall
Josh Myers
Margie Shaver (virtual)
James Stovall (virtual)

Members Absent:

Lana Sargent, Ex officio

Staff:

George Worthington, DARS

Meeting Summary:

Agenda Items:	Speaker:
Welcome Bea González called the meeting to order at 12:06pm. Ms. González noted that members will discuss potential legislative recommendations for the 2025 session. Margie Shaver and James Stovall participated virtually from Roanoke using permission #3 (principal residence more than 60 miles distance). Members and staff introduced themselves.	Bea González
Adoption of Agenda <i>Action: Adopt Agenda</i> Josh Myers made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Margie Shaver seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.	Bea González
Adoption of Prior Meeting Minutes (July 7, 2024) Members reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. No changes were noted and Ms. González adopted the minutes as presented.	Bea González
Public Comment No public comment was received.	Bea González
Discussion of Legislative Platform Items George Worthington shared a document containing the outcomes for the recommendations for the 2025 General Assembly session. None of the recommendations were successful, but there were three budget	Bea González

amendments which the Governor had vetoed related to dementia that the members discussed:

- 1) (DARS) \$400,000 for an interdisciplinary plan of dementia care management for 200 individuals to be provided by The Span Center in Richmond and the Local Office on Aging in Roanoke. These are both Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs). The budget language mirrored that for the funded programs at University of Virginia's Memory and Aging Care Clinic in Charlottesville and at Riverside Martha W. Goodson Center in Williamsburg, but did not align with the Commission's recommendation related to a new dementia care navigation program to be housed in local organizations (likely the AAAs).
- 2) (DBHDS) \$100,000 for RAFT (Regional Adult Facilities Team) in Arlington. The Commission had recommended that the RAFT program be replicated in other areas of Virginia. [note—this amendment did not make it into the Conference budget]
- 3) (DBHDS) \$1,000,000 for pilot programs for people living with dementia or older adults who might otherwise be admitted to a state facility.

The dementia related items contained in the Conference budget (Enrolled budget) were amended out by the Governor, but the General Assembly did not sustain those amendments when they sent the budget back to the Governor. It now awaits his action.

Chair González made a motion that the Committee recommend to the ADRD Commission Chair (Lana Sargent) that a special meeting of the Commission be called in the next two weeks to consider a letter to the members of the budget conference urging the members to support the inclusion of these funding items, perhaps during a special session that might be called later in the summer if the Governor vetoes the budget (thereby reverting to the biennium budget passed in 2024 for state fiscal year 2026). Josh Myers seconded the motion and a voice vote was unanimously in favor of the motion. Staff will work with the Committee and Commission Chairs to draft a letter and propose a virtual meeting of the full Commission.

Chair González noted there will be an election in November that will result in a new administration and potential changes in the General Assembly. She proposed inviting the gubernatorial candidates to the Commission meeting in June; staff will work with DARS policy staff to determine whether this would fall within the Commission's powers and duties.

Chair González made a motion to propose to the Commission to hold a half-day summit or roundtable in the fall. The purpose would be to highlight activity thus far on the Dementia State Plan and discuss with

<p>stakeholders and legislators the importance of Dementia Care Navigation/Specialists at the local level and the importance of supporting the 1 in 6 Virginians over the age of 45 who report experiencing memory and thinking changes (2023 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data). Staff suggested this be held in conjunction with the Commission's scheduled meeting on September 9, with a short business meeting to follow the summit. James Stovall seconded the motion and there was a unanimous vote in favor of the motion. Staff will work with the Commission and Committee chairs to add this to the agenda of the special meeting proposed above.</p>	
<p>Recommendations to the Commission <i>Action Item:</i> Approve recommendations to present to the Commission on June 11, 2025.</p> <p>Discussion turned to legislative recommendations for the 2026 General Assembly.</p> <p>Members discussed five recommendations in total:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Renewing the Commission's sunset which expires in 2026 2) A statewide program of Dementia Care Navigation/Specialists to be housed at the Area Agencies on Aging who would be dementia subject matter experts for their agency and provide dementia-specific information, referrals and options counseling for families modelled on the program developed in Wisconsin. Staff will work on a budget for the proposed program that would be administered by DARS (meeting a strategy under Objective 4.1 of the Dementia State Plan). Staff will prepare a one-pager highlighting the importance of this proposed program and specifically contrasting Dementia Care Navigators/Specialists with clinical Dementia Care Managers, emphasizing the potential for serving many more people and enhancing the dementia capability of the aging network. 3) Renew the recommendation for state funding of the Virginia Lifespan Respite Voucher program, whose federal grant funding expires in 2026 (meeting a strategy under Objective 1.2 of the Dementia State Plan). In 2024, the Commission recommended funding of \$500,000. 4) Support tax incentives for the purchase of technology, respite care services and other costs associated with providing care in the home (meeting a strategy under Objective 4.3 of the Dementia State Plan). 5) Support funding for training existing first responders aligning with legislation passed in 2023 and 2024 requiring enhanced dementia training for police, fire and rescue, emergency services and dispatchers, but without funding it for existing personnel (aligning with Objective 3.2 of the Dementia State Plan). 	<p>Bea González</p>

Josh Myers made a motion to accept these recommendations as proposed, with staff to draw up a related document to present to the Commission at the June 11, 2025, scheduled annual meeting. Margie Shaver seconded the motion, and it was carried by a unanimous voice vote.	
Meeting adjournment Ms. González thanked members for their time and adjourned the meeting at 1:43pm.	Bea González